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**COVID-19**

## Repetition and the Way of the World

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Gail Perry, CPA • Sep. 18, 2020



How often do we start and end our days in the same fashion? Our personal groundhog days see us rising at a particular time, checking on the weather either

electronically or by peeking out the window, cleaning, dressing, and fueling our bodies, and then going about our business, whatever that might be. We wind down in a similar manner, with our nighttime rituals leading us to the moment when we ultimately drift off to sleep, ready to begin the next day, and again, and again.

How strange, then, is it, when we travel, which we all used to be able to do pre-COVID-19, and our routine is disrupted? Even the slightest alteration – stepping onto a tile floor instead of a carpet, a little too much or too little light seeping in from behind the curtains or under the door, an unlikely choice for breakfast food or a different brand of coffee – somehow these little inconsistencies register with us and color our outlook on the rest of the day.

So too is the situation now, with the coronavirus, where we have made small changes in our lives that have forced us to examine the necessity, the essentialness, of our daily habits. Those changes impact the way we work as well, the way we communicate with others, the color of the clothes we wear as we dress for video conferencing, the lighting in our workspaces, the tools we work with, the snacks we consume at our makeshift desks.

Do you find yourself longing for the old ways, or are you settling into a new process, a new location, even a new you? What would you bring with you if the COVID-19 clock stopped ticking and suddenly we were catapulted back to actual Groundhog's Day 2020, before we started down this pandemic path? What will you take with you when you ease out of pandemicland?

I'm just rambling, because I don't have answers, just the thoughts that strike me when I notice changes that have become my new reality. I tried to assemble some interesting solutions this month in my Apps We Love column on Page xx. How to manage the WFH lifestyle, how to create or improve a home office, how to cope with the requirement that the job must still get done.

Another topic we cover in depth in this issue is document management. Like it or not, paper is a hinderance to progress, now more than ever. Our reviews will introduce you to software tools to make the paperless office closer to becoming a reality, and columnist Randy Johnston discusses the reasons why you need software at the helm of solving the document management dilemma.

Meanwhile, stay safe, enjoy your new routines, pick the ones you like best and carry them with you as you continue on your life journey.

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