



John's Top 5 Business Tips:

1. Backup, Backup, Backup

Your business data on your computer is very important and you do not want to lose it. Don't forget about your other devices, cell phone, tablet, etc.

2. Electronic Devices and Border Crossings

Here in Canada, we tend to think that our basic rights and freedoms go with us wherever we travel between our two countries, but that's just not the case. Agents can do random checks without suspicion. They are allowed to access anything on the device and can even make copies of it. If the device is password protected and you do not give them access, this may lead to increased suspicion, denial of entry into the country, detention of the device and even arrest. Leave as many of your devices as you can at home. You should also back up your device before you leave and delete any sensitive information. They cannot access any remote information.

3. Use a Business Credit Card

When cash flow is tight, a credit card can help. Some cards earn you bonuses or even extended warranties. It is flexible financing, but pay it off before the grace period ends to avoid interest fees. Shop around for the best deal.

4. Provide outstanding service!

Before work begins, assure your client that your intention is to provide fivestar-worthy service. Encourage them to inform you if they are not entirely satisfied at any time, and work together to solve any issues that arise. This practice will open the lines of communication between you and your client, and you will have set expectations of a review with your client very early in the process.

5. Keep Your Finances Up To Date

Work on your accounting on a regular basis so you can keep a finger on the pulse of your finances at all times. Knowing your numbers in real-time can help a small business realize if they are in good shape or flag issues. Waiting until the end of the year, quarter or even month is too long to find out that the business needs to make changes.