STARSTREAM DATA

THE EVOLVER

MAY 2023

Your monthly business and technology newsletter, powering business health and performance

"GET CLOSER THAN EVER TO YOUR CUSTOMERS. SO CLOSE THAT YOU TELL THEM WHAT THEY NEED WELL BEFORE THEY REALISE IT THEMSELVES".

- Steve Jobs, Co-founder of Apple

DID YOU KNOW?

Have you heard about Microsoft Edge flags? Microsoft Edge flags are an experimental feature that can enhance your browsing experience. They make scrolling smoother, enable multiple items to download at once, and even allow you to choose a colour profile for your browser. Enable them by typing edge://flags in your address bar and selecting the flags you'd like to trial.

A FOUR-DAY WEEK DOESN'T MEAN FOUR-DAY SECURITY

Are you one of the many companies around the world that's looking at a four-day working week? Perhaps you've already made the leap.

For lots of businesses, it's never going to work. However, for those that have tried it they have generally found it to be hugely positive. It improves your employees' experience, making them more loyal, engaged, and productive. It can help to attract and retain better talent, while improving your brand reputation. Also, not to ignore the cost savings of shutting down the office for an extra day.

This can be a big change and it has to be done right. Forcing people to cram the same amount of work into fewer hours could be a recipe for burnout and exhaustion. That can lead to corners being cut, which in turn could lead to a cyber security disaster.

Even if processes aren't being intentionally skipped, human error due to a lapse in concentration becomes inevitable. According to the World Economic Forum's 2022 Global Risk Report, nearly all cyber security issues can be traced back to human error.

What does that mean for your business? If you're considering a four-day week (and even if you're not), work closely with your people to make sure they aren't experiencing additional pressure that can cause costly lapses.

Never assume that fewer office hours means you can relax your cyber security. You should evaluate the effectiveness of your security measures especially if your working model is adapting, changing and evolving. Make sure they stand up to the change in working patterns, but also revisit your policies so that all routine tasks are still accounted for in the new working week.

Comprehensive security policies become even more important when you change a working routine, so you may also want to reassess and potentially beef up your approach. Consider introducing 'zero trust' strategies if you haven't already. These give people access to only the files, software, and systems they need to do their job – and nothing more.

Finally, refresh employees' cyber security awareness with regular training. If security practices are not followed, it's often because they are not fully understood or they don't get the potential damage it can cause the whole company.
There's a lot to think about, but professional advice is always on hand.

If it's something you're considering, just get in touch

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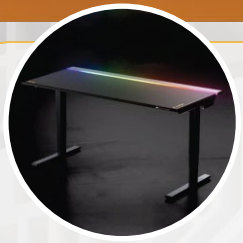
TECH NEWS

Are you wasting money every month on unused software licences? Many businesses are, according to new research

The study looked at more than 30 popular software tools and discovered that a huge 50% of all licences were not being used. Some of the most commonly lapsed licences are for Tableau, Trello, and Spotfire.

That's money being spend without a return on that investment. Where could those funds benefit towards growing an even better organisation? Check your subscriptions and other areas of waste that can help fund your next phase in the company growth strategy.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



SECRETLAB MAGNUS PRO

The Magnus Pro Standing Desk is the ultimate workspace transformer that will keep all those unsightly cables organized. Say goodbye to the mundane mundane sitting life and embrace the power of standing tall. With a sleek design, sturdy frame, and effortless height adjustment, this desk is the perfect sidekick for your productivity crusade. So, gear up, stand up, and conquer your workday with the Magnus Pro.

Visit link.starstreamdata.com/magnuspro to learn more

Q & A

Q: I've deleted an important file – can I get it back?

A: If you've checked your recycle bin and it's not there, don't panic. As long as you have a working backup, your file should be recoverable.

Q: Why do I keep losing connection to the office Wi-Fi?

