



CYBERATTACK

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Cybercrime's getting serious - Here's What That Means For Your Business

Page 1

Welcome Aboard: Meet The New Faces At Your IT

Page 2

Employee of the Year

Page 2

Unlock The Power of Copilot: Join Our Exclusive Workshop

Page 2

How Secure Is Your Business... Really?

Page 2

Could Your Business Survive a Data Disaster?

Page 2

Stay Connected with EE Mobile and Your IT Department

Page 2



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

CYBERCRIME'S GETTING SERIOUS - HERE'S WHAT THAT MEANS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

If it feels like you're hearing about a new cyberattack every other day, it's because you probably are.

In just the past few weeks, we've seen major disruptions hit household names like Marks & Spencer, Co-op, and now Peter Green Chilled, a critical food supplier to UK supermarkets.

We've also seen a particularly alarming breach at the Legal Aid Agency, where sensitive data including criminal records may have been compromised.

Each of these attacks has had serious consequences - from food shortages to national data breaches.

But if you're thinking, "that's the big boys, it doesn't really affect me," then think again. Because while it's the headline-grabbers that make the press, the reality is that far more attacks happen to small and medium-sized businesses - the kind of businesses we work with every day.

Why Are We Seeing So Many Attacks Right Now?

The surge in cyber incidents is being driven by a mix of modern technology, global instability, and long-standing security weaknesses:

- AI has changed the game: Artificial intelligence is enabling cybercriminals to launch more sophisticated and scalable attacks. Phishing emails are more convincing, fake voices and images are harder to detect, and malicious bots are automating what used to be manual work.

- Global uncertainty is fuelling cybercrime: Economic pressures and geopolitical tensions have led to a rise in cyber espionage and state-sponsored hacking, with criminal groups exploiting the chaos for profit.

- Underinvestment is catching up with us: Many businesses - particularly smaller ones - have historically underinvested in cyber security. It's no longer enough to have a single antivirus program and call it a day. Attackers are exploiting every gap they can find.

- The threat landscape is constantly evolving: With ransomware-as-a-service (RaaS) now available to just about anyone on the dark web, the barrier to entry for cybercrime has never been lower. Combine that with the rise in supply chain attacks and you've got a perfect storm.

Supply Chains Under Attack

The attack on Peter Green Chilled is a prime example of how cybercrime impacts everyday life. It's not just digital data at risk.

When suppliers go offline, shelves go empty. These types of supply chain attacks can ripple out and affect dozens, even hundreds, of businesses downstream.

That's a sobering thought, especially when you consider that many of these entry points are smaller suppliers without robust defences.

It's not the weakest link metaphor, it's the real-world risk of shared vulnerabilities in connected systems.

What Can We Learn?

We've previously looked at lessons from cyberattacks on big brands in an article on our knowledge bank: **Lessons from Recent High-Profile Cyber Attacks**. In that piece, we highlighted some common failings:

- Outdated systems not patched against known vulnerabilities
- Lack of staff training leading to successful phishing attempts
- Inadequate planning for recovery, leaving organisations offline for days or even weeks

And these are not isolated to corporates. We see the same weaknesses in smaller businesses, too. The difference? A single attack could put an SME out of business.

But I'm Just a Small Business - Why Would They Target Me?

We hear this a lot. But here's the truth: small businesses are low-hanging fruit.

Cybercriminals know that you're less likely to have a dedicated IT team. You may be running older software. You probably don't have the budget to invest in enterprise-grade cyber security systems. And that makes you a target.

In fact, according to government figures, over a third of UK small businesses experienced a cyberattack in the past year. And that's just the ones that were detected and reported.

What Should You Do?

Start with the basics. They might not sound exciting, but they work:

1. Train your team: The majority of attacks still begin with a phishing email. If your staff know what to look for, you're already ahead of the game.
2. Keep systems updated: Regular patching and updates close vulnerabilities before attackers can exploit them.
3. Use multi-factor authentication (MFA): This simple step can prevent many of the most common forms of attack.
4. Have a backup plan: Make sure your data is regularly backed up and that you have a recovery strategy in place.
5. Get a cyber assessment: A professional review of your systems can identify risks before attackers do.

And if you're already doing these things - great! But cybersecurity isn't a one-and-done deal. It's a process of continuous improvement.

A Final Word

We're not here to scaremonger. But we are here to say this: cybersecurity matters more than ever, and it matters to businesses of all sizes. The big names in the press might get the attention, but small businesses bear the brunt of the impact.

If you're unsure where to start, or worried about where your vulnerabilities might be, give us a call.

We're here to help you navigate this evolving threat landscape—and keep your business safe.

WELCOME ABOARD: MEET THE NEW FACES AT YOUR IT

We're excited to introduce three fantastic new team members who've recently joined the Your IT family!

First up is Zara Ford, our new Sales and Marketing Coordinator. Zara spent 14 years at Boots UK right here in Nottingham, where she worked her way up to Commercial Operations Manager. She brings a wealth of experience and a real passion for customer-focused sales.

