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If you're like many small business owners, you may have held a tight IT budget for the past few years. Now in 2012, you're ready to make some changes, keep up with competition and boost productivity.

But where do you start? How can you take advantage of new technologies? What should you upgrade first? What types of technology are others using in my industry? If all of these questions are going through your mind, don't get overwhelmed. You'll need a strategy to address the most business critical issues first.

Here are the key areas to focus on when looking at your technology this year:

## **Move from tape backup to cloud backup**

- Remove the inevitable risk of eventual tape failure; tapes have 100% failure rate
- Cut recovery time by 70% simply by moving from file to image-based backup
- Provide immediate failover; you no longer have to wait for new tapes or parts to arrive
- Eliminate the tedious transporting of backup media to/from the office
- Protect your business data from a natural disaster

## **Incorporate mobile device management software**

- Secure mobile devices just as you would laptops; they are just as powerful
- Reduce the risk from a lost mobile device; find, lock, geographically locate and remote wipe the device
- Protect company data; Gartner predicts by 2014 organizations will support corporate data on employee- owned mobile devices

## **Upgrade to Windows 7 and Microsoft 2010**

- Increase productivity; Windows 7 provides speed and Office 2010 provides functionality
- Create a plan for migration; Windows XP supports expires in 2014

## **Replace servers and computers more than four years old**

- Increase reliability, speed, and stability; a 4 yr old computer is on its 9th life
- Minimize operating costs; Gartner statistics show a 4 yr old computer is more costly to operate than replace

With addressing these areas, you'll incorporate some of the latest best practices in the industry, allowing your business to operate more efficiently and reduce downtime. For more info on how to manage some of these changes in your business contact SSE today!