



**SWEET DEALS!
BIG SAVINGS
ACT NOW!**

WE HAVE AN IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU, BUT YOU MUST ACT FAST!

Cisco Meraki, the leader in cloud-managed networking (e.g., routers/firewalls, switches, wireless access points) and security has extended to us, as Meraki Partners, special discount pricing that may translate up to **as much as 50% discounts*** for you.

The catch is that we can only offer these discounts through **July 26th** — meaning, we must have payment received and orders placed by the end of the day on JULY 26TH — just a few, short weeks away!

ALSO: Cisco Meraki has additional specials to sweeten the deal even further:

"7-for-5 and 5-for-3"

If you are a NEW Meraki customer (does not apply to existing Meraki customers), when you purchase new Cisco Meraki equipment*, receive a 7-year license for the price of 5, OR a 5-year license for the price of 3.

"Buy 5 / Stream Live"

When you buy 5 or more high-density, Meraki wireless access points, you get a FREE Meraki MV security camera with a 3-year license.

WAIT! THERE'S MORE!!!

CTSi is offering special discounts on network assessments and installation of Meraki equipment.

- **Current PSA CTSi Customers:** Move on your new Meraki equipment, and beyond the savings above, **receive 50% off labor*** to upgrade your network and implement your new Meraki equipment.

- **Non-PSA CTSi Customers:** Order your new Meraki equipment, and beyond the savings above, **receive 25% off labor*** to upgrade your network and implement your new Meraki equipment.

These are the best prices of the year to get into the best performing, most reliable and secure networking equipment available for small businesses, so don't wait! These opportunities will be gone in a flash!

Need financing? We have small-business monthly payment or lease options available, custom fit for you. Ask for details.

**CALL NOW
574-268-CTSI (2874)
for more details, or visit
www.creativetechs.biz/july/**

* Certain conditions apply. Follow the link above for more details.

Six Signs that it's Time for a Network Upgrade

by Zach Evans, CTSi Process Director and Techadmin



We hear the stories all the time:

- It takes too long for employees to launch apps—especially cloud-based apps—or to do the things on their workstations they need to do to accomplish their jobs.
- You can't stream video or audio smoothly from your new digital media or audio controller, and when you do, the quality is terrible.
- The company's point-of-sale system went down once again, and customers were required to pay by cash or check, or they're asked to come back later.
- Your wireless network is too slow; the signal is strong in places and weak in others.
- Downtime is simply making it too painful to use your technology.

How do you know if it's time to simply accept that your network is a real problem? At what point does the cost of getting help outweigh your current pain?

These are not easy questions for most small business owners to answer because most small business owners don't have all the facts. Often they are unable to keep pace with the advancements in business technology solutions, so they are unaware of the possible solutions that are available.

Here are some signs that it's time to speak to an expert about all the options that are currently available for the network issues you face:

- 1. Do you have more than five devices connecting to your network?** This includes computers, phones, point-of-sale systems, printers, or other connected devices. If you do, you may want to consider the advantages of optimizing your system. Devices tax and slow down the network, which impacts all other devices. Sometimes the issue is related to equipment, sometimes Internet bandwidth, and sometimes configuration settings.
- 2. Do you have a large space that you're trying to cover with your network?** If you have a large office space, then you can experience issues based on placement of the network equipment.

Continued on next page.





Verifying wireless signal strength as well as physical cabling needs are important.

3. Do you need multiple functions from your network? For security purposes, it is important that guest WI-Fi is separate from employee WI-Fi. Also, there are methods for prioritizing traffic for "Voice over Internet Protocol" (VoIP) phone systems to ensure audio quality. Some business employees need to be able to work from home and still access the office network. All of these situations add complexity to the network setup.

4. Does your business heavily depend on constant, reliable Internet connectivity? Some businesses need a constant connection to the Internet. How important is it to your business that you have reliable access to email, file shares, Internet sites, credit card processing, etc.? If those functions are critical to your business, you may want to know more about available options and strategies that can help ensure that your connection is always up.

