



Important information

6 weeks of advice for Business & IT
Managers on approaches to Cyber Security

Cyber Security #1



How can we understand our digital future & the huge
challenges it is poised to bring?

By the end of the 2020s and maybe well before, things like the **Internet of Things**, **Machine Learning**, **Crypto currency** & **Artificial Intelligence** will be well embedded in our daily lives.

When you look at it, the truth is the pace and scale of development is just **staggering**.

With anything this big, as well as amazing **opportunities**, there are huge **challenges**. Not least school curriculums have to work out how to keep up.

Many will remember that in school, not so many years ago, IT meant one or two PC's & needs for visual presentation were met via a single rather large television & a similar sized video recorder (!)

Looking to the current position where IT is everywhere could the difference be more pronounced?

There is too, a darker side that has to be considered & the weight of opinion is that attempts to cause harm for personal gain are **gathering pace**.

So, the risk of exposure of personal data, as well data related to the way that we conduct our day to day lives, in the home, in the workplace and in education - continues to **grow**.

Of course, the inadvertent loss or unauthorised access to data has the potential to wreak **havoc**.

Hence as we become more dependent on the growing 'connectedness' of a myriad of electronic devices, it is essential we are both **aware** of & **minimise** the impacts of exposure of our data & be prepared to deal with any loss.

Of course, also we have to **prepare** and **protect** our children and in time they will need to do the same for theirs.

Some perhaps, are not yet persuaded. The evidence suggests otherwise.

It is now serious enough that the National Cyber Security Centre is running a **national campaign** to raise awareness of the cyber security risks that we are all exposed to.

Also the recent attacks on the **University of Northamptonshire** & **23 schools in South Gloucestershire** clearly show that criminals are interested in the Educational sector.

The truth is cyber criminals are constantly probing networks looking for vulnerabilities in cyber defences & they are **getting better** at it.

What is clear then, is that in particular, those with IT or Business Continuity responsibilities nationwide are going to have to engage at a **higher level** & **expand** their consciousness of what is happening.

But where to start?

The good news is that there are some excellent resources that can help those that need to keep up to date.

The [NCSC website](#) is excellent & more locally the [South West Regional organised Crime Unit](#) has some great up to date news as well. We recommend them.

We can help you too & we now have a team dedicated to this.

In support of the NCSC campaign, we are also going to be communicating with you over the coming weeks to tell you more.

Amongst other things our mailings will:

- Introduce the concept of cyber security & highlight some of the day-to-day **risks** & **approaches** to reducing them.
- Describe how to build in **cyber resilience**, identifying cases of best practice.
- Tell you what is available in terms of cyber security **accreditation**, both to provide a framework for cyber resilience & evidence commitment to it.
- Outline the cyber security **experience** & **expertise** in One West and tell you more about how we can help.

So – look out for these & our advice is to check out the links to the national & regional expertise provided.

If you want a conversation now, that's fine. We can help you straight away.

Drop us a line & we will happily get this arranged. Contact:

Steve_Debruin@bathnes.gov.uk or

Jo_Buchan@bathnes.gov.uk

Thanks & we look forward to telling you more.

The One West Business & Cyber Security team.



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