

Technology Insider



DECEMBER 2020

YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, WRITTEN FOR HUMANS NOT GEEKS

Would you survive the 4 beer test this Christmas?

So it's unlikely you'll be having a traditional office Christmas party this year. Thanks Covid, you party-pooper.

But I'm sure at least some of your team will find a way to celebrate together over a few beers after work one day.

And that's why it's worth asking if your business can pass the 4 beer test.

What's that? We reckon 4 beers is about the stage where people start to "relax" so much, they start to forget the important stuff.

Like picking up their laptop bag when they leave the bar. Or as they're jumping off the train home in a fluster, after a little impromptu nap.

Laptops and mobiles get left in bars and on trains all the time, especially on dark winter nights like these.

Thing is – depending on your IT setup, a lost laptop can either be a minor inconvenience. Or a complete disaster.

**How can you tell which?
By asking these 3 questions:**

- Is it encrypted?
- Is it password protected?
- Can the data be wiped remotely?

If it's a "yes" to all three, you can relax. It's annoying you've lost your device... but your business's data is safe. No-one can access it.

And if you can't positively answer all three... uh-oh... problem. These days, the loss of data is a much bigger deal than the loss of a device.

If you're not sure you can answer these 3 questions with a confident "yes" then give us a call and we'll check for you.

To book your call visit www.bluegrass-group.com/contact/call-booking/



You can see our live diary and choose the time and date that suits you best.

WHEN DID YOU LAST CREATE A FORMAL BUSINESS I.T. GROWTH STRATEGY?



Your business could be more productive with one simple change.

Most businesses simply wouldn't survive without technology. That's a fact.

When you have the right tools, devices, and network in place, your work is made easier; your team is more productive; and that leads to a more profitable business.

But did you know that many UK businesses are working with an IT infrastructure that simply doesn't meet their needs?

Sure, they have a network that they can access, and they're using tools that help get the job done. But when you look at their plans for the future, or you speak to their team, you'll realise they could be doing so much more.

Does this apply to your business to any degree?

Ask yourself: When did you last create a formal business IT growth strategy?

If your answer is more than a year or two ago – or worse, never – then you have some work to do. And with a new

year just weeks away, there is no better time than now.

You see, an IT strategy is the foundation to moving your business forward. Improving productivity and profit.

If you're just winging it, you're almost certainly wasting money and holding your business back.

This is why we're offering you an IT strategy review. My team of experts will assess several areas of your IT infrastructure and the way your people use it, to see what improvements you can make.

They'll also discuss your plans and goals for next 12 months to 3 years, to make sure your system is up to the task.

If you'd like to discuss this further please contact us on 01392 796779 or email ask@bluegrass-group.com. It would be great to chat through how we can help your business.

This is how you can get in touch with us:

CALL: 01392 796779 | **EMAIL** ask@bluegrass-group.com

WEBSITE: www.bluegrass-group.com

Christmas crackers just for you!

You're probably looking forward to seeing the end of 2020, but before it comes to a close, we've got 3 Christmas Cracker offers to put a smile back on your face...

1. FREE INSTALLATION on any new cloud telephony system. Saving you up to £1200!

Start the new year with new and improved communications between you, your customers and your staff with cost effective and reliable Cloud Telephony.

2. 15 months IT Support for the price of 12!

Three months completely free IT support for your business. Our 24/7 around the clock support means you never have to worry, set yourself up for success in 2021 with an IT Partner who cares.

3. FREE Cyber Awareness Training for your staff with every purchase of O365 SAAS Backup (from just £1.90 per user per month)

Protect your Office 365 data with Datto SAAS Backup and receive free cyber awareness educational and engaging online training for your staff.

Make your employees your best line of defense against cyber attacks and keep your business protected.

Help your business thrive throughout 2021 with cost effective and efficient communication, proactive IT support and knowledgeable staff.

Call us now on 01392 796 779 or email ask@bluegrass-group.com and give your business the best chance of success as you head into a new year.

*Offers apply to new clients only. Minimum 5 users across all three offers and orders placed on or before 24.12.2020.

3 BIG WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR I.T. NEXT YEAR



As we head into 2021, is your IT due an upgrade?