5. Does your business handle sensitive customer data? If there is credit card data, personal client information, trade secrets, or other types of sensitive data passing through your network, then it is wise to understand the security measures that can protect your data and keep it from being accessed by those who wish to do harm.

6. Do you or your employees frequently complain about how slow your network is running? How many times in the past week have you thought, "Connecting to the Internet can't be this difficult," or "it shouldn't take this long to load this application"? Wages lost to such hassles and time delays can add up quickly.

If you've answered "yes" to one or more of these questions, then it's time to talk to a technology expert. There's no need to keep tolerating inefficiencies and losing productivity due to an out-dated, improperly configured, or insufficient network. **Talk to us about getting a comprehensive assessment of your IT infrastructure, and be sure to check out page one of this newsletter for our Meraki promotion!**

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Time is limited! See page 1 for details!

Is Cloud-Managed IT Right for Your Small Business?

article by Cisco, edited by CTSi

Implementing a modern IT infrastructure that's able to support constantly connected mobile devices, data-hogging applications, and "bring your own device" (BYOD) practices is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity.

5 reasons why cloud-managed IT with a certified IT partner may be the best solution for you:

✓ **Manage and troubleshoot from anywhere:** Traditionally, managing networks or troubleshooting a network issue requires someone to be physically present. This quickly proves untenable. With cloud-managed IT, remotely managing and troubleshooting issues is finally a reality. Your IT partner can quickly be alerted to a network issue and devise a solution from any computer with Internet access. This unlocks entirely new capabilities that simply aren't possible with out-dated IT solutions.

✓ **Easy to set up, configure, and manage:** Managing IT infrastructure through the cloud simplifies ordinarily challenging tasks and reduces labor cost. Devices such as access points, security appliances, and VoIP phones can be pre-configured before they even arrive on-site. And that's just one of many examples. Managing IT infrastructure through the cloud can help implement your network installations or expansions more quickly.

✓ **Superior security:** In order to maintain a secure stack that ensures high levels of productivity and uptime, IT needs constant visibility into network traffic, security threats, and device activity. Keeping security definitions and device firmware up-to-date is also crucial. Cloud-managed IT makes it simple for IT admins to get a real-time understanding of what's going on network-wide and to ensure that security threats are kept at bay. When threats arise, admins can rest assured knowing that the latest security updates have already been pushed to their network devices, silently and automatically, over the Internet.

✓ **Interconnected management unlocks new possibilities:** Cloud-managed IT allows for different elements of your IT infrastructure to work together in new ways. For instance, with every device communicating with one another and with the cloud, IT admins can view a complete network topology, updated live, and instantly troubleshoot issues with any device – even new devices as they are added. This easy management and scalability makes cloud-managed IT ideal for growing organizations with ever-increasing numbers of users, devices, and sites.

✓ **Lower TCO (total cost of ownership):** Of course, one of the most important considerations when it comes to choosing which IT stack to implement is *overall value*. And while the cost of the initial hardware is certainly important, too many companies focus only on the hardware cost and ignore ongoing support and maintenance costs. The beauty of cloud-managed IT is that its flexibility and ease-of-use means lower costs over time, resulting in a lower TCO over the span of a few years. That translates into higher value!

Conclusion: Once upon a time, on-site network controllers, command line interfaces, and manual firewall configuration were enough to keep a network afloat. But a creaky old IT infrastructure can no longer keep up with the needs of modern organizations. **Enter CTSi and Cisco Meraki**, leaders in cloud-managed IT, offering a full stack of cloud-managed IT solutions—wireless access points, switches, security appliances, enterprise mobility management, telephony, and security cameras—all managed through the Meraki dashboard. With Meraki, enterprises and SMBs alike benefit from adopting a cloud-managed network stack. **Call us today at 574-268-CTSi (2874) for information on significant savings on Meraki network products and CTSi network services. Hurry! The deals won't last long.**