

JANUARY 2025

# BLUEBOX PULSE



Your monthly newsletter,  
written for humans not geeks

## Are your tech tools helping or hurting your business?

**In the rush to stay competitive, businesses have been trying out new tech tools left, right, and centre. It's great to embrace change. But here's the thing: Having too many tools – or the wrong kind – can create more headaches than solutions.**

That means lots of businesses are now stuck with a jumble of software that doesn't play nicely together, making work slower and more frustrating than it should be.

**Over the past few years, companies have thrown tools at every problem:**

- HR needed a way to track time off requests... there's software for that
- Finance needed help with tax compliance... another tool added to the mix
- Add in the scramble to adapt to remote work and fast growth, and suddenly, every department has its own tool

**The result?** A patchwork quilt of systems that just don't connect. Now the focus is shifting to working smarter, not harder, and those cracks in your tool stack are showing. Instead of helping your team, too many

disconnected tools are slowing them down. Data gets stuck in silos, workflows feel clunky, and employees are juggling software. To make matters worse, you're likely paying for tools no one's even using.

### **So, what can you do?**

Look at the bigger picture. Think about consolidating your tool stack. Cut out the extras and focus on systems that work together smoothly. When your tools are aligned, your data flows properly and your team can do what they do best.

It's not just about saving money (though you'll probably do that too). It's about making work easier and more efficient. Automation can also help you spot inefficiencies and connect the dots between systems, so everything runs more smoothly.

If your team isn't working as efficiently as they could, before you start pointing fingers consider that your stack might be the reason.

**We can help you create a tool stack that helps, not hinders your workflow. Get in touch.**

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

**about "crafted malicious requests"?**



A recent security issue on Bing.com allowed attackers to steal sensitive data from services like Microsoft 365. Cyber criminals could send "crafted malicious requests" to Bing. Which means they designed specific commands that tricked the system into doing something it shouldn't (like providing access to private emails or documents).

This flaw allowed attackers to inject harmful code into Bing search results, making it possible to steal data. Thankfully, Microsoft has fixed the issue, but it's a reminder of why keeping software up to date and monitoring for security vulnerabilities is so important.

## This is how you can get in touch with us:

CALL: 01204 221101 - EMAIL: [hello@bluebox-i.co.uk](mailto:hello@bluebox-i.co.uk) - WEBSITE: [www.bluebox-i.co.uk](http://www.bluebox-i.co.uk)



BlueBox  
Integration

## TechFacts

- 1** GPS is free... for some. Even though it is free (the UK government paid £1.58 million) to operate EVERY DAY. This means that if it ever stopped working, it would be a massive loss.
- 2** Remember MySpace? The original social media platform lost all its content before 2011 due to a faulty server migration. Every photo, song, and video that was uploaded to this once-popular social network was accidentally deleted. That accounts for 50 million songs from 14 million artists like Lily Allen and Arctic Monkeys. Those that didn't have backups are now lost forever.



## Are Rising Telecom Costs Draining Your Business Resources?

Has your telecom bill been creeping upward without adding any tangible benefits? If so, you're not alone. In recent years, many businesses have experienced increases of 15%-25% in telecom costs, often with no noticeable improvement in service quality. This silent strain on budgets can prevent businesses from investing in other areas that could drive growth.

The issue doesn't stop there. Many businesses are also paying for services they no longer use—or never needed in the first place. From unused phone lines to outdated features, these hidden costs can add up quickly. If you're unsure whether you're getting the most out of your telecom setup, it's time to reassess your telecom setup.

### Where Are You Losing Money?

- **Service Bundles:** Are you paying for features you don't use or need?
- **Legacy Systems:** Outdated systems often come with higher maintenance costs.
- **Inflexible Contracts:** Locked into a deal that doesn't reflect your business's current needs?

### The Bluebox Integration Approach

At Bluebox Integration, we believe in transparency and tailored solutions. Our team offers a comprehensive review of your telecom expenses to identify where costs can be reduced without sacrificing quality. Here's what we bring to the table:

- **Cost Analysis:** Our experts dig into your bills to uncover unnecessary expenses.
- **Custom Solutions:** We tailor your telecom services, so you only pay for what you use.
- **Flexibility:** Our 30-day contracts allow you to scale up or down as needed.

