

TECHNOLOGY INSIDER

Your monthly
newsletter, written for
humans not geeks

Revolutionize Your Business: Six Reasons to Embrace IT Outsourcing Now

Businesses today are facing numerous challenges, ranging from geo-political instability and rising operating costs to concerns regarding sustainability and the environment. Fortunately, IT outsourcing can provide businesses with the flexibility needed to scale their operations during times of economic uncertainty, ensuring that they remain cost-effective and adaptable. Moreover, IT outsourcing can also help promote environmental sustainability by streamlining infrastructure, reducing energy consumption, and encouraging eco-friendly practices.

If you've been contemplating the benefits of outsourcing your IT, you're in the right place. In this article, we'll explore six compelling reasons why now is the perfect time to make the switch and unlock the full potential of your business.

1. Smart Spending for Smart Growth:

Managing an in-house IT team can be a drain on resources. By outsourcing, you gain the flexibility to redirect these resources where they are needed most.

This means scaling services according to demand without compromising on quality, ultimately leading to smart spending for smart growth.

2. Top-Notch Talent Pool:

Your business deserves the best, and that's precisely what you get when you partner with an IT managed services provider like Modern Networks. Our team of experts, ranging from cybersecurity to Cloud platforms, brings a wealth of specialized knowledge to the table. Access top-notch talent without the hassle or cost of recruitment and training.

3. Round-the-Clock Security Vigilance:

In today's cyber-threat landscape, security is paramount. Our remote monitoring system ensures 24/7 surveillance of your critical security settings and patches. By addressing issues proactively, we keep your data and infrastructure safe from potential threats.

4. Empower Your Team with AI Automation:

Free up your internal staff to focus on core tasks by entrusting your IT support to us. The integration of AI automation reduces the burden of repetitive, time-consuming tasks, enhancing overall productivity. Let your team shine in areas that truly matter.



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5. Navigate Regulatory Waters with Ease:

Compliance is a non-negotiable aspect, especially in highly regulated industries. With regulations like GDPR in play, our expertise ensures your IT practices align seamlessly with regulatory requirements. Stay on the right side of the law and maintain peace of mind.

6. Green IT: A Sustainable Approach:

Beyond the numbers, IT outsourcing can contribute to your environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) goals. Here's how:

Energy Efficiency:

Streamline your infrastructure, reduce the need for energy-intensive data centres, and cut down on your carbon footprint. An environmentally conscious approach to IT.

Resource Optimization and Waste Reduction:

Scale services as needed, eliminate excess hardware and promote a circular economy by reducing electronic waste. Optimize resource usage for a more sustainable business model.

Remote Work Revolution:

Embrace remote work options to reduce commuting, decrease traffic congestion, and lower emissions. A step towards environmental sustainability while enhancing employee well-being.

In summary, the decision to outsource your IT is not just a strategic move; it's a transformational one. From cost savings and top-notch talent access to 24/7 security monitoring and environmental sustainability, the benefits are multifaceted. Take the leap, explore our comprehensive IT outsourcing services, and position your business for success in the digital age.

[You can download our FREE guide to the many benefits of IT outsourcing.](#)

Alternatively, [contact us now](#) to book an appointment with one of our Account Managers to discuss your business challenges and learn how we might help you achieve your business goals.

9 Tips for Setting Up AI Rules for Your Staff

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a powerful tool. It can enhance the productivity, efficiency, and creativity of your staff. But AI also comes with some challenges and risks. Businesses need to address and manage these to use AI effectively.

Here are some tips for setting up AI rules for your staff. These tips can help you harness the benefits of AI while avoiding the pitfalls.

- Define the scope and purpose of AI use.
- Establish ethical principles and guidelines.
- Involve stakeholders in the decision-making process.
- Assign roles and responsibilities.
- Provide training and support.
- Ensure data security and privacy.
- Put a feedback loop in place.
- Review and update your AI rules regularly.
- Encourage a growth mindset.



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

We want to learn more about the content our customers prefer to receive, and how to deliver engaging communications effectively. Consequently, we've produced a short survey to collect your valuable feedback and insights. By participating in this survey, you can help us shape the types of content that we deliver to you. [CLICK THE BUTTON BELOW:](#)



Take Our Survey Now

The Newest Features of Microsoft Edge

Microsoft Edge continues to redefine user experiences. This is due to Microsoft's commitment to innovation. The latest updates bring a host of features. These are designed to enhance productivity, security, and browsing satisfaction.

It is now the third most popular browser worldwide.

From personalized workspaces to a built-in VPN, Microsoft Edge is not just a browser. It's a comprehensive toolkit for users navigating the digital landscape.

Here are the newest Features of Microsoft Edge:

- Workspaces to organize browser session focuses
- Built-in Edge Secure Network VPN
- Autofill for more webform fields
- Web Capture
- Copilot (AI)
- Read Aloud.

Online Security: Addressing the Dangers of Browser Extensions



Browser extensions have become as common as mobile apps. People tend to download many and use few. These extensions offer users extra functionalities and customization options.

While browser extensions enhance the browsing experience, they also pose a danger which can mean significant risks to online security and privacy.

Key Risks Posed by Browser Extensions

Privacy Intrusions

Many browser extensions request broad permissions. If abused, they can compromise user privacy. Some of these include accessing browsing history and monitoring keystrokes.

Malicious Intent

There are many extensions developed with genuine intentions. But some extensions harbour malicious code. This code can exploit users for financial gain or other malicious purposes.

Outdated or Abandoned Extensions

Extensions that are no longer maintained or updated pose a significant security risk. Outdated extensions may have unresolved vulnerabilities.

Phishing and Social Engineering

Some malicious extensions engage in phishing attacks. These attacks can trick users into divulging sensitive information.

