

APRIL 2025

Your monthly newsletter, **written for humans not geeks.**

blueb

PULSE



Are you leaving your office door open?

If you left your office door unlocked overnight, would you sleep well? Knowing anyone could walk in and help themselves to anything?

Probably not.

But here's the thing: If your business isn't using Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), that's pretty much what you're doing – but online. You might have a password in place... these days that's not enough to keep out the bad guys.

MFA is like adding a second lock to your digital door. It means that even if someone guesses or steals your password, they'll hit another roadblock. That second "factor" could be a code sent to your phone, your fingerprint, or a quick tap on a special app.

Simple for you, but a nightmare for cyber criminals.

Why is this so important? Because cyber criminals love going after weak targets, and passwords are often the easiest way in. They can crack them using software or steal them in phishing scams (those fake emails asking for your login). Once they're in, they can wreak havoc, stealing sensitive data, locking you out of your

accounts, or even demanding money to give you access back. No one has time for that.

Here's where Microsoft is stepping up. If you use Microsoft 365, you might've noticed that the admin centre now requires MFA. Why? Because it works. That extra layer of security makes it significantly harder for anyone to break in. Yes, it adds one extra step to your login process, but it's a small price to pay for keeping your business safe.

Think of it like upgrading from a basic lock to a high-tech security system. It's not just about protecting your own accounts – it's about safeguarding your team, your clients, and your reputation. And honestly, setting up MFA is so quick and straightforward, you'll wonder why you didn't do it sooner.

So, if you're still relying on just a password, it's time to level up and follow Microsoft's lead. Scammers are getting smarter. But MFA makes their job a whole lot harder. It's one of the easiest ways to protect your business – and sleep better at night knowing your "digital doors" are locked tight.

**Need help getting this set up?
Get in touch.**

DID YOU KNOW...

how to avoid fake ads on Google?



Cyber criminals are hijacking Google Ads accounts to run fake ads in a scheme called malvertising (malicious advertising).

The ads look like the real deal but redirect people to fake websites designed to steal data or install malware. Popular tools are often impersonated, with convincing clone sites tricking people into downloading harmful software.

To stay safe, only download software from official websites and keep your security tools updated.

This is how you can get in touch with us:

CALL: 01204 221101 - **EMAIL:** hello@bluebox-i.co.uk - **WEBSITE:** www.bluebox-i.co.uk

Technology update

Microsoft Edge gets a bold new look



Browser wars are still alive in 2025. But while Google Chrome dominates, Microsoft has a new plan to attract people to Edge: Project Phoenix.

This revamp aims to give Edge a modern, Windows 11-inspired design, including features like Split Screen (for viewing two tabs side by side) and Mica, which adds a dynamic, translucent effect to the interface.

Phoenix will roll out in waves, letting Microsoft gather feedback and tweak improvements. With dynamic colour themes and a sleek new look, it might just win people over.



5 Things to Think About When Planning an Office Move

Relocating your business can be an exciting step forward, but it also comes with a lot of logistical challenges. A well-planned office move ensures minimal disruption and a smooth transition for your team. Here are five key things to consider:

1. Plan Early

An office move is a significant project that requires careful planning. Set a clear timeline, allocate responsibilities, and factor in unexpected delays to avoid last-minute stress.

2. Budget Smartly

Moving costs can add up quickly. Consider expenses such as removal services, IT and telecoms setup, office redesign, and potential downtime. Budgeting effectively will help prevent unexpected costs.

3. Inform People in Advance

Keep employees, clients, suppliers, and service providers informed well in advance. Ensure they are aware of key dates and how the move may impact business operations.

4. IT and Telecoms Infrastructure

A seamless transition of IT and telecoms is crucial for business continuity. Work with professionals like Bluebox-i to ensure systems are migrated securely and efficiently.

5. Test Before You Move

Before fully relocating, test essential systems such as internet connectivity, phone lines, and IT networks at the new site. This helps identify and resolve potential issues before they disrupt operations.

A smooth office move is all about preparation. With the right plan in place, you can transition seamlessly into your new space with minimal disruption. For expert IT and telecoms support, Bluebox-i is here to help. You can call us on 01204 221101 or book a no-obligation chat with our communications expert, Martin Fletcher, today

Bluebox-i provides IT and telecoms support to over 600 businesses across the North West. Our flexible 30-day contracts gives you the flexibility to up or downscale according to your organisation's needs – an ideal solution if your business is going through a period of transition, such as moving premises.

1

term
intel
com
com

2

ever

3

and
text
from
Inter
nar

INS
"Don

TechFacts

American mathematician and computer scientist John McCarthy was the first to coin the term "artificial intelligence" way back in 1955. Artificial intelligence is the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings.

Globally, people watch, on average, more than 1 billion hours of YouTube content on their TVs every day.

The Apple Lisa was the first commercial computer with a Graphical User Interface (GUI) and a mouse. Before its launch, all computers were text-based, meaning you had to type out commands from a keyboard. The name "Lisa" stands for "Logical Integrated Software Architecture" but was also the name of Steve Jobs' daughter.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Don't become a slave to technology – manage your phone, don't let it manage you."

Richard Branson, business hero.

Hello April! It's time for another fun tech quiz...

