

# TECH TALK MONTHLY

YOUR MONTHLY DOSE OF  
TECH & BUSINESS NEWS

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## Monthly update from Mark

Social media was great when it first arrived. How exciting to be able to reconnect with your old pals from school! We could now quickly broadcast what we just ate for lunch and find people who thought it was as awesome as we did.

But nowadays, you hear about the dangers of social media and all the trolling and misinformation being spread. It can also be a hot bed for cybercriminals. Yet, you still get to see your cousin's kids' Halloween costumes, and that's pretty cool.

The global average for social media use is 2 hours and 27 minutes per day. That's a pretty big chunk of time. A lot of that time is spent while on work devices.

Time on social media can be spent on activities that darken your day, or you can master your social feed to include more positivity and less negativity.... And fewer scammers.

While you can't control the algorithms, you do have control over several privacy settings. We recommend putting security controls in place, so social media isn't a conduit for social phishing and malware.

Have an outstanding month

*Mark*

## DID YOU KNOW?



**"Bluetooth" technology was named after the medieval Scandinavian king Harald "Bluetooth" Gormsson who is said to have united Danish tribes under a single kingdom**

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# WHICH FORM OF MFA IS THE MOST SECURE? WHICH IS THE MOST CONVENIENT?

Credential theft is now at an all-time high and is responsible for more data breaches than any other type of attack.

With data and business processes now largely cloud-based, a user's password is the quickest and easiest way to conduct many different types of dangerous activities.

One of the best ways to protect your online accounts, data, and business operations is with multifactor authentication (MFA).

It provides a significant barrier to cybercriminals even if they have a legitimate user credential to log in.

This is because they most likely will not have access to the device that receives the MFA code required to complete the authentication process.

## What Are the Three Main Methods of MFA?

When you implement multi-factor authentication at your business, it's important to compare the three main methods of MFA and not just assume all methods are the same.

There are key differences that make some more secure than others and some more convenient.

Let's take a look at what these three methods are:

### 1. SMS-BASED

The form of MFA that people are most familiar with is SMS-based.

This one uses text messaging to authenticate the user.

The user will typically enter their mobile number when setting up MFA. Then, whenever they log into their account, they will receive a text message with a time-sensitive code that must be entered.

### 2. ON-DEVICE PROMPT IN AN APP

Another type of multi-factor authentication will use a special app to push through the code. The user still generates the MFA code at log in, but rather than receiving the code via SMS, it's received through the app.

This is usually done via a push notification, and it can be used with a mobile app or desktop app in many cases.

### 3. SECURITY KEY

The third key method of MFA involves using a separate security key that you can insert into a PC or mobile device to authenticate the login.

The key itself is purchased at the time the MFA solution is set up and will be the thing that receives the authentication code and implements it automatically.

The MFA security key is typically smaller than a traditional thumb drive and must be carried by the user to authenticate when they log into a system.

Now, let's look at the differences between these three methods.

#### Most Convenient Form of MFA?

The most convenient form of MFA, it would be the SMS-based MFA.

Most people are already used to getting text messages on their phones so there is no new interface to learn and no app to install.

The SMS-based is actually the least secure because there is malware out there now that can clone a SIM card, which would allow a hacker to get those MFA text messages.

#### Most Secure Form of MFA?

If your company handles sensitive data in a cloud platform then it may be in your best interest to go for better security.

The most secure form of MFA is the Security Key:

The security key, being a separate device altogether, won't leave your accounts unprotected in the event of a mobile phone being lost or stolen. Both the SMS-based and app-based versions would leave your accounts at risk in this scenario.



Yealink BH72  
Bluetooth Headset

#### Easy Charging and long-time working

One time powering, one week using

Available for Qi wireless charging, and bundle with special tailored UC Powerstation for daily powering, BH72 supports up to 40 hours of battery efficiency, covering one week's working need normally and accompanying you to fight till the last minute without power anxiety.

## 03 ARE TWO MONITORS REALLY MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN ONE?

When you see those people with two monitors, you may assume they do some specialised work that requires all that screen space, or they just really like technology.

But having the additional display real estate that a second screen provides can benefit anyone, even if you're doing accounting or document work all day.

According to a study by software developer Mavenlink, 73% of surveyed businesses say they spend over an hour per day on average just switching between different apps.

### Productivity Research on Dual-Screens

Jon Peddie Research looked at the benefit of using two screens over several years. It found that overall, employees in all types of jobs can improve productivity by an average of 42%.

The company's namesake put it simply by saying, "The more you can see, the more you can do."



### What Are the Advantages of Adding a 2nd Screen?

#### Do More in Less time

The biggest advantage to using a second monitor is that you can do more in less time because you're not struggling to get to the windows you need when you need them.

#### Expands Screen Space for Laptops

Connecting your laptop to a monitor can significantly improve the experience and make it like working on a normal desktop PC. You can either choose to mirror your entire screen or still make use of the laptop screen for some activities while using the larger screen for others.

#### Side-by-Side Comparisons Are Easier

There are a lot of tasks that require looking at data in two windows.

With two monitors, you have the screen real estate you need to fully open both windows and have them right next to each other so you can easily do your work.

#### More Freedom During Video Calls

With dual screens, you can choose which screen you want to share during meetings, and still have apps open on the other screen that no one can see.

#### Fairly Inexpensive Productivity Booster

Purchasing another display is a fairly low investment when looking at technology.

A monitor can be purchased for anywhere between \$125 to \$250 on average. And with a 42% average productivity boost, it can have a pretty sweet ROI.

#### Need Help Improving Productivity?

There are several productivity boosts that you can get using the right technology tools, and they don't have to cost a fortune.