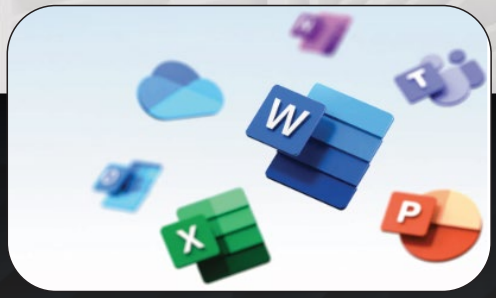
A: It may be that your router is overloaded. Restart your device and try again. If that doesn't work, try connecting on another device – this should tell you if it's a device or router issue.

Q: I've noticed a new Admin account appear on my network. How did that happen?

A: If no one in the business has created this account, you may have an intruder in your network. Contact your IT support to investigate it immediately.

MONTHLY TECH FACTS

- Nokia is famous for its phones, but it started out as a paper manufacturer in 1865.
- Think robots are androgynous? Think again. 'Android' comes from the Greek for male-like. The female equivalent is 'Gynoid'.
- NASA's internet speed is 91GB per second. That's about 13,000 times faster than most business's speed.



NEW TO MICROSOFT 365

Working hours and location.

New options are coming to Outlook that allow you to set more flexible working hours each day and specify where you're working from. Everyone can see this so there's no confusion over when you're working (and when you're not.)

QUIZ TIME

1. What's the most widely used coding language for web development?

A. HTML
B. CSS
C. Javascript

2. What do lots of people wrongly think Wi-Fi is short for?

A. Wireless Fiction
B. Wireless Fidelity
C. Wireless Fact

3. What's the main function of a router?

A. To direct traffic between networks
B. To direct traffic between local computers
C. To direct traffic at a busy intersection

4. What's the most widely used operating system in the world?

A. Windows
B. MacOS
C. Linux

5. What do we use an IP address for?

A. To identify a telephone number
B. To identify your location
C. To identify a device on a network

Answers on the final page

PERSONAL PHONES

It's common for people to rely on their personal phones to keep in touch at work

That's not always the best idea, and there are lots of good reasons to provide company phones to your team (would you want to own the number and block access to sensitive data if somebody left?)

Whoever owns the device, you need to make security your top priority. Cyber criminals know how much valuable information lives on our mobiles, and they're making phones a target. If you don't already have a mobile security and management strategy in place, it's time you did.

Here are our top 5 ways to keep phones secure:

Set minimum upgrade requirements
Cyber crooks and device manufacturers both work in three-year cycles. That means that, as threats evolve, so do the protections that address them. Upgrading devices to follow this cycle will keep you on top of your security game. Should staff be accessing company data from their own personal phones, known as BYOD (bring your own device), be aware of the risks and consider what rules and policies you want to enforce to keep the company and your data safe.

Implement Mobile Device Management
MDM allows you to track the location of devices, lock/wipe their data remotely, and can help you access remote support for any issues. That means your data stays safe, even in the case of a lost or stolen phone. You can also create a list of apps that are to be blocked for security reasons.

Set up MFA (Multi-Factor Authentication)
Make sure all devices have biometric locks requiring facial or fingerprint ID to open them, and that all apps require MFA to log in. Only allow employees access to the software and files they need for their job.

Always update everything
Just like you should do with all your software and devices, phones and tablets are no different. Phones need to have the latest updates installed as soon as they become available. If you have MDM in place, it's possible to schedule updates across the entire team at the same time.

Regular awareness training
You should hold regular cyber security training for your team that includes mobile devices. Your people are your weakest link when it comes to security. Keeping them up to speed on security risks can improve compliance. It's easy to overlook mobile devices when it comes to keeping your data secure, but it's a vital step in protecting yourself against cyber attacks.

For any help or advice, get in touch

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. C. JAVASCRIPT
2. B. WIRELESS FIDELITY
3. A. TO DIRECT TRAFFIC BETWEEN NETWORKS
4. A. WINDOWS
5. C. TO IDENTIFY A DEVICE ON THE NETWORK

GET IN TOUCH

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