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If You're Concerned About Cloud Security, You're Concerned About the Wrong Thing

There is another, more significant issue you should think about

By Gene Marks, The Marks Group



I am going to be talking about a lot of

technologies that impact the retail contracting and construction industries in my session at the RCA Annual Conference in March.

You will hear my recommendations about the latest trends in customer relationship management, marketing automation, collaboration, human resources, social media, financial, estimating. and other applications that

Gene Marks

you will need to consider investing in over the next few years to keep your company growing and profitable. I will also be sharing thoughts on a few technologies that are coming down the pike that you will want to follow closely as they mature. (Hint: convenience store customers are about to go through a major overhaul!)

But here's the thing. All of these applications may have different uses, but they all have something in common. They are all cloud based. They all require the internet in some way or form. They are all accessed online. They all charge monthly fees.

Sure, there are a few non-cloud technologies still around and I'll be sure to mention them. But the forces of nature (and the tech industry) are against them. Accept this as fact: software makers earn more money from cloud-based applications. They get a consistent revenue stream and that impacts their valuation for investors and bankers. They can provide support faster and with less resources. They can more easily integrate their products with others. They can offer their solutions on just about any platform. They can deliver upgrades with one click. Oh, and they get a consistent revenue stream did I mention that? Right, I did.

All of these things benefit the software makers. But they also benefit you.

If you are like many of my clients, you probably still have concerns about the cloud, right? And I bet your biggest concern is security, right? If that is the case, your concern is mis-directed. Security is an issue, of course. Every day we hear of companies and governments being hacked and data being breached. During my session, I am going to discuss some of the biggest security issues you need to be aware of—malware, ransomware, hardware breaches, etc.—and how to protect your data.

So yes, these are serious issues. But believe me, the largest cloudbased providers, from Microsoft to Amazon to Google, are spending hundreds of millions of dollars fighting these attacks with the best people and tools





RCA's mission is to promote professionalism and integrity in retail construction through industry leadership in education, information exchange, and jobsite safety.

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available. They have to: their entire business models depend on it. Sure, there will be breaches in the future. But you should know that your data is probably more secure in those companies' hands than on your own server. No offense, but your IT person probably didn't go to M.I.T., right? You can rest assured that there is an entire army of M.I.T. grads working at Microsoft right now. The security risks are much lower than the benefits you will realize being on the cloud.

Accept this as fact: software makers earn more money from cloud-based applications

So, if it s not security, what should you be most concerned about when choosing a cloud-based application? Something bigger: pricing.

In January, Netflix, a cloud-based provider of streaming video, announced a price increase. That same week, Google announced a 20% increase on its G Suite business apps. These companies all had good reasons for increasing their prices. Let's face it, making *House of Cards* isn't cheap. But do their customers really have a choice? Not really. And neither do you.

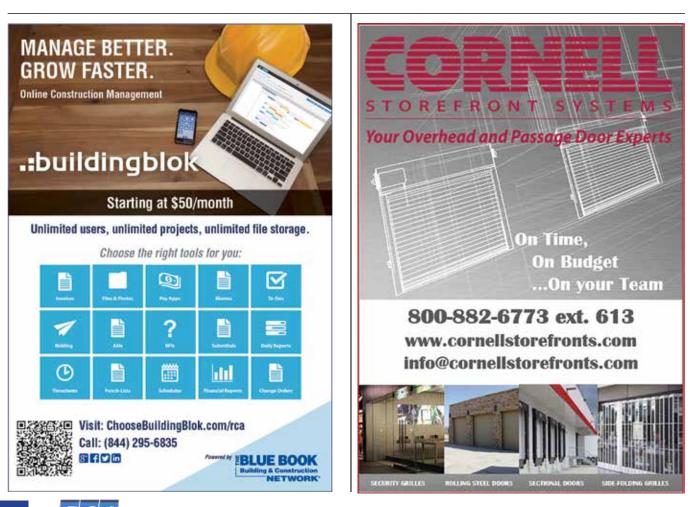
And that is the issue you should be concerned about. What if you have invested in a CRM, financial, or collaboration system for your company

and the provider just raises their prices 20% this year? And another 20% next year? What if they double their monthly fees? What is your recourse? What are you doing to do? Pull out and migrate to another system? That's costly and disruptive, and chances are you will just have to accept the rate increase. When you move to a cloud-based application—and again, you're not going to have much choice—you are giving up control over its costs.

