

# TECH TALK

## MONTHLY

YOUR MONTHLY DOSE OF  
TECH & BUSINESS NEWS

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 02** ORGANIZE YOUR  
CYBERSECURITY STRATEGY
- 03** SMART HOME TECH  
TO AVOID AND ADOPT
- 04** MOST SECURE WAY TO SHARE  
PASSWORDS WITH EMPLOYEES
- 05** INCORPORATE  
GENERATIVE AI
- 06** TECH TIP  
OF THE MONTH
- 07** THE FALL  
WINDOWS 11 UPDATE



### MONTHLY UPDATE FROM TONY

Navigating the changing landscape of technology can feel like a whirlwind. In this fast-paced digital age, it's easy to get swept up in the latest trends and lose sight of what truly matters for your business. The key is to stay grounded amidst the chaos.

Instead of chasing every new tech fad, focus on understanding your core values and your customers' needs. Embrace innovation, but do it mindfully. Remember, it's not about keeping up with every change, but rather about adapting in a way that strengthens your business foundation.

Need some help riding the wave of change while keeping your business firmly grounded? Reach out to us at [sales@ashdownsolutions.co.uk](mailto:sales@ashdownsolutions.co.uk) to schedule a chat.

Kind Regards,

Tony

### DID YOU KNOW



The first ever image to be digitally scanned was a picture of a Christmas tree. In 1957, Russell Kirsch scanned a photo of his son next to a Christmas tree, creating the world's first digital image.

### Ashdown Solutions Ltd

Unit 1A The Granary  
Bulrushes Business Park  
Coombe Hill Road  
East Grinstead  
RH19 4LZ



## HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR CYBERSECURITY STRATEGY INTO LEFT AND RIGHT OF BOOM

In the pulsating digital landscape, every click and keystroke echoes through cyberspace. The battle for data security rages on. Businesses stand as both guardians and targets. Unseen adversaries covet their digital assets. Businesses must arm themselves with a sophisticated arsenal of cybersecurity strategies. On one side, the vigilant guards of prevention (Left of Boom). On the other, the resilient bulwarks of recovery (Right of Boom). Together, these strategies form the linchpin of a comprehensive defense. They help ensure that businesses can repel attacks. And also rise stronger from the ashes if breached.

### Left of Boom Preventative Measures

### Cyberattack or breach (The “Boom”)

### Right of Boom Recovery Measures

#### What Do “Left of Boom” and “Right of Boom” Mean?

In the realm of cybersecurity, “Left of Boom” and “Right of Boom” are strategic terms. They delineate the proactive and reactive approaches to dealing with cyber threats.

#### “Left of Boom”

refers to preemptive measures and preventative strategies. These are things implemented to safeguard against potential security breaches. It encompasses actions aimed at preventing cyber incidents before they occur.

#### “Right of Boom”

pertains to the post-breach recovery strategies. Companies use these after a security incident has taken place. This phase involves activities like incident response planning and data backup.

Together, these terms form a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy. They cover both prevention and recovery aspects.

#### Left of Boom: Prevention Strategies

##### User Education and Awareness

One of the foundational elements of Left of

Boom is employee cybersecurity education. Regular training sessions can empower staff.

##### Robust Access Control and Authentication

Access control tactics include:

- Least privilege access
- Multifactor authentication (MFA)
- Contextual access
- Single Sign-on (SSO) solutions

##### Regular Software Updates and Patch Management

Left of Boom strategies include ensuring all software is regularly updated.

##### Network Security and Firewalls

Firewalls act as the first line of defense against external threats. Install robust firewalls and intrusion detection/prevention systems.

##### Regular Security Audits and Vulnerability Assessments

Conduct regular security audits and vulnerability assessments. This helps to identify potential weaknesses in your systems.

#### Right of Boom: Recovery Strategies

##### Incident Response Plan

Having a well-defined incident response plan in place is crucial.

It should include things like:

- Communication protocols
- Containment procedures
- Steps for recovery
- IT contact numbers

##### Data Backup and Disaster Recovery

Regularly backing up data is a vital component of Right of Boom. Another critical component is having a robust disaster recovery plan.

##### Forensic Analysis and Learning

After a security breach, conduct a thorough forensic analysis. It's essential to understand the nature of the attack. As well as the extent of the damage, and the vulnerabilities exploited.

##### Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Navigating the legal and regulatory landscape after a security breach is important.

## Titanium Micro Mercury

Introducing the Titanium Micro Mercury External SSD – a pocket-sized powerhouse! Crafted from spaceship-grade titanium, it's tough, compact, and up to 5x faster than conventional portable HDDs.

Additionally, it features a built-in tracker for added security. The Titanium Micro Mercury External SSD is not merely a storage device, but a sophisticated solution for all your data needs.



In the age of smart living, our homes are becoming increasingly intelligent. They're designed to cater to our every need. Smart gadgets are transforming how we turn on the lights, home security, and more. They even help us feed our pets from afar.

But with the rapid evolution of this technology, it's crucial to make informed choices. To know what to adopt and what to avoid. Every smart technology isn't as helpful as another.

You also must be careful of things like security and oversharing.

Here are some tips on what smart home tech to adopt and to avoid.

#### Adopt: Smart Lighting Systems

Smart lighting systems have proven to be both energy-efficient and convenient. They allow you to control the ambiance of your home. As well as schedule lights

to go on and off. You can even change colors to match your mood.