Here are three key things you can do to improve your IT and keep your business running smoothly into the years ahead.

Fully move to the Cloud

The benefits of moving your business to the cloud are clear.

It will reduce your IT costs, improve the level of security, and give you the ability to quickly scale up your IT resources as needed.

You may currently work with a hybrid setup with bits and pieces of your IT in the cloud and other parts of your business still running locally.

With the right IT support team helping you, moving fully to the cloud is smooth and effective.

Take security seriously

It's hard to read any technology news, without reading about the damage cybercrime can do.

Cybersecurity issues can impact all devices connected to the internet, and businesses are prime targets for hackers looking for an easy payday.

Fall victim and your business could grind to a halt. And your reputation can take a real battering.

Investing in help from a proactive IT support partner who knows what they're doing is key to keeping your business safe.

Treat your team to new computers

Upgrading your computers is an investment worth making.

You'll get a happier and more productive team for sure.

New computers will also reduce the amount of time your staff spend fighting with technology that's slowing them down. The mental boost this can provide is huge.

Please contact us if you need any advice on these recommendations. We'd welcome the chance to help you and your business. To get in touch call 01392 297779 or email ask@bluegrass-group.com.

New year, new devices?

With a new year just around the corner, it's time to get everything in place so that you can start the year as you mean to go on.

Does that mean that you could do with some new devices in the business?

- Perhaps you're working on something slow and uncooperative?
- Maybe your device is so old it can remember dial-up internet?
- Or possibly you just need something that has the right spec to allow you do your job well?

Whatever it is you need, we can help you find the right device, at the right price for you.

Stocks of laptops and other devices have been really up and down this year. Production's clearly been massively affected. So this is one of those things that'll be easier with some advance planning... don't leave it to the last minute.

This is how you can get in touch with us:

CALL: 01392 796779 | **EMAIL** ask@bluegrass-group.com

WEBSITE: www.bluegrass-group.com

Monthly update from Dave



It's quite hard to believe we're this close to Christmas, isn't it?

This year has just shot by. I think losing all those weeks and months to lockdown made it seem like the time has gone faster... although I remember the actual days at the time moving quite slowly!

I'm really looking forward to a proper Christmas break with my family. What about you?

This has been such a mad year in so many ways. We've been lucky that our family and friends have not been affected too badly (I hope you can say the same).

But one of the ways it has affected me is the lack of proper breaks. In a normal year I get plenty of breaks from the business, and enjoy time away with my family. That's been virtually impossible this year, as it has for many.

Like many business owners I've had small breaks from the business, but nothing substantial. It's too easy to just carry on working when you're locked down at home, or can't get away to a different environment.

All business owners and managers need a good break this Christmas! Because it's healthy for us to do that. We can properly recharge our brains and bodies. Regain perspective on what we want to achieve in life. And then re-align the business to match.

I sincerely hope that you're able to relax and recharge your batteries this Christmas and that 2021 brings you successes.

You can reach me at david@bluegrass-group.com or 01392 345980.

Managing Director



Question

Do you recommend Dropbox for sharing files?

Answer

Not with work colleagues, no. Security can be an issue when you're sharing files using all sorts of apps. Ask your IT partner to set up a safe and secure way for your team to collaborate.

Question

Whats the quickest way to speed up my computer?

Answer

This is the question we get asked the most! There are dozens and dozens of things that can slow a computer down. One easy thing you can try is just restarting it every couple of days.

Question

How many tabs can I have open in Chrome?

Answer

It's believed that the maximum is around 9,000! However your Chrome wouldn't be very easy to use at that stage. We recommend you have no more than 10 to 20 open at one time. The more tabs, sometimes the slower Chrome and your computer can be.

If you're not delighted with your IT support company, we really should talk

Three questions for you:

1. Do you currently have an IT support company?
2. How happy are you with them?
3. If the answer isn't "utterly delighted", let's jump on a Zoom

All the change we've gone through since March has taught businesses round here just how important proactive, responsive IT support is.

Book a call so that we can see how we can help you by visiting www.bluegrass-group.com/contact/call-booking/

If you'd prefer to call right now please call us on 01392 796779 We'd love to help.

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