## 04 PROS & CONS OF USING THE WINDOWS 365 CLOUD PC

While many companies have moved most of their workflows to the cloud, there is still a key component of office operations that is location-based.

Most companies still rely on desktops and laptops to allow employees to access critical software and as their main workstation.

This can become inconvenient if you're doing work from one than one location. For example, if you work both at the office and at home, in one of those places, you'll be without your "main computer." This can be a real problem when it comes to needing to access certain files or possibly working from a slower device than you're used to.

### What is Windows 365?

Windows 365 is a cloud-based PC. Your entire operating system and everything that sits on it (settings, files, software, etc.) is loaded on a cloud server instead of your own device's hard drive. You can then access this through an online portal, and the interface will load onto

your device (desktop, laptop, tablet, etc.).

Windows 365 can be accessed through any type of device, from anywhere, just like other cloud services. You can install applications, personalise your desktop, and do all the things you normally do on a computer. The main difference is that the computer operating system is now in the cloud.

### Windows 365 Pros

- Access Your Computer Anywhere
- Perfect for the Hybrid Work World
- Better Access to Device Security & Administration

### Windows 365 Cons

- You Can Only Use It Online
- A Slow Connection Ruins the Experience
- There is a Danger of Service Outage

### Is a Cloud PC Right for Your Business?

There are several instances when Windows 365 offers big benefits to a company.

## 05 TOP 6 MOBILE DEVICE ATTACKS YOU NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR

Smartphones and tablets are often the preferred device for communications, web searching, and accessing many types of apps. They're more portable and can be used from anywhere.

You need to be on the lookout for the most prevalent mobile device threats that allow your data to be leaked or breached. Here's a roundup of what those are.

- Mobile Malware Hidden in Apps
- Unprotected Communications
- Public Wi-Fi & Man-in-the-Middle Attacks
- Juice Jacking on Public USB Charging Stations
- Non-Updated Devices
- Text-based phishing (smishing)

## 06 SIGNS THAT YOUR COMPUTER MAY BE INFECTED WITH MALWARE

Approximately 34% of businesses take a week or longer to regain access to their data and systems once hit with a malware attack.

Keep an eye out for these key warning signs of malware infection so you can jump into action and reduce your risk.

- Strange Popups on Your Desktop
- New Sluggish Behavior
- Applications Start Crashing
- Your Browser Home Page is Redirected
- Sudden Reboots
- You're Missing Hard Drive Space
- You Run Across Corrupted Files
- PC "Processing Sounds" When There Shouldn't Be

## 07 SHOULD I CONSIDER SWITCHING TO MICROSOFT'S EDGE BROWSER?

Microsoft Edge recently surpassed Firefox in worldwide desktop browser market share and is now the #3 Desktop browser in the world behind Chrome and Safari.

Why has Edge become so popular? One reason is that it adopted the Chromium framework in 2020, the same one that Chrome uses.

Edge is the replacement for Internet Explorer, but it's taken a while for it to become mainstream. It seems that now is its time.

Should you switch to Edge? Here are a few features to help you decide.

- Make saved websites easier to find using Collections
- Coupons are served up for you as you shop online
- Get instant price comparisons
- See pricing history for best-price trends
- Great security features, like Defender SmartScreen
- Grab quick screenshots with Web Capture





## WE LOVE REFERRALS

The greatest gift anyone can give us is a referral to your friends. Referrals help us keep costs down so we can pass the savings to our clients.

If your friend ends up becoming a client - we'll gift them their free first month of service (for being a friend of yours) AND we'll gift you \$500 cash/gift voucher. Simply introduce me via email to [mark@phrixus.com](mailto:mark@phrixus.com) and I'll take it from there. I personally promise we'll look after their business with a high level of care and attention (just like we do with all our clients).

## Microsoft Disabling legacy authentication login from October 1st 2022

### What is it and how does it affect me?

Many people receive emails to their mobile phones and tablets, in the early years Microsoft used a method they now call Legacy or Basic Authentication to connect your account to your Exchange Online email server. This form of authentication is not secure enough and has been replaced by Modern Authentication. This is a much more secure system and will also allow for multi-factor authentication.

Over the past couple of years Phrixus Technologies has been implementing modern auth to many of our clients Microsoft 365 systems but from October 1st 2022 this will be enforced as Microsoft switch off the old weak Basic/Legacy authentication.

### What do I do if my phone/tablet suddenly stops receiving email?

This is only likely to occur on mobile devices you have had for many years, if you find this happening to you, the quick fix is to remove the email account from the device and then add it back. Performing this action will enforce modern authentication. For the best experience always use the Outlook app and NOT the built in mail app that come with iPhones and Android phones.



## NEED A LAUGH?

What was the spider doing on the computer

He was making a website!



## TECHNOLOGY TRIVIA

*Each month you have a chance to win a \$50 Amazon Gift Voucher by being the first person to email us with the answer to our Technology Trivia Question of the Month!*



The question this month is:

**Who was the tech CEO that in 1999 said, "You have zero privacy anyway..."?**

The first person to email me at [mark@phrixus.com](mailto:mark@phrixus.com) and give a correct answer gets a \$50 Amazon Gift Card! Well done to Tori for winning last month.

A U S T R A L I A N  
S M A L L B U S I N E S S  
**CHAMPION**  
A W A R D S



We are delighted to announce following from our success as award winners in last years local business awards, Phrixus Technologies has been shortlisted as finalists in the Nationwide Business Champion Awards in Information Technology category.

The awards night is on Friday 2nd Sept at The Star in Sydney