

NOVEMBER 2025

Your monthly newsletter,
written for humans not geeks

TECHNOLOGY INSIDER



Your **best defence** against a cyber attack

Cyber attacks rarely make headlines when they hit small and medium sized businesses. But behind the scenes, they're happening every day.

In fact, while you're reading this, somewhere a company is quietly dealing with the fallout of being locked out of its own systems.

What separates the businesses that recover quickly from those that don't isn't luck. It's preparation.

Hackers have become very good at sneaking in, stealing data, and causing disruption. Even strong security can't block every attempt. That's why having a recovery plan matters so much.

A disaster recovery plan is simply a playbook for your business. It sets out what happens if the worst occurs:

- **Who takes charge**
- **How you communicate with staff and customers**
- **The steps to bring systems back online**

When people know what to do, they can act fast and confidently rather than wasting precious hours figuring it out on the spot.

Security experts (like us) often run practice scenarios, pitting "attackers" against "defenders". What becomes obvious in these exercises is that the technical side of an attack is only half the battle.

Clear communication, calm decision making, and having tested plans ready to go make the biggest difference in whether a business survives intact.

Preparation also means knowing where your vital data is stored, making sure backups are reliable, and checking that everyone understands their role if trouble strikes. And sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but these aren't one-time jobs. You need to revisit and test them regularly.

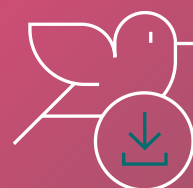
The reality is that cyber criminals aren't going away. But you can take the fear out of the unknown by being ready.

Preparation turns a crisis into something manageable, helping you protect your data, your reputation, and your customers' trust.

If you need expert help creating a plan for if things go wrong, my team and I are on hand. Get in touch.

DID YOU KNOW...

you can download
to a bird?



A musician and science enthusiast recently tried storing data in a starling. Yes, a bird.

He encoded an image into sound and played it repeatedly to the starling. Later, it appeared to reproduce a similar waveform on its own, equivalent to "176 kilobytes of uncompressed data".

While it's more curiosity than breakthrough (after all, your files could literally fly away), the experiment shows just how strange the intersection of biology and technology can get.



www.everon.co.uk

TechFacts

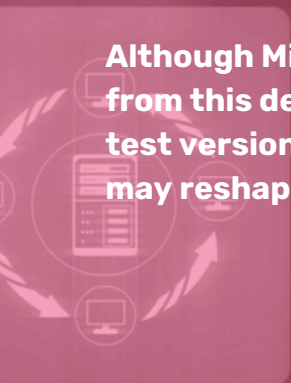
- 1** Researchers found flaws in McDonald's McHire job chatbot that could have exposed data from 64 million applicants. One issue? An admin password set to "123456" 🙄 Combined with a coding bug, it left names, addresses, and even chat messages at risk. The problem was fixed quickly, but it's a clear reminder of why strong passwords and good security practices matter.
- 2** AI takes a lot of power. So much that US data centres look to become the world's fifth-largest electricity users by 2026. Microsoft, racing to fuel its AI growth, is spending \$80 billion (£58.7 billion) on energy infrastructure while also pledging to be carbon-negative by 2030. To offset emissions, it's buying carbon removal credits, including burying millions of tons of waste deep underground.
- 3** In August 1991, astronauts aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis sent the very first email from space, using an Apple Macintosh Portable. With some tweaks to NASA's comms system, the bulky Mac connected to Apple's online network, AppleLink. Astronauts Shannon Lucid and James C. Adamson's message? A cheerful "Hello Earth!" complete with a Terminator 2 reference: "Hasta la vista, baby... we'll be back!"

Technology update

We could soon see an AI-centric Edge

Microsoft has been experimenting with a new look for its Edge browser, known as Olympia. The prototype design puts Copilot, the built-in AI, right in the middle of the address bar and adds features like voice search and vertical tabs.

Although Microsoft seems to have moved away from this design, parts of it can still be found in test versions of Edge, showing how the company may reshape the browser around AI in the future.



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says, 'I'll try again tomorrow'."

Mary Anne Radmacher, writer and artist.

NEW TO

MICROSOFT



Excel can read pictures

Excel has a new trick: It can now analyse pictures as well as numbers.

You can drop an image into a cell, and Excel will help check things like whether it's clear or blurry. This could be useful if you work with lots of photos or scanned documents and need a quick way to spot problems before sharing them.

Behind the scenes it uses Python (a popular programming language), but you don't need to be a coder to benefit. The update is starting to roll out for Microsoft 365 users on web, Windows, and Mac.

November is here – time for another fun tech quiz

1. Bing is a search engine developed by what company?
2. What is another name for a URL saved in a web browser?
3. A "Page Not Found" error on a website is also known by what error code?
4. Microsoft Word's native file format uses what file extension?
5. What is the standard Windows keyboard shortcut for the Cut command?

The answers are below.

1. Microsoft
2. A bookmark
3. 404
4. .docx
5. Control + X

Meet Everon's very own Vero

Say Hello to Vero - Your smart and friendly AI Assistant with a Can-Do Attitude.

Need a hand chasing down that meeting note, remembering who said what, or just keeping your day on track? Vero's got you.

Think of it as your always-on, never-flustered digital assistant, ready to help, no matter how long your to-do list is.

Vero isn't just another tool. It's the clever AI brain behind the scenes, helping you find answers, stay organised, and get things done faster (and with fewer sighs).

Whether you're booking a room, checking a policy, or wondering "Did I already send that?" -Vero's there with a calm, "Yes, and here's the link."

From Executive Assistants to engineers, Vero's designed to work the way you do-quick, clear, and with a bit of personality.

So if you haven't had a chat with Vero yet, now's the time. It might just become your new favourite colleague (don't worry, we won't tell Jamie).

👉 <https://askvero.ai/>

Business gadget of the month

KeySmart TaskPad

You know what a distraction it can be when your devices all need charging at your desk. Cables everywhere.

But it doesn't have to be that way. The KeySmart TaskPad charges your phone, laptop and tablet when they're placed on it. No cables. And not only that, it makes using a mouse smoother, and it's even water-resistant, anti-scratch, and stain-proof.

Hello clean and tidy desk.

£79.99 from Amazon.



Q: Do we need to back up data stored in Microsoft 365 or Google Workspace?

A: Yes. These services keep things running, but you're still responsible for your data. Backups protect against accidental deletion or ransomware.

Q: Our passwords are strong. Do we still need multi-factor authentication (MFA)?

A: Absolutely. Even strong passwords can be stolen. MFA adds an extra layer of protection that makes accounts much harder to break into.

Q: Should we worry about old staff accounts once someone leaves?

A: Yes. If ex-staff logins aren't closed, they're open doors for attackers. Always remove access right away.

This is how you can get in touch with us:

CALL: 0113 426 7560 | **EMAIL** info@everon.co.uk

WEBSITE: www.everon.co.uk