What can you do about this? Not a lot. You can try to negotiate with the cloud service provider, but unless you're a Fortune 500 company, your position is not that strong. You can ask for assurances, but you and I both know that a vendor's assurance plus \$3.00 will buy you a cup of coffee at Starbucks. What you need to do is prepare. If the cloud application cost is significant, then you need to have budgeted cushions for a potential increase. You should consult with an information technology expert about a Plan B, e.g., migrating data out of the system and into another. You should not just be caught with your pants down. You should think about these possibilities in advance.

The cloud-based applications that I will be discussing in our session are powerful and will help your people be more productive and your company become more profitable. But there are risks. Do not get obsessed with security, because that is not the biggest risk. The biggest risk is your control over its costs.

Gene Marks is a featured speaker at the RCA's 2019 Annual Conference. For the past 12 years, Gene has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Guardian, Inc. Magazine, Forbes Magazine, and Entrepreneur Magazine. Gene is a small business owner and certified public accountant.



President's Message

Rick Winkel, CEO, Winkel Construction, Inc.,



I am amazed at how fast this year has passed while serving as the RCA's President. I want to tell everyone, "thank you" for giving me the opportunity

to serve as President of this great organization. I also want to specifically thank the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Advisory Board for all their dedication and commitment to leading the Retail Contractors Association and supporting me throughout the year. Lastly, a special thank you to

Carol Montoya and her team at Potomac Management Resources, because without them we could not achieve all that we do.

As the organization continues to move forward, I am confident it will continue on the path that the Board has established with the Strategic Plan. Our new leadership was elected at the winter Board meeting. Elected officers for next year are:

- President: Steve Bachman, President/CEO, Retail Construction Services, Inc.
- Vice President: Ray Catlin, Executive Vice President, Schimenti Construction Company. Inc.
- Secretary/Treasurer: Eric Handley, Vice President, William A Randolph, Inc.

We also have new additions to the Board of Directors. Join me in welcoming these newly elected board members:

- Eric Berg, Senior Vice President, Gray
- Randy Danielson, President of Retail Construction, Tri-North Builders
- Carolyn Shames, President/CEO, Shames Construction

The board along with its new members and new officers are poised to make 2019 another great year for the RCA.

I also want to express my gratitude again to Mike Wolf and the entire committee that has worked so hard on the Superintendent Training Program. Several of Winkel Construction's superintendents have attended this course and we have seen an improvement in their handling of projects. Their feedback noted how beneficial the program was to them. If you have yet to send people to this course, I truly believe you will find it to be well worth it. The Certified Retail Superintendent Training is another great benefit of being an RCA member.

Our Annual Conference is going to be in Dallas again this year in conjunction with SPECs. I encourage everyone to attend the conference along with the association's reception and golf outing. I hope to see you there!



Kick - rickw@winkelconstruction.com

If you have any feedback or ideas for the organization, please contact me. We are always looking for ways to continue strengthening the organization: rickw@winkel-construction.com.

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RCA Membership

RCA members must meet and maintain a series of qualifications and are approved by the Board of Directors for membership. They have been in the retail construction business as general contractors for at least five years; agree to comply with the Association's Code of Ethics and Bylaws; are properly insured and bonded; are licensed in the states in which they do business; and have submitted letters of recommendation.

