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# AlphaNews

The Newsletter of Alpha NetSolutions, Inc.

Third Quarter, 2008

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## Client Spotlight: Central Coating

By Tim Shea



Central Coating Company, Inc. is an employee owned company specializing in the application of decorative and functional coatings for commercial, medical, military and aerospace markets.

Our main contact at Central Coating is Dave Babineau, their VP of Engineering and Quality.

“Twelve years ago, our “network” consisted of 5 workstations running on Windows 3.1 and LanTastic,” said Dave. “Today we have rack mounted servers running SBS 2003 and over 25 workstations. Within a month, we will rollout thin clients operating on a secure wireless for MRP and factory automation.”

We asked Dave how ANS has fit into his operations. “Through every change and upgrade, ANS has been a partner and contributor

*Please see Client Spotlight: Central Coating on page 2*

## ANS Receives 2008 Best of Marlborough Award

**U.S. Local Business Association's Award Plaque Honors the Achievement**

WASHINGTON D.C., July 25, 2008 -- Alpha NetSolutions, Inc. has been selected for the 2008 Best of Marlborough Award in the Computer Services category by the U.S. Local Business Association (USLBA).

The USLBA "Best of Local Business" Award Program recognizes outstanding local businesses throughout the country. Each year, the USLBA identifies companies that they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community.

*Please see Award on page 3*

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## Sudoku Six

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*QUOTE: "Make a habit to start each day with a focus of what meaningful daily goal you want to accomplish. String together a few weeks like that and you'll become very accomplished in your career." --Larry Winget*

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### Sudoku Six

To solve a sudoku puzzle, you only need logic and patience. No math is required.

Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has a number 1 through 9 with only one occurrence of each number. Each column and row of the large grid must have only one instance of the numbers 1 through 9.

Here's a tip for playing. We call the 3x3 squares "regions." With a highlighter, color in all the rows and columns in the large grid that have a 6 in them.

We chose 6 because there are several of them in the puzzle.

Now observe. In the top middle region, what is the only possible location for the 6?

This technique is called

			2					
6	9						3	
1					5	7	6	
			9	1			8	
	3				6			
	5		3					9
								2
		4		8				
3	6		7					8

scanning, and you usually do it with your eyes.

The difficulty rating on this puzzle is medium.

Please see answers to *Sudoku Six* on page 4

### Client Spotlight: Central Coating from page 1

by offering services and support that recognize our immediate and future needs," said Dave. "AlphaCare managed services have helped us achieve excellent system uptime and reliability. ANS consultants, when needed, are prompt and professional."

Central Coating is also using one of our Disk-to-Disk backups. From Dave: "Until recently, we used tape backups. You have to remember to change the tapes, check the logs, etc. Tapes wear out and drives need maintenance. Our new Disk-to-Disk backup server makes those tapes obsolete. Now our backups are automatic, with system images being recorded every 15 minutes. Even more important, a full system image is maintained off-site. This is an integral part of our disaster recovery plan."

Dave had this final comment about working with us: "ANS is instrumental in helping me focus on the business, not the systems. IT is my responsibility, but not my profession. ANS makes me look like a pro, at a cost that is more than reasonable."

## New Offerings At ANS

By Tim Shea

This year has been a year of change at Alpha Net. We've been adding new technologies to our portfolio, to meet the ever-changing needs of our clients. I thought I'd take a minute to give our readers a high level overview of these new technologies, and the benefits associated with each:

**Untangle Web Security Appliance** - Internet Security gets more complicated every day. Traditional Firewalls aren't cutting it anymore. Untangle provides us with features usually only seen in larger IT shops, for a low monthly fee. Besides traditional firewall functions, Untangle also provides web content filtering (control where your users browse to), Spam/Spyware/Phish filtering, Intrusion Prevention, VPN, and much more.

**Astrocom ISP Failover Appliance** - Ever wish you had faster, more reliable Internet connectivity? Astrocom provides an appliance that allows you to have 2 Internet connections, and allows you to seamlessly use both connections at the same time. And if one link goes down, you keep working over the other link.

[Please see New Offerings on page 4](#)

[Award from page 1](#)

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2008 USLBA Award Program focused on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the USLBA and data provided by third parties.

*About U.S. Local Business Association (USLBA)*

U.S. Local Business Association (USLBA) is a Washington D.C. based organization funded by local businesses operating in towns, large and small, across America. The purpose of USLBA is to promote local business through public relations, marketing and advertising.

The USLBA was established to recognize the best of local businesses in their community. Our organization works exclusively with local business owners, trade groups, professional associations, chambers of commerce and other business advertising and marketing groups. Our mission is to be an advocate for small and medium size businesses and business entrepreneurs across America.

SOURCE: U.S. Local Business Association

CONTACT:

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*"Did you hear about the farmer who couldn't get anything but politics on his TV? Seems he had the power wire connected to a windmill and the ground wire connected to the manure spreader."*

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*New Offerings from page 3*

**Barracuda Message Archiver Appliance** - This unit makes sure you have a copy of every email that's ever been sent or received by every mail user in your company. Administrators can search across multiple email boxes looking for information on a specific topic. This is a must for companies that have email retention compliance concerns.

**AlphaBackups Online Backups** - do you have users with laptops, who travel a lot? Are you concerned that you aren't getting good backups of their data? With our AlphaBackups service, each laptop (or desktop, for that matter) backs itself up to the vault in our data center. Never get caught without a backup again!

**Coming Soon: Microsoft Response Point VOIP phone system** - Microsoft is providing a phone system for small business (less than 50 users per office). This system can use regular phone lines or VOIP lines, is voice activated (say "transfer to Bob" and voila!), and has an automated attendant who can respond to voice request (say "I need directions" and voila!). This system also integrates voicemail with Microsoft Exchange.

Interested in any of these offerings? Give me a call at 860-821-8291 to discuss.

--Tim Shea

*Sudoku Six from page 2*

4	7	5	2	6	3	8	9	1
6	9	8	1	7	4	2	3	5
1	2	3	8	9	5	7	6	4
2	4	6	9	1	7	5	8	3
8	3	9	4	5	6	1	2	7
7	5	1	3	2	8	6	4	9
5	8	7	6	3	9	4	1	2
9	1	4	5	8	2	3	7	6
3	6	2	7	4	1	9	5	8

## October is an important month for yard and garden

Spring is fun because perennials and bulbs are sprouting. And you are eager to get out and plant a garden.

Summer is nice because you harvest vegetables and enjoy the flowers.

Autumn, well, it's the poor relation when it comes to outdoor enthusiasm. But October is a particularly important time because that's when you set the stage for next year's bounty.

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### What to do now

- o Dig and store tender summer- and fall-flowering bulbs like dahlias.
- o Plant spring-blooming bulbs such as tulips and daffodils.
- o Bring tender container or tropical plants inside. Put them in the garage, in a heated shed or indoors.
- o Till the garden or turn the soil with a garden fork to expose underground pests to cold temperatures.
- o Help the roses. Remove foliage around the base of the plant to prevent diseases. Cut away branches that show signs of decay or insect infestation. Spray roses and soil beneath with a fungicide. Put down a layer of mulch.
- o Trim perennials to about four inches from the ground. Keep some ornamental grasses and perennials with seed heads to provide winter food for birds.

### What to do later

- o Reduce soil dryness and erosion in the garden by covering it with mulch or leaves. Do it after the first hard frost so critters don't decide to nest in it.
- o Avoid extensive pruning of trees and shrubs before winter.