WIRED for the FUTURE

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TECHNOLOGY INSIDER

Are you leaving **your office door open**?

Your monthly newsletter, written for humans not geeks

If you left your office door unlocked overnight, would you sleep well? Knowing anyone could walk in and help themselves to anything?

Probably not.

But here's the thing: If your business isn't using Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), that's pretty much what you're doing – but online. You might have a password in place… these days that's not enough to keep out the bad guys.

MFA is like adding a second lock to your digital door. It means that even if someone guesses or steals your password, they'll hit another roadblock. That second "factor" could be a code sent to your phone, your fingerprint, or a quick tap on a special app.

Simple for you, but a nightmare for cyber criminals.

Why is this so important? Because cyber criminals love going after weak targets, and passwords are often the easiest way in. They can crack them using software or steal them in phishing scams (those fake emails asking for your login). Once they're in, they can wreak havoc… stealing sensitive data, locking you out of your accounts, or even demanding money to give you access back. No one has time for that.

Here's where Microsoft is stepping up. If you use Microsoft 365, you might've noticed that the admin center now requires MFA. Why? Because it works. That extra layer of security makes it significantly harder for anyone to break in. Yes, it adds one extra step to your login process, but it's a small price to pay for keeping your business safe.

Think of it like upgrading from a basic lock to a high-tech security system. It's not just about protecting your own accounts - it's about safeguarding your team, your clients, and your reputation. And honestly, setting up MFA is so quick and straightforward, you'll wonder why you didn't do it sooner.

So, if you're still relying on just a password, it's time to level up and follow Microsoft's lead. Scammers are getting smarter. But MFA makes their job a whole lot harder. It's one of the easiest ways to protect your business - and sleep better at night knowing your "digital doors" are locked tight.

Need help getting this set up? Get in touch.

DID YOU KNOW...

how to avoid fake ads on Google?

Cyber criminals are hijacking Google Ads accounts to run fake ads in a scheme called malvertising (malicious advertising).

The ads look like the real deal but redirect people to fake websites designed to steal data or install malware. Popular tools are often impersonated, with convincing clone sites tricking people into downloading harmful software.

To stay safe, only download software from official websites and keep your security tools updated.

Is your business hardware **holding you back?**

Your business hardware – your computers, printers, and other tech that keeps your day running smoothly – is easy to take for granted.

When they're working fine you don't give them much thought. But how often should you stop to think about whether they're performing at their best?

The truth is, properly maintaining your hardware is crucial for your business's success.

Just like a car needs regular servicing to keep running smoothly, your tech requires attention too. Dust can build up inside computers, slowing them down or even causing overheating.

And those software updates that seem like a hassle, are often designed to keep your devices working efficiently and securely. If your hardware isn't looked after, its performance will suffer, costing you time and money.

Sometimes, though, maintenance and repairs aren't enough.

If your hardware is old or outdated, it could be holding your business back. For example, older computers often struggle to run modern software, leading to frustrating delays and crashes. Worse still, outdated hardware can be a security risk, as it may not be compatible with the latest updates designed to protect you from cyber threats.

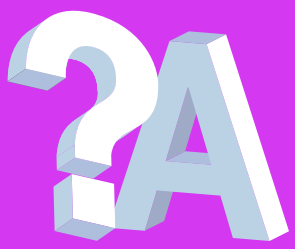
When you're facing a decision between repairing or replacing hardware, consider the bigger picture. Repairs might seem cheaper upfront, but if your device is slowing down productivity or constantly breaking, it could end up costing more in the long term. Investing in new equipment might feel like a big expense, but it can save you money and stress down the line - and give your business a competitive edge.

Outdated hardware doesn't just affect performance; it can also impact your team's morale and your customers' experience. No one enjoys battling with slow computers or unreliable printers.

Keeping your tech up to date makes sure everything runs smoothly, keeping your team happy and your business efficient.

So, take a moment to think about your hardware. Is it running smoothly, or is it time for an upgrade? The right investment now can save you headaches – and money.

Is it time for a hardware audit? We can help with that. Get in touch.



Q: Do we really need backups if we use cloud storage?

A: Yes, having a secondary backup makes sure your data is protected in case of accidental deletion or even a cloud provider issue.

Q: How can we make sure our teams use our tech tools effectively?

A: Provide training, encourage regular use, and integrate tools into daily workflows. Explaining the benefits to your employees can make them keener to use these tools too.

Q: What happens if my device is too old to run the latest version of our software?

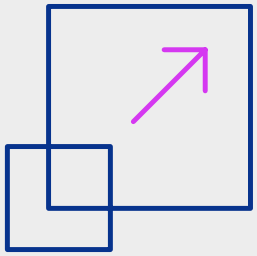
A: Outdated software means you're less secure against cyber attacks. If your device won't run the latest version, it's time to look at replacing it.

NEW TO MICROSOFT

New to Teams: Pop out Chat, Copilot and Notes

Microsoft's testing a new feature in Teams that lets you pop out Chat, Copilot, and Notes panes into separate windows during meetings. This lets you organize your screen for maximum productivity, especially on bigger displays.

It's currently in Teams Public Preview and Microsoft 365 Targeted Release. We expect a full rollout soon.



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