

JUNE 2024

Your monthly newsletter, written for humans not geeks

TECHNOLOGY INSIDER



Out of sight, out of mind?

Having your employees work from home or their local coffee shop is the norm now. And while there are loads of benefits to this new attitude to work, it's easy to overlook a crucial aspect of keeping operations secure: The home set-ups of remote employees.

Here's the thing – neglecting remote security can lead to some serious headaches down the line. And you already have enough business headaches, right? Imagine this: Your employee's laptop, which holds loads of sensitive company data, gets breached because their home Wi-Fi network wasn't properly secured.

Or worse, a malware infection spreads from their kid's device to their work laptop, putting your entire network at risk. That's scary.

A little vigilance and some regular checks can prevent these risks and keep your business and its data much safer.

So, let's talk about devices. Encourage your remote workers to treat their work devices like Fort Knox. That means regular updates and patches, robust protective software, and strong, unique passwords (password managers are your best friend for this).

Remind them to avoid risky behaviours like downloading software from unofficial sources or clicking on suspicious links.

Next, address home networks. A weak Wi-Fi password is asking for trouble. Encourage your employees to set a strong password for their home network (again, a password manager can remove the hassle of this). And while they're at it, remind them to enable encryption and hide their network's SSID (Service Set Identifier) to add an extra layer of security.

And it's not just about devices and networks – physical security matters too. Use biometrics to protect logins. Remind your team to keep their work devices secure when they're not in use, whether that means locking them away in a drawer or simply keeping them out of sight from prying eyes. And if they're working from a shared space like a coffee shop, remind them to be cautious of public Wi-Fi and to keep an eye on their belongings.

Regular checks are key to staying on top of security. Schedule routine audits of remote set-ups to ensure everything gets a thumbs up. This could include checking for software updates, reviewing network configurations, and providing refresher training on best security practices.

Want a hand with that? We can help – get in touch.

DID YOU KNOW...

Microsoft has a new email send limit?



Microsoft Exchange is cracking down on spam. Hooray! But if your business sends bulk emails, it might affect you.

From January next year, Microsoft will allow **no more than 2,000 external recipients of bulk emails**. It's to prevent people abusing the service, which wasn't designed for bulk mailing.

This is how you can get in touch with us:

CALL: 01204 275560 - EMAIL: hello@bluebox-i.co.uk - WEBSITE: www.bluebox-i.co.uk

TechFacts

1

The internet weighs as much as a strawberry. That's according to physicist Russell Seitz. He says the combined weight of all the electrons in motion is about 50 grams.

2

The first computer bug was a real bug. In 1947, Grace Hopper and her team found a moth causing issues in their computer at Harvard University.

3

In 2015, a report in *Nature* found that human energy consumption is growing faster than income.



PWA

Technology update

Install any website or web tool as an app in Windows 11

In Windows 11, you can install ANY website or web tool as a traditional app. They're known as Progressive Web Apps (or PWAs) and once installed, they'll appear on your Start menu like a normal app would. You can even pin apps to the Taskbar.

Why bother? PWAs use less resources than traditional apps, and you'll always get the latest version without having to run an update first.

All you do is visit the site, click on Settings, select Apps, and click "Install this site as an app." Easy.

5, the United Nations
ed that a start-up
ya was converting
n waste into clean,
able energy. This
y, in turn, powered
outers in low-
e areas.



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"You build your own
strategy. You don't
define it by what
another competitor
is doing."*

Ginni Rometty, CEO of IBM

June's fun tech quiz – June-o the answers to these?

1. The keyboard shortcut for copying information is (Ctrl + C, but what's the shortcut to paste?
2. In 1999 Shigetaka Kurita invented what keyboard additions for phones that would get their own movie?
3. When a password is limited strictly to numbers, it's referred to as a PIN. What does that stand for?
4. What word is often abbreviated as Fn on a keyboard?
5. Which American tech company started with its founders' idea to rent out an air mattress in their San Francisco living room to travellers hoping to avoid the city's high cost of rent?

The answers are below.

1. Ctrl + V
2. Emojis
3. Personal Identification Number
4. Function
5. Airbnb

NEW TO

MICROSOFT



Microsoft Teams is becoming more inclusive

If you like to inject a little personality into your Teams chats, it's likely you use reactions from time to time. But until now, they've been a little restrictive.

This month, a small tweak is due to rollout which will allow people to select a skin tone for their reactions. Microsoft says, "This preference will be applied to all emojis and reactions in chats, channels, and desktop/web meetings, allowing users to express themselves more authentically in conversations."

Think about recovery BEFORE the attack strikes

Let us set the scene. It's an ordinary Wednesday. You're minding your own business, getting things done, and making boss decisions, then BAM... you get hit with a cyber attack. Cue panic mode.

But here's the thing: These attacks happen more often than you'd think. And guess who the favourite targets are? No, not big multinational companies – small and medium-sized businesses like yours.

And the consequences? We're talking financial losses, data loss, reputation damage, the whole nine yards.

But it doesn't have to be that way. If you have a recovery plan in place you can turn a total nightmare into just "an annoying inconvenience".

So, what should your recovery plan include? Well, first things first, prevention is key. Invest in solid cyber security measures like firewalls, antivirus software, and regular security check-ups. And don't forget to educate your team about the importance of good cyber hygiene (things like using strong passwords and not clicking suspicious links) – because human error is often the weakest link.



Next, have a game plan for when the inevitable happens. This means having clear protocols in place for how to respond to an attack, who to call, and what steps will minimise the damage. Let's talk backups. Regularly backing up your data to a secure location can be a real lifesaver in the event of an attack. That way, even if your systems go kaput, you'll still have a copy of your important files to fall back on.

Finally, practice makes perfect! Regularly test your recovery plan to make sure it's up to the job. After all, you don't want to wait until disaster strikes to realise your plan has more holes than a block of Swiss cheese.

Cyber attacks may be scary, but with a solid recovery plan in place, you can rest easy knowing your business is armed and ready. Remember what they say: Fail to prepare, prepare to fail.

If we can help you create your recovery plan, get in touch.



Q: Should I move my business data to the cloud?

A: The cloud brings many benefits such as zero storage limits and automatic backup. But it's important to choose the right provider. We can help – get in touch.



361 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.

- Have IT Problems? We provide support for your computer systems (we are an MSP - Managed Service Provider).
- Enhance your online security with our Cyber Security Services, including email protection, network monitoring, antivirus, ransomware, and malware protection.
- Prepare for and obtain Cyber Essentials Certification with our assistance.
- Utilise Office 365 for email 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 access points for high-speed internet throughout your premises.
- Get reliable data cabling for computers, phones, and CCTV, including CAT5 and CAT6.
- Source your IT hardware needs, including Servers, PCs, Laptops, and Peripherals.
- Optimise your office printing with our Managed Print Services, featuring multifunction printers. (Print, Copy, Scan & Email)
- Stay connected with the latest VOIP telephone systems from Yealink & 3CX
- Access fast and reliable internet connections with our Fibre Broadband and Leased Lines.
- 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

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Q: How often should my team have cyber security training?

A: Since threats evolve at a rapid pace, regular training is important. Try to incorporate different methods each month, including simulation training.



Q: Can we use Microsoft Teams as a phone system?

A: Yes. And if you're already using Teams effectively, it could be a sensible solution. Get in touch and we can help you.