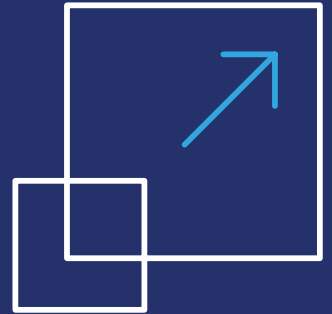
1. Computer Space, released in 1971, was the first example of what?
2. A computer program that runs within a web page is called what?
3. What's the name of a malicious program which replicates itself to spread to other computers?
4. A file labelled as .zip indicates what has been done to it?
5. In 2004, Apple opened its first European store in which capital city?

The answers are below.

1. An arcade game
2. Apple's or web application
3. A worm
4. It's been compressed
5. London

NEW TO

MICROSOFT



New to Teams: Pop out Chat, Copilot and Notes

Microsoft's testing a new feature in Teams that lets you pop out Chat, Copilot, and Notes panes into separate windows during meetings. This lets you organise your screen for maximum productivity, especially on bigger displays. It's currently in Teams Public Preview and Microsoft 365 Targeted Release. We expect a full rollout soon.

bluebox
INTEGRATION

Is your business hardware holding you back?

Your business hardware – your computers, printers, and other tech that keeps your day running smoothly – is easy to take for granted.

When they're working fine you don't give them much thought. But how often should you stop to think about whether they're performing at their best?

The truth is, properly maintaining your hardware is crucial for your business's success. Just like a car needs regular servicing to keep running smoothly, your tech requires attention too. Dust can build up inside computers, slowing them down or even causing overheating.

And those software updates that seem like a hassle, are often designed to keep your devices working efficiently and securely. If your hardware isn't looked after, its performance will suffer, costing you time and money. Sometimes, though, maintenance and repairs aren't enough.

If your hardware is old or outdated, it could be holding your business back. For example, older computers often struggle to run modern software, leading to frustrating delays and crashes. Worse still, outdated hardware can be a security risk, as it may not be compatible with the latest updates designed to protect you from cyber threats. When you're facing a decision between repairing or replacing hardware, consider the bigger picture.

Repairs might seem cheaper upfront, but if your device is slowing down productivity or constantly breaking, it could end up costing more in the long term. Investing in new equipment might feel like a big expense, but it can save you money and stress down the line – and give your business a competitive edge.

Outdated hardware doesn't just affect performance; it can also impact your team's morale and your customers' experience. No one enjoys battling with slow computers or unreliable printers. Keeping your tech up to date makes sure everything runs smoothly, keeping your team happy and your business efficient.

So, take a moment to think about your hardware. Is it running smoothly, or is it time for an upgrade? The right investment now can save you headaches – and money.

Is it time for a hardware audit? We can help with that. Get in touch.

609 business owners trust us to keep their businesses running every day, and you should join them.

We specialise in Business IT Solutions & Telecoms tailored to your specific needs. Our services are flexible, straightforward, and free from jargon, designed to evolve seamlessly with your business. We pride ourselves on a no-hard-selling approach, no long-term contracts, just the right advice without the unnecessary hassle.

- Stay connected with the latest Cloud Telephone systems from 3CX & NEC
- Have IT Problems? We provide support for your computer systems (We are Cyber Essentials Certified).
- Access fast and reliable internet connections with our Fibre Broadband and High Speed Leased Lines.
- Enhance your online security with our Cyber Security Services, including email protection, network monitoring, antivirus, ransomware, and malware protection. (Ask about our FREE no obligation Cyber Security Report).
- Prepare for and obtain Cyber Essentials Certification with our assistance.
- Utilise Office 365 for email, Sharing files and Office software on your PCs and laptops.
- Experience the flexibility of working from anywhere with our Cloud Services.
- Ensure the safety of your data with automatic backups for servers, PCs, and laptops.
- Upgrade your wireless network with the latest WIFI 6 & 7 access points for high-speed WIFI throughout your premises.
- Get reliable data cabling for computers, phones, and CCTV, including CAT5, CAT6 and Fibre.
- Source your IT hardware, including Servers, PCs, Laptops, and Peripherals.
- Optimise your office printing with our Managed Print Services, featuring multifunction printers. (Print, Copy, Scan & Email).
- Secure your premises with the latest digital IP CCTV systems.
- Enhance your online presence with our website services, covering design, hosting, and SEO optimisation.

One important thing, we don't have any sales people so we'll only ever focus on how we can actually help your business, not on commission rates or sales targets, there's no pressured sales tactics, just no faff.

Get in touch, our advice is free.

bluebox  **x**
I N T E G R A T I O N

Simplified Telecoms & IT

This is how you can get in touch with us:

CALL: 01204 221101 – **EMAIL** hello@bluebox-i.co.uk

WEBSITE: www.bluebox-i.co.uk

FIND US AT: Meridan House, 5 Longworth Rd, Horwich, Bolton. BL6 7BL



Q: Do we really need backups if we use cloud storage?

A: Yes, having a secondary backup makes sure your data is protected in case of accidental deletion or even a cloud provider issue.



Q: How can we make sure our teams use our tech tools effectively?

A: Provide training, encourage regular use, and integrate tools into daily workflows. Explaining the benefits to your employees can make them keener to use these tools too.



Q: What happens if my device is too old to run the latest version of our software?

A: Outdated software means you're less secure against cyber attacks. If your device won't run the latest version, it's time to look at replacing it.