Mitigating the Risks: Best Practices for Browser Extension Security

1. Stick to official marketplaces.
2. Review permissions carefully.
3. Keep extensions updated.
4. Limit the number of extensions you install.
5. Use security software.
6. Educate Yourself.
7. Report Suspicious Extensions.
8. Regularly audit your extensions.

NEW TO

MICROSOFT

Snipping Tool is about to get even better

We all love Microsoft's Snipping Tool, but in Windows 11 it's about to get a new feature that will take it to the next level.

You'll be able to add shapes (think circles or arrows to highlight content) to your image, rather than opening another tool, like Microsoft Paint or another third-party tool.

Another great time saver.





The Business Value of Cybersecurity Measures

When it comes to business protection, cybersecurity is an essential investment. It can benefit a company in several ways. Firstly, it helps establish trust with customers by protecting their sensitive data. This trust can lead to customer loyalty and positive feedback. Secondly, cybersecurity can protect a company's reputation by preventing a data breach and maintaining shareholder confidence.

Financially, cybersecurity can save a company from costly damages resulting from a data breach. It is a proactive and cost-effective approach. Cybersecurity can also ensure business continuity by minimizing downtime while adhering to industry regulations and avoiding legal risks and financial penalties. Lastly, cybersecurity can give a company a competitive edge in the digital age by demonstrating its commitment to data protection and building trust among clients and partners. In short, cybersecurity is more than just protection. It is a crucial component of long-term business success.

If you would like to know more about our cybersecurity solutions, contact us today.

Which ransomware payment option is best? (Hint: none)

Picture this: Your business gets hit by a ransomware attack, and your valuable data is locked away by cyber criminals demanding a huge ransom fee.

You can't afford to pay it. But there's a twist – just like those "buy now, pay later" schemes, some ransomware gangs are offering victims payment extension options.

Recent research reveals that ransomware groups are getting creative with their extortion strategies. One group is even offering victims various choices when it comes to their ransom demands. These "choices" include:

Paying to delay the publication of their stolen data, with a standard fee of £10,000... or paying to have their stolen data deleted before it's made public.



The exact amounts charged are often negotiated with victims, adding a chilling dimension to the whole ordeal.

To increase the pressure on victims, these ransomware groups have added some terrifying features to their websites. These include countdown timers displaying how much time businesses have before their data is released, view counters, and even tags revealing the victim's identity and description.

It's all designed to make victims feel cornered and more likely to give in to the demands.

You might be tempted to pay that ransom to protect your business data. Not so fast. Paying is always a bad idea and here's why...

Paying doesn't guarantee that you'll get your data back or that the cyber criminals won't demand more money later.

By paying, you're essentially funding criminal activities, encouraging them to continue their attacks on others.

Paying a ransom might even get you into legal trouble, as some governments have made it illegal to pay cyber criminals.

So, what can you do to safeguard your business from falling victim to ransomware?

- Ensure you have regular, secure backups of your data. This way, you won't be at the mercy of cybercriminals.
- Educate your staff about the risks of ransomware and train them to recognise phishing emails and suspicious links.
- Invest in robust cyber security software and keep it up to date.
- Keep your systems and software updated with the latest security patches.
- Segment your network to limit the spread of ransomware if one device gets infected.
- Develop a clear incident response plan, so you know exactly what to do if you're ever hit by a ransomware attack.

Paying cyber criminals rarely makes things better, and we're seeing businesses that do pay become targets time and time again. Instead, invest in the proactive measures above to help you stay secure. **And if we can help you with that, get in touch.**

BRIDGING THE TRUST GAP BETWEEN YOUR EMPLOYEES AND AI



You've probably been considering how to harness the potential of AI to boost your company's efficiency and productivity.

But there's a small problem. A recent study revealed something fascinating but not entirely surprising: A trust gap when it comes to AI in the workplace.

While you see AI as a fantastic opportunity for business transformation, your employees might be sceptical and even worried about their job security.

Here's a snapshot of the findings:

- 62% of C-suite executives welcome AI, but only 52% of employees share the same enthusiasm.
- 23% of employees doubt their company's commitment to employee interests when implementing AI.
- However, 70% of business leaders believe that AI should include human review and intervention, showing they view AI as an assistant rather than a replacement.

Now that we understand the situation, how can you introduce AI gently and reassure your employees that their roles are safe?

Start by having open and honest conversations with your employees. Explain why you're introducing AI and how it will benefit both the company and individual roles. Show them that AI is meant to be a helping hand, not a jobs terminator.

Invest in training that helps your people acquire the skills they need to work alongside AI. Make them feel empowered by showing that it can make their jobs more interesting and valuable.

Emphasise that your AI initiatives are designed to enhance human capabilities, not replace them.

Let your team know that it will handle repetitive tasks, allowing them to focus on more creative and strategic aspects of their work.

Develop clear guidelines for responsible AI use in your business. Highlight your commitment to ethical practices and ensure that employees are aware of these policies.

Involve your employees in the implementation process. Seek their input, listen to their concerns, and make them part of the solution. This shows that you value their contributions.

Encourage a culture of continuous learning. Let your employees know that they'll have opportunities for ongoing education and development, ensuring they stay relevant and valuable in the AI-driven workplace.

Introducing AI into your workplace doesn't have to be a cause for concern among your employees. AI is a tool for growth and innovation, not a threat to job security.

If we can help you introduce the right AI tools in the right way, get in touch.

Meet Our Science Parks Team



UKSPA
BUILDING TECHNOLOGY-BUSINESS

The Babraham Research Campus will be hosting the UKSPA Spring Conference on the 14th and 15th March 2024. Our Science Park team will be present at the event, please visit our stand and say hello.