



"Insider Tips to Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier and More Profitably"

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We love technology and we love helping people.

Give me a call today for a quick (non-salesy) chat to find out whether my team and I can help you better secure your data and get more out of your existing technology!

- Lee Hewson
Founder and MD

FASTER TECHNOLOGY PUTS FORMULA ONE SUPPLIER IN POLE POSITION

An East Midlands engineering firm that crafts components for Formula One cars is now racing ahead in cyber security, thanks to a significant IT upgrade delivered by Your IT Department.

Atlas Composite Technologies Ltd, based in Ilkeston, partnered with us to supercharge its computer systems. Following a thorough technical audit, we created a technology roadmap designed to overhaul the company's IT infrastructure, resulting in a state-of-the-art, high-speed network with cutting-edge security enhancements.

The project included the installation of two faster servers, the deployment of a new firewall for enhanced cyber security, and the setup of a secure Virtual Private Network (VPN) to provide staff with safer and quicker access to their systems.



Ben Swain (pictured), Managing Director of Atlas Composite Technologies, shared his enthusiasm for the improvements:

"As the company has grown, we realised that our IT infrastructure needed upgrading to cope with the increased amount of data.

For example, we use computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD & CAM) software, and it's vital to keep our complex projects backed-up and secure," said Ben.

The impact of the IT upgrade has been extremely impressive and has made a big difference to the smooth running of the company. The team at Your IT even worked out-of-hours, including on Sunday, to keep disruption to a minimum."

The Role of Cyber Essentials in Business Resilience

With a turnover exceeding £9 million, Atlas manufactures complex composite components for sectors such as motorsport, aerospace, and satellite communications. The recent IT overhaul not only improved performance but also paved the way for Atlas to achieve Cyber Essentials Plus certification—a Government-backed cyber security standard.

Cyber Essentials Plus is designed to help businesses protect against the most common cyber threats, such as phishing, malware, and hacking attempts. Certification demonstrates an organisation's commitment to safeguarding sensitive data and provides assurance to clients, suppliers, and partners.

The Managing Director of Your IT Department, Lee Hewson, highlighted the value of this achievement:

"We're very pleased that this major project has given Atlas real peace of mind that their IT not only runs faster but is secure and well maintained. Achieving Cyber Essentials Plus certification will be the next milestone, and it's a great way to demonstrate Atlas's robust cyber security posture to their customers and partners."

For businesses like Atlas, Cyber Essentials Plus provides more than just protection.

Certification can reduce the risk of downtime, ensure compliance with industry regulations, and even lower insurance premiums.

In sectors like motorsport and aerospace, where intellectual property and sensitive data are frequently targeted, robust cyber security measures are essential for maintaining trust and competitive edge.

The Growing Importance of Cyber Security

Cyber-attacks are becoming increasingly sophisticated, targeting businesses of all sizes and across all industries.

In the UK, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are particularly vulnerable, with 39% of businesses reporting a cyber-attack in the past year, according to the UK Government's 2023 Cyber Security Breaches Survey.

Schemes like Cyber Essentials help businesses take a proactive approach to cyber security, offering a clear framework to identify vulnerabilities and implement practical solutions. These steps not only reduce the likelihood of a breach but also give businesses confidence in their ability to recover should the worst happen.

For Atlas Composite Technologies, the collaboration with Your IT Department has delivered immediate benefits in terms of speed, efficiency, and security.

With Cyber Essentials Plus certification on the horizon, the company is well-positioned to meet the challenges of a digital-first world while continuing to innovate and excel in its field.

If your business is ready to strengthen its IT infrastructure and improve its cyber resilience, why not contact Your IT Department today?



CELEBRATING APPRENTICESHIPS: BUILDING FUTURES AT YOUR IT

At Your IT, we're passionate about investing in the next generation of talent. That's why apprenticeships have always been at the heart of our business.

Over a quarter of our team are either current apprentices or have completed an apprenticeship program with us - and they're thriving.

National Apprenticeship Week runs from 10th to 16th February, and we couldn't think of a better time to spotlight the incredible impact apprenticeships have on both individuals and businesses.

Why Apprenticeships Matter

For us, apprenticeships are more than just a training route; they're a way of developing ambitious individuals into skilled professionals who are integral to the success of our team. Whether it's on the Service Desk, in cybersecurity, or working on cutting-edge automation projects, our apprentices make a real difference every day.

From day one, our apprentices gain hands-on experience, supported by a team of experts who are committed to helping them grow. We've seen many of our apprentices go on to achieve incredible things - like Fern Ritchie, who

joined us in 2019 as an apprentice and is now a Team Leader and Senior Security & Compliance Engineer. Her journey, like so many others, shows just how powerful the apprenticeship pathway can be.

