

FEBRUARY 2025



BLUEBOX PULSE



Your monthly newsletter,
written for humans not geeks

Here's why **you should stick to work-specific tools**

When it comes to communicating with your team, it can be tempting to stick with what's familiar. Apps like WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger are quick and easy to use. And everyone already has them on their phones, right?

But while these tools are great for sharing holiday photos or planning a get-together, they're not the best choice for work-related conversations. In fact, they could cause serious problems for your business.

You and your team often share information that's sensitive – customer details, employee records, or even financial data. Sharing this kind of information over apps that aren't designed for business use can be risky. Many of these apps don't have the advanced security measures needed to protect your business from threats like malware (malicious software designed to steal or damage your data).

If this happens on a personal app which doesn't have the right security in place, your business could end up facing serious consequences.

Losing access to important accounts or having private data leaked, for example. Using business-specific communication tools, like Microsoft Teams, isn't just about security, it's also about keeping things organised. It lets you set up separate channels for different projects, share files securely, and even integrates with other apps you might be using.

That means your team spends less time scrolling through endless chat threads and more time getting things done.

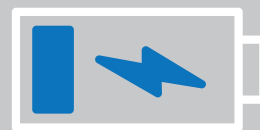
Personal apps can quickly get messy. Important messages get buried under GIFs and memes, and it becomes all too easy to accidentally share the wrong file – or worse, send something confidential to someone outside the company.

Switching to a proper business communication tool isn't difficult, and it's one of the best ways to protect your company's information while keeping your team running smoothly.

Need help getting started with the right tools for your business? Get in touch.

DID YOU KNOW...

Windows 11 is getting a new battery indicator?



Microsoft is finally fixing one of Windows 11's more frustrating features: The battery indicator.

The current version is small, hard to read, and inconsistent, especially when charging. But in the latest Windows 11 preview there's a new design. It's larger and now uses colours to show its status: Green when charging and yellow when energy saver mode is on. This is a big step up from the current version, which only uses icons. For now, the update is only on the taskbar, but the lock screen version will likely follow soon.

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



BlueBox
Integration

TechFacts

- 1 ChatGPT is bigger than ever, with 300 million weekly users and more than 1 billion messages sent every day. It was created by OpenAI. And 1.3 million developers are now building on it. Remember, never use personal info in your messages – it's better to be safe than sorry.
- 2 One-third of business emails last year were spam – that's more than 20 billion. Of these, 427 million were malicious, with phishing leading the charge. Businesses now face an average of 36 phishing attempts daily, making strong cyber security more critical than ever.
- 3 Over 70% of top websites store personal data with third parties. When you say no, a recent report revealed widespread non-compliance with GDPR, reminding us that protecting our data needs extra tools.



Enhancing Manufacturing Efficiency with Advanced Phone Systems

In manufacturing, communication challenges can lead to costly inefficiencies. Common pain points include limited mobility, locating staff, and unreliable Broadband & WiFi connectivity. At Bluebox-i, we provide advanced phone systems, reliable Broadband, and true business WiFi to tackle these issues head-on.

Mobility: Stay Connected on the Move

Manufacturing facilities are dynamic and expansive. Traditional desk phones hinder mobility, slowing response times. Our cordless phones and mobile apps ensure staff can move freely while staying connected, enhancing responsiveness and productivity.

Staffing: Streamline Coordination

Managing teams and shifts is complex. Our systems simplify coordination with features like instant messaging, team collaboration, and real-time updates. These tools close communication gaps, reduce downtime, and optimise workforce management.

Connectivity: Reliable and Seamless

Modern manufacturing depends on strong connectivity. Our phone systems integrate with robust Wi-Fi networks, ensuring uninterrupted communication and smooth operation of connected systems like stock control and automation tools.

At Bluebox-i, we address these critical pain points with solutions tailored for manufacturing. Book a call with Martin Fletcher Telecoms Specialist to learn how we can help you achieve greater efficiency and operational success.

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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"If you want
something new, you
have to stop doing
something old."*

Peter Drucker, Austrian American
management consultant.

Technology update

Windows is getting AirDrop-like file sharing

Sharing files between your iPhone and Windows PC is finally easier,
thanks to a new update from Microsoft.

The Link app for Windows and Link to Windows app for iPhone now
allow you to share files in a similar way to Apple's AirDrop feature. Instead of
relying on clunky third-party apps or email attachments, you can simply
use the share option on your iPhone or PC to send files back and forth.
The update is a big win for anyone juggling Apple and Windows devices,
making file transfers faster and more convenient than ever.

Who will be February's tech quiz champion?

1. What does DNS stand for?
2. Which programming language is primarily used for developing iOS applications?
3. What coding issue was expected to create havoc in computer networks around the world in 2000?
4. What feature is often used to identify if a website visitor is human?
5. What device, released in 1993, made the term "personal digital assistant" popular?

The answers are below.

1. Domain Name System
2. Swift
3. Y2K, or the "Millennium Bug". This was a programming issue where many computer systems represented years with only two digits.
4. Captcha
5. Apple's Newton Message pad

NEW TO

MICROSOFT



File Explorer will remember your open tabs

There are some great
updates coming
to File Explorer in
Windows 11. The
coolest new feature
is that File Explorer
can now restore all
your open tabs after a
restart, just like a web
browser does.

It's currently being
tested with Windows
Insiders, but we'd
love to see a rollout
soon.

Business Premium is your next smart move

Running a business comes with challenges you might not expect, like phishing emails, stolen devices, or ex-employees still accessing your systems.

While Microsoft 365 Business Standard is a great package for getting work done, it doesn't offer the advanced security and management tools needed to handle these risks. That's where Microsoft 365 Business Premium comes in.

Business Premium gives you everything you love about Business Standard – apps like Word and Excel, email hosting, Microsoft Teams, and OneDrive for cloud storage. And it adds powerful features to keep your business secure and efficient.

Take cyber threats, for example. Phishing emails, designed to trick you into clicking dangerous links, can install malware (malicious software) that locks your files or steals sensitive data. With Business Premium, Microsoft Defender for Business scans for these threats and stops them in their tracks. It's like having a 24/7 security guard for your data.

Device management is another big advantage. If an employee loses their laptop, Business Premium's Microsoft Intune lets you remotely erase company data, protecting your sensitive information. You can also set policies to ensure every device connected to your business is secure.

And then there's protecting your confidential information. Business Premium uses Purview Information Protection to label sensitive files and control who can access them. Even if an email gets forwarded outside your company, the protections stay in place, safeguarding your data wherever it goes.

These tools aren't just nice to have, they're essential for modern businesses facing growing cyber security threats. The added cost is a small investment for the confidence that your team, data, and reputation are protected.

Upgrading to Business Premium can help prepare your business for the future. If you're ready to take that step, it's worth every penny. We can help you get started – 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.

Telecoms & Managed IT Services

Telephone Systems | Lines & Calls | Mobile | Broadband | Cloud | IT

This is how you can get in touch with us:

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



Q: Where do I start using AI in my business?

A: Trying out Copilot is a great starting place. It works alongside many of your Microsoft apps to make things easier. We can help – get in touch.



Q: How do I stop my team using their personal phones for work tasks?

A: Educate them on the dangers of doing so and explain the consequences for them if they keep doing it.



Q: Should I restrict access to business files for certain employees?

A: The most secure thing is to allow employees only to access files relevant to their role. Microsoft 365 Business Premium comes with tools to help.

