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modernnetworks

# TECHNOLOGY INSIDER

Your monthly  
newsletter, written for  
humans not geeks

## Three cyber security threats your team MUST know about

**Your employees are your first line of defence in cyber security, and their training is as crucial as the cutting-edge tools you've invested in. Are you overlooking this vital element?**

We strongly advise you make an ongoing commitment to regular cyber security training for every single one of your team. That means keeping them up to date on the latest cyber threats, the warning signs to look out for, and of course, what to do should a situation arise.

If you're not already doing that, arrange something now (we can help).

While you wait, here are three urgent cyber threats to address right away:

**Admin attack:** Email addresses like "info@" or "admin@" are often less protected due to perceived low risk. But several teams may require access to these accounts, making them an easy target. Multi-factor Authentication (MFA), as simple as using a smartphone, can double your security. Don't neglect it.

**MFA fatigue attacks:** MFA can feel intrusive, leading employees to approve requests without scrutiny. Cyber criminals exploit this complacency with a flood of fake notifications. Encourage your team to meticulously verify all MFA requests.

**Phishing bait:** Phishing remains a top threat. Cyber criminals mimic trusted sources with deceptive emails. Teach your team to inspect email addresses closely. Implementing a sender policy framework can also enhance your protection.

Cyber security training doesn't have to be tedious. Try simulated attacks and think of them like an escape room challenge—fun yet enlightening. It's about identifying vulnerabilities, not fault-finding.

Don't exclude your leadership team. They need to understand the response plan in case of a breach, much like a fire drill.

**Training your staff is not just smart – it's crucial. If you need help getting started, [get in touch](#).**

## DID YOU KNOW...

Edge is stripping features to keep up with Chrome?

In another bid to tempt Google Chrome fans over to Edge, Microsoft is removing features.

Sounds counterproductive, right? But some of its less popular (read 'failed') features have left the browser a little bloated and overcrowded. These are the features that are being deprecated: Math Solver, Picture Dictionary, Citations, Grammar Tools, and Kids Mode.

Bet you haven't heard of them, let alone used them?





# From Gunpowder to Cyberattacks: The Evolution of Technology and its Impact on Business

Technology has changed a lot since the 5th of November 1605, when the Gunpowder Plot took place. The Gunpowder Plot was a failed attempt by a group of English Catholics, led by Robert Catesby, to blow up the Houses of Parliament and kill King James I, who was persecuting them for their religious beliefs.

The plotters planned to use 36 barrels of gunpowder, which they hid under the House of Lords. However, the plot was revealed to the authorities by an anonymous letter, and Guy Fawkes, whose job it was to oversee the lighting of the fuses, was arrested on the 4th of November 1605. The plotters were summarily executed for treason. To celebrate the King's survival, people lit bonfires around London. Months later, the Observance of the 5th of November Act mandated an annual public day of thanksgiving for the plot's failure. To this day, we celebrate every 5th of November as Bonfire Night also known as Guy Fawkes Night.

In 1605, the world was a very different place. The technology of the time was primitive compared to what we have today. For example, the printing press had only been invented a few decades earlier, and it was still a relatively new invention. The internet, computers, and smartphones were still centuries away.

## Secrecy and security

One area where technology has advanced significantly since 1605 is cryptography. Cryptography is the art of writing or solving codes. In those days, people used simple cyphers to encode their messages. One of the most famous examples is the cypher used by Guy Fawkes and his co-conspirators in the Gunpowder Plot. They used a simple substitution cypher to encode their messages, which was easily broken by the authorities.

Today, we have much more sophisticated encryption methods that are virtually unbreakable. Modern-day cryptography uses complex algorithms to ensure a high level of secrecy. Examples of these algorithms are two-way encryption formulas such as AES-256 or Triple-Des.

The use of cryptography has become increasingly important in our digital age. Encryption keeps our data secure when we're conducting business. It scrambles data like bank details and other confidential information to ensure hackers can't misuse it.

## The march of progress

Over the centuries technology has continued to have dramatic impacts on business, for example:

The General Post Office (GPO) or Royal Mail as it's known today was established in 1660 by Charles II. The telegraph was invented in the 19th century. Together these inventions enabled businesses to share information and conduct transactions reliably across long distances.



