



BLUEBOX PULSE



Your monthly newsletter,
written for humans not geeks



What are you using your work laptop for?...

Let's be honest, most of us have used our work laptops for personal stuff now and then. Whether it's checking your personal email, browsing social media, or streaming a video, it seems harmless... right?

Well, according to recent research, it could be a big risk for your business.

A new study found that 90% of workers use their company laptops for personal activities. And many are doing risky things like accessing unsecured websites, streaming illegal content, and even visiting the dark web. These activities can expose your company's sensitive data to malware, phishing attacks, and other cyber security threats.

With more employees working remotely or hybrid, it's harder for you to monitor what's happening on company devices. People are connecting to public Wi-Fi, using personal USBs, and generally mixing their work and personal lives in ways that can lead to trouble. Younger workers are more likely to take these risks.

What's even more worrying is that 18% of employees don't have any cyber security software on their work devices, and 7% aren't even sure if they're protected. Without solid security in place, your business is left wide open to attacks.

On top of all that, using a work laptop for personal stuff can create privacy concerns. A third of workers said they'd feel like their privacy was being violated if their boss could see their personal activity on a company laptop.

So... what can you do?

It's time to rethink how you and your team use work devices. Put stronger security measures in place and make sure employees understand what's OK and what's not on a company laptop.

Remote management tools can also help keep everything secure. And of course, seeking expert help from an IT partner like us will make this a simpler job all round.

If you'd like help managing your business devices, get in touch.

DID YOU KNOW...

ActiveX controls are being switched off in Office 2024



ActiveX lets you use interactive elements in your documents, such as buttons and forms. It's been on by default since being released in 1996 (!), but with Office 2024 it will be switched off.

Why? Because it's caused security issues, with cyber criminals leveraging it to install malware. If you're a fan, you can enable it again by changing your Trust Centre settings, but we'd suggest keeping it disabled.

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 The original Apple logo from 1976 featured an apple with a bite taken out of it, placed beneath a tree, with an apple about to fall from a poem: "Newton...a mind forever voyaging through strange seas of thought...alone." Catchy!
- 2 In 2004, the @ symbol was added to Morse code making it possible to communicate email addresses. The character is called a "Commat" and consists of the signals for A and C.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Culture isn't just one aspect of the game; it is the game. In the end, an organisation is nothing more than the collective capacity of its people to create value."

Louis V. Gerstner, Jr., Former CEO of IBM.

Technology update

Microsoft is rethinking Windows security after the CrowdStrike outage

Earlier this year, a problematic update from CrowdStrike took down Windows systems all over the world.

To avoid a repeat, Microsoft is working with major security companies (including CrowdStrike) to develop a new platform that meets security needs without compromising system performance – or threatening future outages.

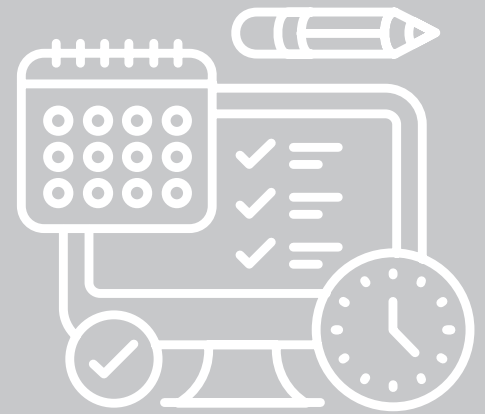
co laboris nisi ut ali-
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Featured Sir Isaac Newton sitting
t to fall on his head. It included a quote
yaging through strange seas of

3 Hal, the computer in '2001:
A Space Odyssey', got its
name by taking the letters IBM,
and selecting the preceding
letter for each one.

NEW TO

MICROSOFT



Finally, you can declutter Microsoft Edge

Microsoft Edge has started to
look cluttered with its toolbar,
sidebar, and context menu, and
that can be distracting.

A new pop-up lets you clean it
by hiding the apps you use less
regularly.

It even gives you a helpful list,
complete with tickboxes, to
select which ones you want
to hide and which you'd like to
keep in view.

Who will be November's quiz champ?

1. What common element is used in the manufacture of computer chips?
2. What's the name of the computer language named after a French philosopher and mathematician?
3. Retro tech question: How many feet/metres of tape would you find in the typical (60 compact audio cassette?
4. What was the first website to display banner ads?
5. Before it became Photoshop, what was the early version of the software called?

The answers are below.

1. Silicon
2. Pascal
3. 281 feet / 85 metres
4. Hotwired.com
5. ImagePro

Cloud Telephony vs. VoIP – which is best for your business?

Is it time to upgrade your phone system?

These days there are two main technologies to choose from. Let us explain them so you can pick the right one for your business.

The first is VoIP, an acronym for Voice over Internet Protocol. It's a reliable technology. You make phone calls using data sent over the internet. You can use a desk phone for this, or your computer or mobile.

Cloud Telephony takes things a step further. It uses VoIP technology but operates entirely in the cloud.

Everything is managed remotely. No hardware to maintain and no complicated setups, just a flexible system that grows with you.

Need more lines or features? That's easy, it's all done online in seconds. Both are solid choices for growing businesses.

Want us to look at how you use your phones and suggest which system is best for you? Get in touch.



Q: How do I dispose of old PCs?

A: First make sure they're completely wiped so your data can't fall into the wrong hands. Then you could sell them, recycle them or donate them. Get in touch for help.



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.

Q: Should we trial new software features before general release?

A: No! Patience is a virtue. If you try early release beta features, you can be hit by bugs and glitches. Let others find these and wait for the stable general release.



Q: Is WhatsApp a good business tool?

A: We don't recommend WhatsApp for business communications. Instead use a business-specific communication tool, like Microsoft Teams. This gives you maximum security and control.



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