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TECHNOLOGY INSIDER



Your monthly
newsletter, written for
humans, not geeks



What does 'zero trust' actually mean?

It's nothing to do with the fear that your teenage children will hold a party when you go away for the weekend.. 😊

Zero trust is a security concept. It's one of the most secure ways to set up your network, although it can have a negative effect on productivity.

Most networks use the concept of "trust but verify" approach. It assumes that every device that connects is supposed to be there. To access the network once, you can go anywhere after that.

Imagine you're using a security card key to access a building... and then there are no further security checks once you gain access. Meaning you can get into every room without being challenged.

Cybercriminals love this approach for obvious reasons.

Zero trust is the opposite approach.

Every login and device is treated as a potential threat until it's authenticated, validated, and authorized.

Once in, you can't access various other network parts without going through this verification process again.

Back to the building analogy - once inside the building, you are surrounded by security doors and must use your security card key to get through each one.

If your card key isn't valid, you're limited in where you can go.

Zero trust has uses, especially with so many people working these days remotely. But it can hurt workflow and can slow down the team.

Get in touch if you want to talk through whether it's right for your business.

DID YOU KNOW? ...about the worst- ever ransomware attack?

The worst ransomware attack in the world was against insurance group CNA Financial in March last year.

Cybercriminals took company data and customer information and blocked employees from entering the network.

Two weeks after the attack, CNA Financial paid \$40 million to regain access to its systems.

Ouch!



Technology update

If you love your Apple Watch but wish it helped you stay as productive with your work as it does with your fitness, this could be good news.

Microsoft's planning to launch its To-Do app for the Apple Watch. It will remind you of your daily to-do list wherever you are.

The bad news is that you'll have to wait until March for the app release.



Alan Helbush, Where To Start

#1

Japan holds the world record for the fastest internet speed: 319 terabits per second (that's 7.6 million times faster than your connection)

#2

No one knows the identity of the founder of Bitcoin, only his pseudonym, Satoshi Nakamoto

#3

The word 'technology' was coined by Aristotle back in 330BC

TECH FACTS



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Do you feel good in your role? If yes, that's the perfect time for you to experiment with something new, to get out of your comfort zone."

*Pierre Nanterme,
former chairman and
CEO of Accenture*



NEW TO MICROSOFT 365

Breakout rooms coming to Android Devices

If you use Microsoft Teams on an Android device, you might have discovered that you have been excluded from using breakout rooms. There hasn't been the capacity for it.

Starting in January, this should change. The breakout room feature is now coming to Android devices, making meetings more productive for everyone.

Not long to wait.



TEST YOUR "TECH" KNOWLEDGE WITH THIS MONTH'S QUIZ

Who's the Tech Master in your office? Let's find out... (and no Googling for the answers).

1. What is FORTRAN?
2. What does IT stand for?
3. Which animal is the mascot of operating system Linux?
4. Which was the first voice assistant on phones?
5. When were emojis first used?

The answer are below.

1) It's a programming language first developed in the 1950s and still used today
 2) Information Technology
 3) A penguin called Tux
 4) Siri, introduced by Apple in 2011
 5) Ages ago, back in 1997. They originated on Japanese mobile phones, spreading worldwide in the 2010s

Is it time to upgrade to Windows 11?

It's been just over a year since Windows 11 became available. Yet there are still loads of businesses that haven't yet upgraded from Windows 10.

What about your business? Is it time to make a move?

Our expert opinion is YES. While we love Windows 10, Windows 11 is better suited to the hybrid way we work today.

Not only does it have a more modern look and feel than Windows 10, but it also has new features that make work more intuitive. These features can help keep your people motivated and productive wherever they work.

We've just seen the first significant update to Windows 11 and expect several smaller updates over the coming months. This will bring new features and tweaks to make the experience even better.

If you haven't yet moved from Windows 10 to 11, now's a great time to do it. And if you need a hand, we'd love to help.

Business gadget of the month

There's no worse feeling than being away from the office and needing to stay connected... only to find you forgot to charge your device before you left.

Step up the portable power bank.

Our favorite is the Anker PowerCore 13,000 power bank. It looks sleek and stylish, quickly charges devices, and isn't as heavy as others. It's reasonably priced, too, at **\$39.99**.



Q: Someone on my team fell for a phishing email. How can I prevent this from happening again?

A: Phishing emails look like they're from reputable companies, but they are scams. The criminals are trying to get malware onto your system, steal login details or get you to make a fraudulent payment. You need a blend of protective software and regular cyber security awareness training. Contact us, and we'll advise the right mix for your business.

Q: Is my small business a target for ransomware?

A: Yes! Don't make the mistake of believing that because you're not a big corporation, you're not on cyber criminals' radar. In fact, small businesses are a bigger target because they often have a lower level of security.

Q: Should I block social media websites for my employees?

A: You can, but would that create trust issues? Rather than blocking websites, create a social media policy outlining the consequences if social media is abused.



WHERE TO START
TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

How can you get in touch with us:

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To Set up a 15-minute exploratory video chat, visit www.WTSci.com/AlanHelbush or scan this QR code.