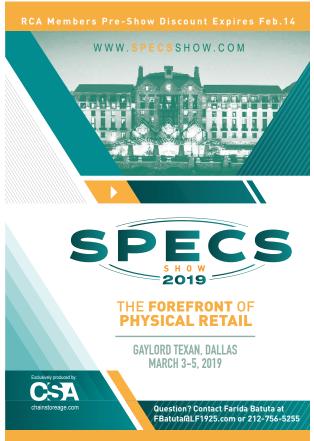
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COMPANY	CONTACT	PHONE	STATE	EMAIL	MEMBER SINCE
Acme Enterprises, Inc.	Robert Russell	586-771-4800	MI	rrussell@acme-enterprises.com	2009
All-Rite Construction Co., Inc.	Warren Zysman	973-340-3100	NJ	warren@all-riteconstruction.com	1993
Atlas Building Group	Brian Boettler	636-368-5234	MO	bboettler@abgbuilds.com	2017
BALI Construction	Kevin Balestrieri	925-478-8182	CA	kevin@bali-construction.com	2017
Bogart Construction, Inc.	Brad Bogart	949-453-1400	CA	brad@bogartconstruction.com	2008
Buildrite Construction Corp.	Bryan Alexander	770-971-0787	GA	bryan@buildriteconstruction.com	2013
Burdg, Dunham and Associates	Harry Burdg	816-583-2123	MO	harry@burdg-dunham.com	2016
Comet Construction	Bernard Keith Danzansky	561-672-8310	FL	barney@danzansky.com	2016
Commercial Contractors, Inc.	Kenneth Sharkey	616-842-4540	MI	ken.t.sharkey@teamcci.net	1990
Commonwealth Building, Inc.	Frank Trainor	617-770-0050	MA	frankt@combuild.com	1992 2015
Construction One, Inc.	Bill Moberger	614-235-0057	OH	wmoberger@constructionone.com	
David A. Nice Builders	Brian Bacon	757-566-3032 616-530-0060	VA	bbacon@davidnicebuilders.com dandj@dejagerconstruction.com	2011 1990
De Jager Construction, Inc. Desco Professional Builders, Inc.	Dan De Jager Bob Anderson	860-870-7070	MI CT	banderson@descopro.com	1990
Diamond Contractors		816-650-9200	MO	loriperry@diamondcontractors.org	2015
DLP Construction	Lori Perry Dennis Pigg, Jr.	770-887-3573	GA	dpigg@dlpconstruction.com	2015
E.C. Provini, Co., Inc.	Joseph Lembo	732-739-8884	NJ	jlembo@eprovini.com	1992
Eckinger Construction Company	Philip Eckinger	330-453-2566	OH	phil@eckinger.com	1992
EDC	Christopher Johnson	804-897-0900	VA	cjohnson@edcweb.com	1994
ELAN General Contracting Inc.	Adrian Johnson	619-284-4174	CA	ajohnson@elangc.com	2010
Elder-Jones, Inc.	Justin Elder	952-345-6069	MN	justin@elderjones.com	1990
Encore Construction, Inc.	Joe McCafferty	410-573-5050	MD	joe@encoreconstruction.net	2018
Engineered Structures, Inc.	Mike Magill	208-362-3040	ID	mikemagill@esiconstruction.com	2016
Fi Companies	Kevin Bakalian	732-727-8100	NJ	kbakalian@ficompanies.com	2010
Fortney & Weygandt, Inc.	Greg Freeh	440-716-4000	OH	gfreeh@fortneyweygandt.com	2013
Fred Olivieri Construction Company	Dean Olivieri	330-494-1007	OH	dean@fredolivieri.com	1992
Frontier Building Corp.	Andrew Goggin	305-692-9992	FL	agoggin@fdllc.com	2018
Fulcrum Construction, LLC	Willy Rosner	770-612-8005	GA	wrosner@fulcrumconstruction.com	2010
Go Green Construction, Inc.	Anthony Winkco	412-367-5870	PA	anthony@ggc-pgh.com	2017
Gray	Robert Moore	714-491-1317	CA	ramoore@gray.com	2005
H.J. Martin & Sons, Inc.	David Martin	920-494-3461	WI	david@hjmartin.com	2016
Hanna Design Group	Jason Mick	847-719-0370	IL	jmick@hannadesigngroup.com	2016
Harmon Construction, Inc.	William Harmon	812-346-2048	IN	bill.harmon@harmonconstruction.com	2017
Hays Construction Company, Inc.	Roy Hays	303-794-5469	CO	r.hays@haysco.biz	2002
Healy Construction Services, Inc.	James Healy	708-396-0440	IL	jhealy@healyconstructionservices.com	
Herman/Stewart Construction	Terry Varner	301-731-5555	MD	tvarner@herman-stewart.com	1995
Howard Immel Inc.	Pete Smits	920-468-8208	WI	psmits@immel-builds.com	2018
International Contractors, Inc.	Bruce Bronge	630-834-8043	IL	bbronge@iciinc.com	1995
J. G. Construction	Jack Grothe	909-993-9332	CA	JackG@jgconstruction.com	1998
James Agresta Carpentry Inc.	James Agresta	201-498-1477	NJ	jim.agresta@jacarpentryinc.com	2013
KBE Building Corporation	Michael Kolakowski	860-284-7110	СТ	mkolakowski@kbebuilding.com	1998
Kerricook Construction, Inc.	Ann Smith	440-647-4200	OH	ann@kerricook.com	2012
Lakeview Construction, Inc.	Kent Moon	262-857-3336	WI	kent@lvconstruction.com	1998