"Your IT is growing fast, but it's got a genuinely friendly, supportive vibe," says Zara. "I'm thrilled to be part of a team with such a strong teamwork ethic."

Joining Zara in the sales team is Joanne McCarthy, our new Sales Development Representative. Joanne spent nearly a decade at Games Workshop as a Business Development Manager and more recently worked in the veterinary products industry. She's already hit the ground running, bringing her sharp sales skills and energy to the role.

"I'm really excited to join an award-winning team and help bring in new business," says Joanne.

Last but not least, Will Greenaway has joined us as an Apprentice Service Desk Engineer. Will previously worked in hospitality and is now combining his customer service background with

growing technical expertise to support our clients.

Will says: "The team here is so supportive, and it's clear they really invest in people. I'm hoping to grow my career through the same apprenticeship route that's helped so many others here."

Our in-house Your IT Academy plays a big role in that. It supports staff development with training, coaching, and even financial incentives to help team members grow their skills.

We're absolutely delighted to welcome Zara, Joanne and Will.

Their energy, experience and fresh perspectives are already making a difference.

With these appointments, we're strengthening our team for the future ensuring we continue to deliver top-tier service and support to our growing client base across the UK.

And with our recent inclusion in the Top 50 Best Managed IT Companies in the UK for the third year running - and last year's MSP 501 recognition - it's a great time to be part of the journey!



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR LEON CLARK



We're thrilled to announce that Leon Clark has been crowned Employee of the Year at our recent staff away day!

Leon's journey with Your IT has been one of exceptional growth. Starting as an apprentice, he's made remarkable progress both technically and personally, emerging as a key member of our team.

Over the past year, Leon's development has been nothing short of inspirational. From honing his engineering skills to becoming a go-to for brilliant customer service, he's truly come into his own. His determination to succeed stood out most, especially in overcoming challenges along the way.

Maths was never Leon's favourite subject, but as part of his apprenticeship qualification, he knew he had to tackle it head-on.

Rather than shy away, he doubled down - seeking extra help, putting in the hours, and showing real grit. When he passed, the whole team celebrated - it was one of the most well-received internal announcements we've ever had!

Leon now supports our newest apprentice, Will, taking him under his wing and passing on the knowledge he's worked so hard to gain.

Congratulations, Leon - you're an outstanding example of what hard work and commitment can achieve.

We're incredibly proud to have you on the team.



UNLOCK THE POWER OF COPILOT: JOIN OUR EXCLUSIVE WORKSHOP

Curious about how Microsoft Copilot can boost productivity in your business?

Join us for a hands-on Copilot Workshop at our Eastwood office on Thursday 3rd July. With places strictly limited, this in-person session is perfect for those looking to get to grips with Copilot's powerful features - from everyday efficiency to automation that saves time and money.

We'll start with the basics, showing you how Copilot can assist with day-to-day tasks across Microsoft 365. Then, we'll take things up a level, exploring Copilot Agents - automated helpers designed to handle repetitive tasks and streamline your operations.

Whether you're just starting out or ready to take the next step, this session will help you understand how Copilot fits into your workflow and what it can do for your business.

Spaces are limited, so don't miss out!

Contact Zara Ford
zara.ford@your-itdepartment.co.uk
to reserve your place.

HOW SECURE IS YOUR BUSINESS... REALLY?

Cyber threats are evolving fast and if you haven't reviewed your cyber security posture recently, you could be more vulnerable than you think.

Regular cyber security assessments aren't just a tick-box exercise. They provide a clear, independent view of where your risks lie, what's working well, and where improvements are needed. From outdated software and weak passwords to unnoticed vulnerabilities in your systems or processes, these reviews help you stay one step ahead of cybercriminals.

They also show your clients, partners, and insurers that you're serious about protecting data and maintaining compliance, something increasingly vital in today's digital-first world.

At Your IT, we offer a Cyber Security & Compliance Assessment that gives a detailed overview of your current position, includes a penetration test, and leaves you with actionable steps. And it costs a lot less than you might think!

To learn more, contact Joanne McCarthy at
joanne.mccarthy@your-itdepartment.co.uk

COULD YOUR BUSINESS SURVIVE A DATA DISASTER?

Data loss isn't just a technical hiccup - it can stop your business in its tracks.

From accidental deletion to ransomware attacks and hardware failures, the risks are real and growing. And for small businesses, the consequences can be devastating.

In our latest blog post, we take a closer look at why data backup is absolutely essential, and how having the right protection in place can mean the difference between a quick recovery and a costly shutdown.

We explain what a good backup strategy looks like, the key mistakes to avoid, and why relying on luck or a single system just isn't enough anymore.

If you're not 100% confident in your current backup setup - or don't have one at all - this is a must-read.

Protect your data. Protect your business.

➡ Read the full guide in the Knowledge Bank on our website:

<https://www.your-itdepartment.co.uk/which-microsoft-365-licence-for-business/>

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.