

TECHNOLOGY INSIDER



Your monthly
newsletter, written
for humans not geeks

AUGUST 2023

Is your team suffering from cyber security fatigue?

Recently, we've seen a concerning trend among businesses: cyber security fatigue.

It's a phenomenon that occurs when people become overwhelmed and desensitised to the constant barrage of cyber threats and security alerts they face on a daily basis.

You may be thinking "My business is too small to be a target for cybercriminals".

Unfortunately, that couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, small businesses are often targeted precisely because they are seen as easier targets. Cybercriminals know that small businesses don't have the same resources as larger corporations, making them more vulnerable to attacks.

So, how can you tell if your business is suffering from cybersecurity fatigue? **Here are a few signs to look out for:**

- Your employees are ignoring security alerts or taking shortcuts to get around them
- You've had a data breach or cyber attack in the past, but didn't take significant steps to prevent it from happening again
- You're relying solely on antivirus software to protect your business
- You haven't updated your security protocols in a while

If any of these sound familiar, it's time to take action. Here are a few ideas to help you combat cybersecurity fatigue and keep your business secure:

1. Invest in employee training. Your employees are your first line of defence against cyber threats. Make sure they understand the risks and are trained in proper security protocols. [Visit our Security Awareness Training webpage to learn more.](#)
2. Use multi-factor authentication (MFA). This adds an extra layer of security by requiring users to provide additional verification before accessing sensitive information. [Read our blog on MFA.](#)
3. Keep your software up to date. Many cyber-attacks happen because of outdated software that contains vulnerabilities. Make sure all software is regularly updated to the latest version.
4. Talk to Modern Networks. We provide ongoing support and can offer monitoring of your systems, ensuring that your business stays secure and up to date. Speak to your account manager for more information.

Don't let cyber security fatigue put your business at risk. By taking proactive steps to improve your security, you can protect your business and enjoy peace of mind. Remember, the best defence is a good offence! If we can help, get in touch.

DID YOU KNOW...

the origins of the
word Bluetooth?

What do you see in your mind when you hear the word 'Bluetooth'?

Probably not a medieval king? But maybe now you will...

The reference goes back to Harald "Bluetooth" Gormsson, a 10th Century King of Denmark and Norway who was said to have united Danish tribes under a single kingdom.

Intel's Jim Kardach, part of an initial development consortium, suggested "Bluetooth" as a codename for the technology because he hoped it would unite communication protocols.



Techn^{gear}ology update



Clock ticking for Windows Server

On October 10, 2023, Microsoft Windows Server 2012 and 2012 R2 will reach its end of life. This means that Microsoft will no longer provide security updates or technical support for this operating system.

As you know, security updates are essential for protecting your servers from malware and other security threats. Without these updates, your servers will be at increased risk of being hacked or infected with ransomware.

Furthermore, Microsoft will no longer provide technical support for Windows Server 2012. This means that if you have any problems with your servers, you cannot get help from Microsoft. For these reasons, it is important that you upgrade your servers to a newer version of Windows Server before October 10, 2023.

We offer various upgrade options to help you transition to a newer version of Windows Server. We can help you assess your current environment, recommend the right upgrade path, and migrate your data and applications to the new server.

If you have any questions about upgrading your servers, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to help you make the transition to a newer version of Windows Server as smoothly as possible.

Wave goodbye to Cortana... sort of

Microsoft has recently announced that it will be discontinuing its Cortana app for Windows 10 and Windows 11 later this year. This is after years of declining use and popularity for the digital assistant, which was originally intended to compete with other AI assistants like Siri and Alexa.

While Cortana will still be available as part of Windows 10 and 11, the standalone app will no longer be supported. Instead, Microsoft is shifting its focus towards integrating Cortana into other products and services, like Microsoft Teams and Outlook.

Simplify Document Sharing with Microsoft 365: Your Ultimate Collaboration Tool!

Today, we're diving into the world of document sharing with Microsoft 365, the ultimate collaboration tool that will transform the way you work together. If you're new to the Microsoft 365 family, don't worry, because we've got you covered with all the benefits that await you in this powerful platform.

1. **Seamless Sharing:** No more email attachments. Share files effortlessly on OneDrive or SharePoint and collaborate in real-time.
2. **Enhanced Version Control:** Easily track changes, revert to previous versions, and keep file names organized.
3. **Secure Sharing:** Protect your data with permissions and control access to shared documents.
4. **Anytime, Anywhere Access:** Work from any device with an internet connection.
5. **Built-in Collaboration Tools:** Co-author, meet virtually, and chat with Teams.

Microsoft 365 is not just about document storage and sharing; it's a complete collaboration suite. You can co-author documents, have virtual meetings with Teams, and communicate effortlessly through chat and video calls. Working together has never been easier or more efficient.

Handy tools

To learn more about document sharing with Microsoft 365:



[Watch our helpful instructional video](#)



[Grab a copy of our *Share Your Files* cheat sheet for quick tips.](#)

Unlock the power of Microsoft 365 today Happy sharing!

NEW TO MICROSOFT 365

Finally, an enhanced search experience for Mac

If you use a Mac with Microsoft 365, chances are you'll have struggled with searches being a little sluggish.

Microsoft saw the issue and has finally done something about it. They have revamped the search experience in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Now Mac fans can look for information across multiple platforms in one convenient location.



Are meetings making your people less productive?

Are you one of the many businesses that still offer your people the flexibility of remote or hybrid working? If so, you're probably relying on video meetings a lot more than you usually would. And that makes sense because it feels like the easiest way to get people together at the same time.

But meetings can be a real drag for everyone at some stage. Whether you're dealing with introverted employees who are hesitant to speak up, scheduling conflicts that make it tough to get everyone in the same virtual room, or colleagues who try to take all the credit for your brilliant ideas (the worst!), meetings can slow down your productivity.

So, what are some simple solutions to help?

For projects that have a visual element, digital whiteboards are your new best friend. These handy tools allow for collaboration wherever, and whenever, and replicate the feeling of being in an actual conference room. Plus, they don't put anyone on the spot, so introverted employees can contribute without feeling self-conscious.



And for projects that don't require visuals? Maybe collaborative docs could be a good alternative for you. These documents are easily shared and distributed, making it easy for team members to work together in real-time or asynchronously.

Let your team know that they don't need to respond immediately to every notification or email. And if you really want to free up some time for deep-focus work, consider implementing a "no meetings" policy like Shopify has done. This empowers your team to work when they're most effective, regardless of their time zone.

When it comes to productivity, transparency is key! So, have you considered prioritising public channels over direct messages? It can be a game-changer for your team as it helps everyone understand how different individuals and teams work and increases workers' faith in their managers.

In fact, research shows that employees who trust their leadership are 50% more engaged at work! And when it comes to clarifying priorities, the responsibility falls on leadership. Make sure you're coaching your direct reports and giving regular feedback. Consider consolidating work in one platform to make things simpler.

By choosing the right tools and minimising time spent in meetings, you can increase your productivity and get more done in less time. So why wait? If we can help you get started, get in touch.

Q

A

Q: How do I reset my password?

A: Most sites and applications have a "forgot password" option that should help, but in some cases you'll need to speak to our Service Desk for help.

To avoid the issue again, start using a password manager for increased security!

Q: Are Passkeys ready to start using now?

A: Passkeys are still in their infancy, so they're not available to use across many devices, apps, and systems yet. You can use them where they are available – Google and Apple, for example – but they're not yet a complete security solution.

modern**networks**