Why settle for "same service, higher price" when you can achieve better for less? At Bluebox Integration, we help businesses save money, improve service, and make the most of their telecom systems.

**Book a phone system audit today and let's uncover the potential in your budget.**

[www.bluebox-i.co.uk/mfchat](http://www.bluebox-i.co.uk/mfchat)

NEW TO

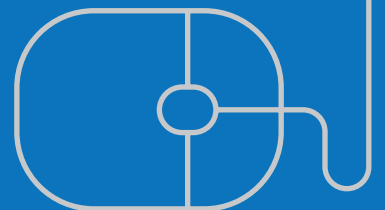
# MICROSOFT

## There are new mouse settings in Windows 11

Windows 11 has made navigating your computer even easier with some smart updates to mouse settings.

Now, you can fine-tune how your cursor moves, including an option to turn off "enhanced pointer precision" for smoother, more predictable control.

This is great if you want more consistency, especially when doing detailed work. It's a small tweak, but one that could make your day-to-day tasks simpler.



### INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Wear your failure as a badge of honour."*

Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google.

### New year, new quiz champion?

1. What unit of length is equal to around 5.8 trillion miles?
2. What was the name of the first internet search engine, created in 1990?
3. In which decade was the Sony Walkman launched?
4. Was electronics company Nintendo founded in 1889, 1946 or 1975?
5. How many characters can a long post on X Premium be?

The answers are below.

1. A light year
2. Archile
3. 1970s
4. 1889 (yes, really!)
5. 25,000 (a standard post is 280 characters)

to use GPS globally, it costs \$2 million (around money comes from American tax revenue.

- 3 The first photo ever uploaded to the internet was of a four-piece all-female comedy band called "Les Horribles Cernettes". They were colleagues with Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the World Wide Web. He asked them for some scanned photos of their band so he could publish them online. And history was made!

In the past two le improvement drive growth.

st place. From value for your

penses,

ney,

# Act now: The clock is ticking for Windows 10...

Still using Windows 10? It's time to start planning for a big change. Microsoft has announced that this October will mark the end of support for the operating system. That means no more security updates, no bug fixes, and no technical support. While your computers won't suddenly stop working, staying on Windows 10 after its end-of-life date could put your business at serious risk.

Without regular updates, your systems will be more vulnerable to cyber attacks. Cyber criminals love to exploit old, unsupported systems because they know the weaknesses won't be fixed. If you handle sensitive customer data or financial information, this is a huge red flag.

On top of that, software compatibility could become a problem. New applications will be designed with Windows 11 and future systems in mind, meaning your current setup might not be able to keep up. The result? Slower workflows or even critical tools that stop working entirely. And if something goes wrong, you'll be on your own – Microsoft won't be there to help.

But Windows 11 is here, and it's built to make your business run more smoothly. From stronger security features to smarter productivity tools, the upgrade is packed with benefits... and it's free! Before making the move, you'll need to check if your current computers meet the requirements

for Windows 11. Not all Windows 10 devices will be compatible, but it's easy to find out using Microsoft's PC Health Check tool.

If some devices don't make the cut, it might be time to invest in new hardware. While that sounds like a big step, newer machines offer better performance and security, saving you headaches down the line.

The key to a smooth transition is starting early. Back up your data, check compatibility, and plan your upgrade timeline so it doesn't disrupt your team. Making the move now means you'll avoid scrambling later. And of course, you'll set your business up for success with a system designed for the future.

**If you're feeling overwhelmed about where to begin, we can help every step of the way. 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:

CALL: 01204 221101 - EMAIL: [hello@bluebox-i.co.uk](mailto:hello@bluebox-i.co.uk)

WEBSITE: [www.bluebox-i.co.uk](http://www.bluebox-i.co.uk)

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



### Q: Should everyone in my business use the same browser?

A: While it's not vital, it does make room for better consistency, support, and security. Whatever people use, make sure to check the security and privacy settings.



### Q: My team don't have time to sit down for cyber security training together. Is it necessary?

A: Yes, training is critical for everyone. But it doesn't have to be classroom style. You can use interactive or online training that people can do when it suits them best.



### Q: What's the best way to back up my data? And what should I backup?

A: The answer to this depends on your individual business needs. We can assess them for you and make recommendations – get in touch.