M. Cary, Inc.	Robert Epstein	631-501-0024	NY	repstein@mcaryinc.com	2014
Management Resources Systems, Inc.	Doug Marion	336-861-1960	NC	dmarion@mrs1977.com	1992
Marco Contractors, Inc.	Martin Smith	724-741-0300	PA	marty@marcocontractors.com	1994
Metropolitan Contracting Co., Ltd.	Jane Feigenbaum	210-829-5542	TX	jfeigenbaum@metcontracting.com	1995
Montgomery Development Carolina Corp.	John Fugo	919-969-7301	NC	jfugo@montgomerydevelopment.com	1999
National Building Contractors	William Corcoran	651-288-1900	MN	bill@nbcconstruction.us	2013
National Contractors, Inc.	Michael Dudley	952-881-6123	MN	mdudley@ncigc.com	2018
Pinnacle Commercial Development, Inc.	Dennis Rome	732-528-0080	NJ	dennis@pinnaclecommercial.us	2012
Prime Retail Services, Inc.	Donald Bloom	866-504-3511	GA	dbloom@primeretailservices.com	2014
PWI Construction, Inc.	Jeff Price	480-461-0777	AZ	price@pwiconstruction.com	2003
R.E. Crawford Construction LLC	Jeffrey T. Smith	941-907-0010	FL	jeffs@recrawford.com	2011
Rectenwald Brothers Construction, Inc.	Art Rectenwald	724-772-8282	PA	art@rectenwald.com	1996
Retail Construction Services, Inc.	Stephen Bachman	651-704-9000	MN	sbachman@retailconstruction.com	1998
Retail Contractors of Puerto Rico	Sean Pfent	586-725-4400	MI	spfent@rcofusa.com	1996
Rockford Construction Co.	Thomas McGovern	616-285-6933	MI	info@rockfordconstruction.com	2014
Royal Seal Construction, Inc.	Gene Colley	817-491-6400	ТΧ	gene@royalseal.com	1994
Russco, Inc.	Matthew Pichette	508-674-5280	MA	mattp@russcoinc.com	1995
Sachse Construction and Development Corp.	Jeff Katkowsky	248-647-4200	MI	jkatkowsky@sachseconstruction.com	2009
Scheiner Commercial Group, Inc.	Joe Scheiner	719-487-1600	CO	joe@scheinercg.com	2012
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Schimenti Construction Company, Inc.	Matthew Schimenti	914-244-9100	NY	mschimenti@schimenti.com	1994
Shames Construction Co., Ltd.	Carolyn Shames	925-606-3000	CA	cshames@shames.com	1994
Singleton Construction, LLC	Denise Doczy-Delong	740-756-7331	OH	denisedelong@singletoncontruction.net	2012
Solex Contracting	Gerald Allen	951-308-1706	CA	jerry@solexcontracting.com	2015
Southwestern Services	John S. Lee,	817-921-2466	TX	JLee@southwesternservices.com	2017
Sullivan Construction Company	Amanda Sullivan	954-484-3200	FL	amanda@buildwithsullivan.com	2012
Taylor Brothers Construction Company, Inc.	Jeff Chandler	812-379-9547	IN	Jeff.Chandler@TBCCI.com	2014
TDS Construction, Inc.	Robert Baker	941-795-6100	FL	inbox@tdsconstruction.com	1994
Thomas-Grace Construction, Inc.	Don Harvieux	651-342-1298	MN	don.harvieux@thomas-grace.com	2012
Timberwolff Construction, Inc.	Mike Wolff	909-949-0380	CA	mike@timberwolff.com	2008
TJU Construction, Inc.	Tim Uhler	530-823-7200	CA	tim@tjuconstruction.com	2016
Tom Rectenwald Construction, Inc.	Aaron Rectenwald	724-452-8801	PA	arectenwald@trcgc.net	2010
Trainor Commercial Construction, Inc.	John Taylor	415-259-0200	CA	john.taylor@trainorconstruction.com	2012
Travisano Construction, LLC	Peter J. Travisano	412-321-1234	PA	pj@travisanocontruction.com	2015
Tri-North Builders, Inc.	Randy Danielson	608-271-8717	WI	rdanielson@tri-north.com	2015
Triad Retail Construction	Jay Dorsey	281-485-4700	TX	j.dorsey@triadrc.com	2013
Warwick Construction, Inc.	Walt Watzinger	832-448-7000	TX	walt@warwickconstruction.com	2008
Weekes Construction, Inc.	Hunter Weekes	864-233-0061	SC	hweekes@weekesconstruction.com	1990
Westwood Contractors, Inc.	Mike McBride	817-302-2050	TX	mikem@westwoodcontractors.com	1990
William A. Randolph, Inc.	Tony Riccardi	847-856-0123	IL	tony.riccardi@warandolph.com	2011
Winkel Construction, Inc.	Rick Winkel	352-860-0500	FL	rickw@winkel-construction.com	1990
Wolverine Building Group	Michael Houseman	616-949-3360	MI	mhouseman@wolvgroup.com	2012
Woods Construction, Inc.	John Bodary	586-939-9991	MI	jbodary@woodsconstruction.com	1996