Join the Team: We're Hiring!

We're excited to announce that we're currently on the lookout for our next Service Desk Apprentice. If you - or someone you know - are passionate about technology, problem-solving, and learning on the job, this could be the perfect opportunity.

At Your IT, we don't just offer a job; we offer a career. As an apprentice, you'll receive hands-on training, one-to-one mentorship, and the chance to work on projects that truly matter - all while earning a qualification.

Looking Ahead

As National Apprenticeship Week approaches, we want to celebrate not just the apprentices we've supported, but the incredible value apprenticeships bring to businesses like ours. They're a powerful way to nurture talent, create opportunities, and ensure the future of the IT industry is in capable hands.



Apprentices pictured with our Head of People Development Sam Hewson. From left to right: Leon, Sam, Kieran, Alice, Narayan, Fern and James

MEET THE TEAM GARETH SMITH

This month, we're shining the spotlight on Gareth Smith, our Second Line Team Leader and Automation Engineer, who's about to celebrate three years with Your IT.

Gareth joined us as an ambitious Service Desk Engineer, already on a mission to advance his career. Initially focused on cybersecurity qualifications, Gareth shifted gears as AI and automation started taking centre stage—and he's truly found his sweet spot.

Today, Gareth's role goes far beyond solving client issues and supporting his team. He dedicates part of each week to building automations that enhance our service to clients while making life easier for our engineers.

Partnering with US-based automation platform Rewst, Gareth's innovations have saved Your IT over 40 hours a week - a game-changer for productivity.

"It's not about cutting jobs," Gareth explains. "It's about empowering people to work smarter and focus on creative problem-solving by eliminating repetitive, manual tasks."

The impact of Gareth's work has been so impressive that we're now offering automation support to other MSPs. As one of only a handful of certified Rewst implementors worldwide, **Your Automation** - our new service spearheaded by Gareth - is already set to make waves. And with Gareth at the helm, we're confident Your Automation will be a huge success!



5 REASONS TO UPGRADE TO WINDOWS 11 TODAY

With Windows 10 reaching end of life in October 2025, now's the perfect time to make the switch to Windows 11.

Here's why:

- Enhanced Security** - Windows 11 comes with advanced security features like TPM 2.0 and secure boot, keeping your business protected from modern threats.
- Improved Performance** - Experience faster boot times, smoother multitasking, and better resource management - making your devices more efficient.
- Future-Proof Compatibility** - Stay compatible with the latest software and updates, ensuring your business remains productive and competitive.
- Better User Experience** - The sleek, intuitive interface simplifies navigation and boosts productivity for your team.
- Avoid the Rush** - Upgrading early means no last-minute stress as Windows 10 support winds down.

You need to get ahead of the curve—talk to us or about upgrading today!

THE TOP 5 RISKS OF NOT HAVING BACKUP & DISASTER RECOVERY

- Data Loss** - Accidental deletions, hardware failures, or cyberattacks can wipe out critical business data. Without backups, recovery is nearly impossible.
- Downtime Costs** - Every minute of downtime costs money. A solid disaster recovery plan ensures you're back up and running quickly after an incident.
- Cyberattacks** - Ransomware can lock you out of your systems. Regular backups allow you to recover data without paying a ransom.
- Compliance Issues** - Many industries require businesses to safeguard data. Failing to do so can lead to fines or loss of professional status.
- Reputation Damage** - Data loss or prolonged downtime can harm client trust. Being prepared shows professionalism and reliability.

Be proactive - protect your business with a robust backup and disaster recovery solution.

4 MAJOR RISKS OF STAYING ON WINDOWS 10 AFTER END OF LIFE

No Security Updates

Once support ends, Microsoft will no longer provide security patches, leaving your systems vulnerable to cyberattacks and malware.

Compliance Issues

Using unsupported software may put your business in breach of data protection regulations, leading to fines and legal complications.

Software Incompatibility

As developers optimise for Windows 11, key business applications may stop working on Windows 10, causing productivity headaches.

Increased Downtime

Outdated systems are more prone to crashes and performance issues, which can lead to costly disruptions.

Don't let Windows 10 become a ticking time bomb for your business. Upgrade to Windows 11 now to stay secure, compliant, and productive!

Stay Connected with EE Mobile from Your IT Department!

We're proud to be an official EE partner, offering highly competitive mobile contracts on the UK's biggest and fastest network.

Whether you need the latest Samsung, iPhone, or Google device - we've got you covered.

- ✓ Great Value Airtime
- ✓ Device Insurance for Peace of Mind
- ✓ Exceptional Customer Service

Boost productivity, save money, and stay connected - whether or not you're an IT support client!

Contact us today to get started.