#### Avoid: Cheap, Unbranded Smart Devices

There is a definite allure to lowcost smart devices. Yet these unbranded alternatives often compromise on security, support, and functionality. This is true for both security and performance.

Investing in reputable brands ensures several benefits. Including:

- Regular updates
- Security patches
- Compatibility with other smart home devices
- Long-term support

#### Adopt: Smart Thermostats

Smart thermostats learn your habits. They adjust your home's temperature accordingly. They contribute significantly to energy savings. They do this by

optimizing heating and cooling based on occupancy patterns.

#### Avoid: Overcomplicating Security Systems

Robust security systems are essential. But overcomplicating them with unnecessary gadgets may lead to confusion and inefficiency. The more devices you add to a security system, the more exposure for your network.

#### Adopt: Smart Home Hubs

Smart home hubs are popular. They give you one place to manage all your smart devices and enable seamless communication between them. Investing in a compatible hub ensures a harmonious smart home experience.

#### Avoid: Ignoring Privacy Concerns

The convenience of smart home tech should not come at the expense of your privacy. Be

cautious about devices that constantly record audio or video. Especially if done without clear user consent. Regularly review privacy settings. Limit data collection. Choose devices from reputable companies that focus on user privacy and data security.

#### Adopt: Smart Home Security Cameras

Smart security cameras provide real-time monitoring and remote access. They also enhance the safety of your home. Look for cameras with features like motion detection, two-way audio, and cloud storage.

#### Avoid: Impulse Buying Without Research

The excitement of new gadgets can lead to impulse purchases. Before buying any smart home device, conduct thorough research. Read reviews and compare features.

04

## MOST SECURE WAY TO SHARE PASSWORDS WITH EMPLOYEES

Breached or stolen passwords are the bane of any organization's cybersecurity. Passwords cause over 80% of data breaches. Hackers get in using stolen, weak, or reused (and easily breached) passwords.

But passwords are a part of life.

Since you can't get around passwords, how do you share them with employees safely? One solution that has gained popularity in recent years is using password managers.

#### Why Use a Business Password Management App?

Here are some of the reasons to consider getting a password manager for better data security.

#### • Centralized Password Management

A primary advantage of password managers is their ability to centralize password management. They keep employees from using weak, repetitive passwords. And from storing them in vulnerable places.

#### • End-to-End Encryption

Leading password managers use robust encryption

techniques to protect sensitive data.

#### • Secure Password Sharing Features

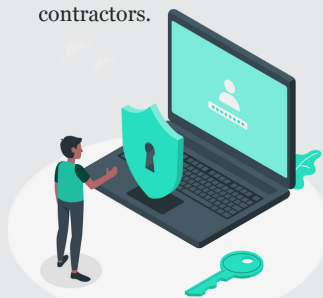
Password managers often come with secure password-sharing features. They allow administrators to share passwords with team members. And to do this without revealing the actual password.

#### • Password Generation and Complexity

Password managers typically come with built-in password generators. They create strong, complex passwords that are difficult to crack.

#### • Secure Sharing with Third Parties

Password managers offer secure methods for sharing credentials with third-party collaborators or contractors.



05

## 9 SMART WAYS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES TO INCORPORATE GENERATIVE AI

There is no escaping the relentless march of AI. Software companies are rapidly incorporating it into many business tools.

Leveraging Generative AI, small businesses can unlock a world of possibilities. This includes everything from enhancing customer experiences to streamlining operations.

Here are some smart and practical ways to incorporate GenAI.

- Personalized Customer Experiences
- Presentations & Graphics Creation
- Chatbots for Customer Support
- Data Analysis and Insights
- Product Design and Prototyping
- Supply Chain Optimization
- Dynamic Pricing Strategies
- Human Resources and Recruitment
- Predictive Maintenance

06

## COOLEST SMART GADGETS AT IFA

Every year, tech enthusiasts eagerly anticipate Europe's most prominent technology trade show. It's the Internationale Funkausstellung Berlin, or simply IFA. This is a showcase of the latest and greatest innovations in consumer electronics. The show includes everything from cutting-edge smartphones to futuristic smart home gadgets. IFA never fails to impress.

Here are some of the coolest smart gadgets unveiled at IFA.

- Samsung's JetBot 90 AI+ (intelligent robot vacuum)
- Spatial Reality Display (creates 3D objects)
- Philips Hue Gradient Lightstrip
- Bose QuietComfort 45 Headphones
- LG's Rollable OLED TV (a disappearing smart TV)
- Bosch's Virtual Visor (selectively darkens glare spots)
- TCL Wearable Display (a personal cinematic experience)

07

## 7 HELPFUL FEATURES ROLLED OUT IN THE FALL WINDOWS 11 UPDATE

In a world where technology constantly evolves, Microsoft stands at the forefront. It continues to pioneer innovations. Innovations that transform how we interact with our digital universe.

The fall Windows 11 update is a testament to Microsoft's commitment to excellence. It's more than just an upgrade. It's a leap into the future of computing. Microsoft touts it as "The most personal Windows 11 experience."

Here are some of the great features recently rolled out:

- Microsoft Copilot: Your Intelligent Partner in Creativity
- Updated Apps (Paint, Snipping Tool, Clipchamp & More)
- Easy Data Migration with Windows Backup
- Microsoft Edge: A Better Browsing Experience
- Save Energy & Battery Power
- A More Personal Windows 11 Experience