Visit retailcontractors.org to view the profile of each RCA member company. Click on "Find a Contractor" on the home page to search the member list.

Please notify the RCA Office (800-847-5085 or info@retailcontractors.org) of any changes to your contact information.





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Sachse Construction and Development Corp.

5 Years Fulcrum Construction, LLC

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Rockford Construction Co.

Taylor Brothers Construction Company, Inc.

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATION Don't miss our CCRP events

March 20th (Wednesday) Dallas, TX April 9th (Tuesday) Atlanta, GA May 9th (Thursday) Minneapolis, MN





If you would like to sponsor a CCRP event, please contact David Corson at davidc@ccr-mag.com



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Friday, March 1, 2019

6:00pm-8:00pm: Welcome Reception

Saturday, March 2, 2019

8:00am-3:00pm: Annual Conference, featuring:

- Tech 2019 The Latest Technologies, Trends, Services and Tools Every Business Needs to Know | Gene Marks, columnist, author, and small business owner
- To All the Economists I've Loved Before | Anirban Basu, Chairman & CEO, Sage Policy Group, Inc.
- Addressing the Labor Shortage: What Members are Doing to Recruit and Retain Their Workforce | Randy Danielson, President, Retail Construction, Tri-North Builders; Kristen Roodvoets, Construction Project Manager, SmileDirectClub; Ray Catlin, Executive Vice President, Schimenti Construction Company (moderator)
- Retail of the Future | Sarah Wicker Kimes, Director, Americas, Portland Design

4:00pm-5:30pm: Owner's Event

7:00pm-9:00pm: Casino Night & BBQ at Cowboys Golf Clubnt

RCA Member companies get one free conference registration and can register additional attendees for a nominal fee. Retailers and architects can attend at no charge.

Sunday, March 3, 2019 8:00 am – 1:00pm: Golf Tournament at Cowboys Golf Club

Registration and full agenda: retailcontractors.org.

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