

BITS & BYTES

Your bi-monthly
newsletter,
written for humans
not geeks



DID YOU KNOW?



You can change your mouse cursor colour in Windows 11?

It probably won't make you any more productive, but it might be a good mood-booster!

- Open settings and choose Accessibility > Mouse pointer and touch the web
- Select custom. Choose the pointer style and colour you want.
- Close settings.

Ta da! A cursor that matches your mood/decor/ coffee cup.

IN THIS MONTHS EDITION WE WANTED TO CONGRATULATE THE LATEST WINNERS OF OUR EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER TITLES.

At Your IT we have two winners; the first is voted for by colleagues with everyone submitting a vote.

The second is decided by the Leadership Team.

This Quarters Winner of the Employee vote was Narayan Dosanjh.

As part of the voting process we ask for comments to highlight why a particular person is being voted for.

Some of the comments from Narayans colleagues included 'As I've seen him jumping to help the rest of the team quite a lot, even though he's busy himself.' 'Really Helpful with his guides lately and deserves to win.'

And 'I really appreciate how he

helps his colleagues on issues and guiding them to the right solutions.'

The Leadership Team this quarter recognised Fern Ritchie, who is also up for the Apprentice of the Year Award at the forthcoming East Midlands Chamber of Commerce Awards.

The Leadership Team commented that Fern 'works really hard and is dedicated to her role and colleagues. We've heard nothing but good things and compliments from colleagues and clients - her nomination for the Chamber Award is well deserved.'

I'm sure you'll want to join us in congratulating Narayan and Fern for their achievements.





Technology update

If you use Microsoft Teams on desktop, you'll be able to use a Bluetooth enabled headset to control your calls.

An update means you can use the buttons on your headset (or a speaker phone) to answer and end calls, rather than fumbling about for the on-screen button.

An end to those awkward pauses you say? Sign us up!

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The first rule of any technology used in a business is that automation applied to an efficient operation will magnify the efficiency. The second is that automation applied to an inefficient operation will magnify the inefficiency."

Bill Gates, Co-founder of Microsoft



THIS ISSUES STAR TEAM MEMBER

GARETH SMITH
Service Desk Engineer

Gareth has been on top form recently here at Your IT Department.

With a consistent stream of great reviews from our clients in regards to Gareth's work resolving their issues, it's safe to say he's a client's dream IT engineer.

He has also recently completed his Acronis certification too, making him #CyberFit!

FUN TECH QUIZ

Gather round for this month's tech quiz

Who has the most random technology knowledge in your office?

1. What shape was the original design for the first Apple phone?
2. True or false: 50% of the world has never made a phone call?
3. What is nomophobia a fear of?
4. Was Nintendo founded in 1889, 1946 or 1975?
5. What was the first home computer to have a colour display?

The answers are below.

- 1) Apple was developing an apple-shaped flip phone before the iPhone. Wouldn't you love to see that one!
- 2) False. It's a stat still used today, but dates back to the mid 90s
- 3) Not having a working mobile phone
- 4) 1889 (Yes, really)
- 5) The Apple II in 1979

#1
Two years after its launch, Microsoft Teams generated \$800 million in revenue

#2
The most expensive domain name (CarInsurance.com) cost \$49.7 million

#3
on average, there are 500,000 new internet users every day

TECH FACTS

WOULD YOU PAY IF YOUR BUSINESS WAS CRIPPLED BY RANSOMWARE?

Ransomware is scary. It's where cyber criminals lock your data and charge you a ransom fee to get it back.

If it happened to you, would you pay the fee?

Despite what the criminals promise, they don't always unlock data when the ransom fee is paid. Or they ask for a second fee. Or they unlock it and then sell it on the dark web anyway.

Many large companies are now refusing to pay, finding other ways to get their data back. And ransomware groups are looking for different opportunities.

Small, financially stable businesses are the new targets. And the size of payments demanded has increased.

This means you and your team need to be vigilant about cyber security. Continue to take the necessary precautions such as using a password manager, checking emails are from who they say they're from, and making sure your network is being monitored and protected.

It's also vital that you have a working backup of all data. Check it regularly.

Even without paying the ransom demand, your business stands to lose a lot of money if hit by ransomware. It takes ages and can cost a ton to get back on your feet

If you want us to audit your business and check its ransomware resilience, get in touch.



Business gadget of the month

Need a new wireless mouse? Microsoft has a really sleek-looking, minimalist one for you.

The Microsoft Modern Mobile Mouse (try saying that fast 3 times) is nice to look at, affordable and comes in a range of different colours too.



This is how you can get in touch with us:

CALL: 0115 8220 200 | **EMAIL:** info@your-itdepartment.co.uk

WEBSITE: www.your-itdepartment.co.uk



QUESTION

Should I let my team have work apps on their personal phones?

ANSWER

It's personal preference. But if you do, make sure their phones are protected by the same security measures they'd have on work devices.



QUESTION

I've received an email that looks genuine, but hasn't addressed me by name. Should I click the link?

ANSWER

If you ever have cause for doubt, don't click links or download files. Phone the sender to check if they really sent the email. It may take a few minutes but it's worth it.



QUESTION

Should I be monitoring my remote staff?

ANSWER

Software exists to do this, but what message does it send to your team? It can be highly counterproductive in many cases. Take the time for regular catch-ups over Teams instead, or try a productivity tracker if you have concerns.