

## Teknarus delivers computer technology with impact

By Helen Wale Turner

The name “Teknarus” doesn’t give many clues as to what type business it represents; owner Devin Zito acknowledges one of the most frequent questions he gets is about the origins of the name. When Zito and his partner founded their computer technology business in 2000 and tried to decide on a name, they considered a combination of their surnames, but then looked at different languages. For some reason, they hit on Latin and discovered that “gnarus” means knowledge. They knew they wanted a name that conveyed technology, so they took “tech” from technology and changed it to “tek,” dropped the G in “gnarus” and combined the two to make Teknarus.

“In our first few years, it became evident that all businesses, regardless of their size, needed computers,” Zito said, “and small and medium businesses that can’t afford a fulltime IT staff would especially need the services of our type of business. I knew if we could apply our technology and software principles to small and medium businesses in an efficient and affordable manner, we could really make a difference in the success of those businesses.”

His partner eventually left for another opportunity, and Zito became the sole owner. Under his guidance, Teknarus has done well for itself and its clients, and the business recently moved into larger quarters at 1130 South Range Ave., Suite D, in Denham Springs (look for their large sign just north of the traffic light at Del Orleans, near the post office). Contact them at 225-243-7099 or see [teknarus.com](http://teknarus.com).

“We’re extremely excited about the growth, and we feel we’re filling a good niche in the technology field,” said Zito. “We have a good local base, and we also have clients in Baton Rouge, Covington and elsewhere. In the IT business, there are no boundaries; we can do much of the work remotely and, when needed, we can hit I-12 and go either direction.”

In explaining what it is that Teknarus does, Zito split the business into four components:

1. Support – This facet of their business is expanding; it includes hardware and software support and the maintenance and repair of computers.

2. Custom software and programming – The creation of software solutions that fit the exact needs of a business. An example is a large application



Owner Devin Zito cuts the ribbon for the relocated offices of Teknarus, a computer solutions business, with the help of his wife Karen and Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jack Stewart and the support of his staff and Chamber officials and members.

Teknarus created for the national mortgage industry to track clients and mortgage closings. They’ve also created various healthcare and banking software, as well as a program for the construction industry that tracks trucks and their loads.

3. Website design – Using effective graphic design and techniques to produce successful websites, as well as creating coordinating branding and logos for stationery, business cards, signs, etc. Teknarus has created websites for Ewing Aquatech ([ewingaquatech.com](http://ewingaquatech.com)), Pelican State Credit Union ([pelicanstatecu.com](http://pelicanstatecu.com)), Abundant Life Church ([alcfamily.com](http://alcfamily.com)), Livingston Parish government ([livingstonparishla.gov](http://livingstonparishla.gov)), and the Livingston Economic Development Council ([ledc.net](http://ledc.net)), to name a few. They are implementing a new website for the Livingston Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness that has functional applications that educate the public about preparing for emergencies and has the ability to send and receive notifications of emergencies.

4. Technology consulting - Helping companies determine how to properly spend their dollars budgeted for technology, including a network, software, hardware, maintenance and website. They implement a full package whose parts will fully integrate into the other segments.

“We get compliments on how our websites look, but the most important part of a great site is the things you

don’t see – the technology behind the scenes that makes everything work,” Zito explained. “That’s where I feel we excel.”

If a client will call Teknarus when they’re in the market for a new IT system or software, they can help them save tons of money, Zito advised. “We can help them avoid mistakes in purchasing the wrong software or hardware. We’ll give them the most efficient

and productive solution even if it means telling them they don’t need us for a particular project.”

He added, “One thing people learn about us quickly is that our business is here for the long term, for my family, our employees and their families, and for our customers. We truly care about people, and hopefully that comes out in

**See Teknarus, p37**



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# Don't get blindsided by AMD

This is the fourth in a five part series discussing the most common causes of vision loss and blindness in the United States. Fortunately, many of these conditions are reversible or preventable with appropriate care.)

The second most common cause of vision loss and blindness in the United States is Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD). AMD is actually the leading direct cause of blindness in

the United States, and is also the number one cause of vision loss of any degree in the over 65 population. It is estimated that 1.75 million patients have this condition, with that number expected to double within the next 12 years.

The macula is the area in the back of the eye we use to see fine detail. It is what the eye automatically lines up to use when we look at an object. Because the macula provides such high resolution vision, it requires lots of nutrients, and thus also produces a significant amount of waste products. Another set of cells in the eye, the retinal pigment epithelial cells, are located underneath the macula, and they function to remove, or flush, these waste products from the retina before they build up. When the retinal pigment epithelial cells no longer remove the waste products as efficiently as they should, the waste products begin to build up in the back of the eye as what we call drusen. As more drusen form, the cells in the macula begin to

degenerate due to lack of oxygen.

The two types of macular degeneration, wet and dry, are differentiated by whether or not the eye has attempted to grow new blood vessels to bring more oxygen to the area. The problem is these new blood vessels leak blood and fluid, resulting in wet AMD. Wet AMD is responsible for the vast majority of cases of severe vision loss in this condition. Fortunately, approximately 90% of patients with AMD have the dry form, which does not involve this hemorrhaging inside the eye.

While AMD can produce distorted vision, a central blind spot, and even legal blindness, it never produces complete blindness. There is no cure for this condition, but studies have consistently shown that regular intake of antioxidants and certain vitamins can slow the progression of the disease, or possibly even reduce the risk of contracting it. Most patients with AMD should take specific nutritional supplements at the advice of their eye doctor. Injectable medications are used to treat wet AMD with significant success at restoring some lost vision. These treatments represent a significant improvement versus the laser therapies previously used

AMD is most common in the Caucasian population, but occurs across all races. Additional risk factors for AMD include cigarette smoking, high blood pressure, older age, and a family history of AMD. Regular eye exams can detect AMD in its earliest stages, allowing interventional therapies and lifestyle changes to minimize the risk of severe vision loss in the future. So don't delay scheduling an appointment for you or your loved one today

*R. Hunter Bond, O.D. and Chris Wroten, O.D., Bond-Wroten Eye Clinic, 222 Veterans Blvd., Denham Springs, Louisiana 70726; 225-791-2020. Dr. Bond and Wroten are proud to be participants in the InfantSee program.*

## Teknarus, from 25

our interaction with the public.”  
With a staff of 11 (including himself, his wife and his mother), the size of the business allows Zito

to keep a close handle on everything. He interacts with each segment of the business to make sure everyone is carrying out his vision for the company.

Zito stated, “I base our business decisions on my faith, with the goal of making a positive difference in peoples’ lives.”

The phrase that is their motto and the tagline on their website perhaps sums it up best: Technology with impact.

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