In the late 19th century, the internal combustion engine made it possible to transport goods and people faster and more affordably by land, sea, and air than previously possible. Similarly, the invention of the telephone allowed businesses to communicate with their customers and suppliers instantly, regardless of distance.

The first digital calculating machines appeared during the Second World War. By the 1970s, we had the first microcomputers. In the 1990s, Tim Berners-Lee gave us the World Wide Web, IBM developed the first smartphone, and Cloud computing started to emerge, enabling businesses to process data, store information, and provide online apps and services.

Today, technology such as artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics is expected to create new opportunities and challenges for business. In many ways, technology has been the ultimate conspirator for businesses since 1605. It's helped them automate processes, enhance productivity, and boost efficiency. Whether it's using cutting-edge software, advanced manufacturing, or state-of-the-art communications, technology has the potential to be a powerful driver of growth and profitability for businesses.

## Handle with care

However, although technology can be a great ally, it can also be a bit of a liability at times. The rapid pace of technological change can make it difficult for businesses to keep up with the latest trends. And of course, if you're not careful, technology can occasionally bite you, just think of data breaches and cyber-attacks.

Despite the potential downsides, the benefits of technology far outweigh the risks. It's up to businesses to leverage technology in a way that maximises its benefits while minimising the drawbacks. Just like fireworks on Bonfire Night, technology can produce spectacular results for businesses when used correctly but should always be handled with care and expertise.

**If you would like to know more about how technology might be used to improve your business's security, productivity or competitiveness then [contact Modern Networks today.](#)**





## Useful knowledge assets

Modern Networks offers you a range of knowledge assets to help you work smarter using the latest technologies and tools.

### BLOG

Our new blog article, "***How to Boost Your Business with AI Integration in Microsoft Teams***" explores the positive impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration in Microsoft Teams for businesses. This blog is a must-read for anyone interested in leveraging the power of AI to enhance their business operations, particularly within Microsoft Teams. It provides valuable insights into the ways AI can improve meetings, communication, and overall productivity. Additionally, it addresses the challenges that businesses may encounter when implementing AI-powered features, offering solutions to overcome them. The blog offers real-world examples of AI applications in Microsoft Teams and demonstrates how businesses can benefit from AI integration.

Visit our **News pages** to gain a deeper understanding of how AI can boost your business and stay updated on the latest advancements in this field.

[CLICK HERE](#) 

### PDF GUIDES

Download our latest guide, "***Day in the Life: Building Manager & Microsoft Teams***" offers a broad insight into how building managers and facilities managers can benefit from Microsoft Teams. Every building manager working on commercial property can benefit from the insights provided in this downloadable guide. It offers a real-life perspective on how Teams can help to transform your daily routine, making tasks more manageable and efficient. Our guide showcases practical scenarios and applications, from maintenance inspections to tenant management and sustainability efforts. By downloading our PDF guide, you can gain valuable knowledge on how to harness the power of these tools to enhance performance, save time, and improve tenant satisfaction. It's a valuable resource for those seeking to optimise their building operations.

Download your copy of our guide now to discover how Microsoft Teams can help transform your role as a building manager.

[CLICK HERE](#) 

# NEW TO MICROSOFT

# 365

## New features are coming to Microsoft 365 on Android

Microsoft has updated its Android interface, adding features to promote Bing Chat, Edge, and Microsoft 365. You can now access options like 'Search in Edge', 'Bing Search', and a new 'Microsoft 365 Note' feature when selecting text in apps like Gmail.

However, this update has hidden some essential features like 'copy' and 'select', particularly on Samsung phones. You can work around this by selecting 'copy' in the extended menu.



## UPDATE...



## TechFacts

1

The LG KE850 was the first phone to introduce a complete touchscreen to the mobile phone market, debuting in December 2006 – a whole month ahead of the Apple iPhone

2

The record of the largest data breach involved Yahoo. Back in 2013, the birth dates, phone numbers and security questions of approximately 3 billion Yahoo account holders were hacked

## Technology update

### New battery-saving features coming to Windows 11

Microsoft has introduced a new Windows 11 preview build with some exciting features.

