

## Chris's Corner: Staying Connected

In today's hectic world, it is tough to keep on top of things.

The technology we use to help us, can also hurt us.

I use an iPhone that synchronizes with my Microsoft Outlook on my desktop PC. Who would have thought these two companies would work together, but in my world they have to.

Using Outlook to manage and coordinate my email and calendars works for me, but I find the more I rely on devices the worse my short term memory gets to be.

I sort of use my calendar as a "to do" list, having everything I want to accomplish in the form of an event or an appointment for each day. If I don't get done what I need to get done, I move it forward. If I have a really productive day, I might take things I have a few days down the road and move them to today.

The worst thing about my practice is that once something is accomplished, if no further action is needed, I delete it from my calendar. That seems like a no brainer, but often, at the end of a day, I am at a loss to tell my wife what I did that day.

Also being hyper paranoid about my data, I use Google drive and DropBox to back up my information to the cloud. I save important documents and pdf's to the cloud not only for backup, but so I can access important information I need on my phone and iPad.

As long as I have an internet connection, I am able to do my job outside of the office. I can even login into the office computer service

management system and log calls, get service history, look up parts pricing and availability. It's amazing.

I often wonder how businesses operated before something as basic as an answering machine. Call forwarding? Faxes? Computers? Copy machines? Email? Mind blowing.

How can all this amazing technology hurt us? When it doesn't work. I have had PC's go down before we had smart phones and all my personal business contacts and calendar were lost.

When our Comcast phone service goes down, we have to have a work around to get phone calls. Fortunately you can call Comcast and have calls forwarded to your cell phone.

No internet in the office, you still have your smart phone to get those emails. But each and every work around shows how dependent we have become on high technology.

I am looking forward to retirement and unplugging. I will have a simple phone without smartness. I will have a single computer that I will check at my leisure and if it doesn't work, oh well.