The Snipping Tool has a combined capture bar for easy screenshot and video switching, including voiceovers. And Notepad gets an auto-save feature, eliminating prompts and restoring content when you reopen it.

These updates aim to improve usability and battery life for people using Windows 11. Whilst they're in preview right now, we expect to see a general release after testing.



# five habits your smart remote workers should have

Remote work has become a way of life very quickly, hasn't it? Loads of businesses and their people are reaping the rewards of flexibility and convenience.

But it also brings cyber security challenges that demand your attention. Of course, this should always be a concern, but when you have employees working from home, a café, or anywhere else for that matter, you need to make sure they're making wise decisions that put the security of your data at the forefront.

**These are 5 habits your remote workers should adopt straight away.**

## 1. Choose your work location wisely

Working from a favourite coffee shop or a picturesque park may seem like a dream come true, but it can expose you to more cyber security risks. Over-the-shoulder attacks, where cyber criminals discreetly snoop on your screen in public spaces, might seem unlikely, but they have real potential to lead to data breaches. Employees should choose to work in quieter, more private settings to minimise this risk.

## 2. Beware of public Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi networks are a common breeding ground for cyber threats. If your people must work from a public place, ask them to avoid connecting to public Wi-Fi. These networks can be less secure and make you vulnerable to hacking. Instead, use your phone's hotspot for a safer internet connection. And a VPN (Virtual Private

Network) encrypts data.

## 3. Invest in security software

This serves as a protective shield against malware and cyber-attacks. It's a valuable addition to both company-provided and personal devices. Not only does it safeguard business data, but it can also shield your personal information, such as credit card details and sensitive documents.

## 4. Keep everything updated

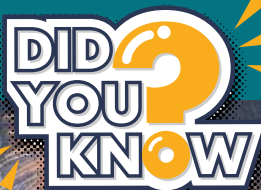
Regularly updating all your devices is not just about gaining access to new features; it's also about staying secure. Software updates contain crucial security fixes that patch vulnerabilities. Remember, it's not just laptops and phones that need updating, but also routers and any IoT (Internet of Things) devices connected to your network.

## 5. Manage household risks

Even within the confines of their homes, computers hold sensitive business information. If your employees have housemates, children, or other family members sharing their space, ask them to consider implementing parental controls to prevent accidental data breaches.

**By adopting these smart habits, as well as taking the right security measures, you can let your people enjoy the benefits of remote work – while everything stays secure and safe.**

**If we can help keep your remote set-ups secure, get in touch.**



**Remember, remember the fifth of November...but not a lot else about bonfire night? Here are three fun facts about Firework Night you might not have known:**

1. The cellar that Fawkes and the gunpowder plotters used was damaged in 1834 by fire. When the Palace of Westminster was rebuilt in the 19th century, the infamous cellar was destroyed.
2. St. Peter's school in York is the only place in England that does not celebrate bonfire night as a show of respect for their former pupil, Guy Fawkes.
3. The Houses of Parliament are still searched by the Yeoman of the Guards before the state opening (where the reigning Monarch visits parliament each year) held in November. It is ceremonial rather than serious and is performed with lanterns.



**Q: I'm still using the original version of Windows 11 (21H2), should I upgrade?**

A: Yes! Upgrade to 22H2 as soon as possible. Support for 21H2 ended last month (October 2023). That means there will be no further security updates and you may be at increased security risk.

**Q: I've had an email to say a recording of a Teams meeting has expired and been deleted. Is there any way I can recover it?**

A: Don't panic. Go to your Recycle Bin, find the recording, and hit "restore". Remember though, you only have a 90 day window to do this. Once the recording is recovered, it is no longer subject to automatic expiration dates.

**Q: Will Google penalise my website if I use ChatGPT?**

A: No. There's no reason to worry about Google penalties when using ChatGPT for your website content. Chatbots don't negatively affect the SEO of your website. But do get a human to review everything written by an AI, to ensure it reads well, is factually correct and makes sense.

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

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