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TECHNOLOGY INSIDER

Your monthly newsletter, written for humans not geeks

FLYING CARS AND ROBOT SERVANTS? BUSINESS TECH PREDICTIONS FOR THIS YEAR

OK, we lied. No flying cars this year. You can get a robot to vacuum your carpet though 😃

We've been busy reading the business technology predictions for this year. If you'd read these 20 years ago they would have genuinely seemed like science fiction. But now, there's nothing being predicted for this year that really surprises us.

Here are a few we believe are most relevant to you.

More automation: It's now possible to make most software talk to most other software. And that makes it easier to automate repetitive tasks. Any time a human has to repeat a task, you can find a way to get software to automate it for you.

AI being used by more businesses: Artificial Intelligence is no longer just for big businesses. It's being used within software available to businesses of all sizes. You're probably benefitting from AI already without being aware of it.

Work From Home: Yes, the "new normal". It's not going away. Hybrid working is here to stay.

Other predictions include better voice search, such as using Alexa to get answers. And big improvements in battery tech.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know... you can hide your email address?

If you use an iPhone, you can get a unique random email address that forwards mail to your real email address. The idea is you can get quotes for things or sign up for mailing lists without fear... and delete that email address later.

Go to Settings > Apple ID > iCloud > Hide My Email

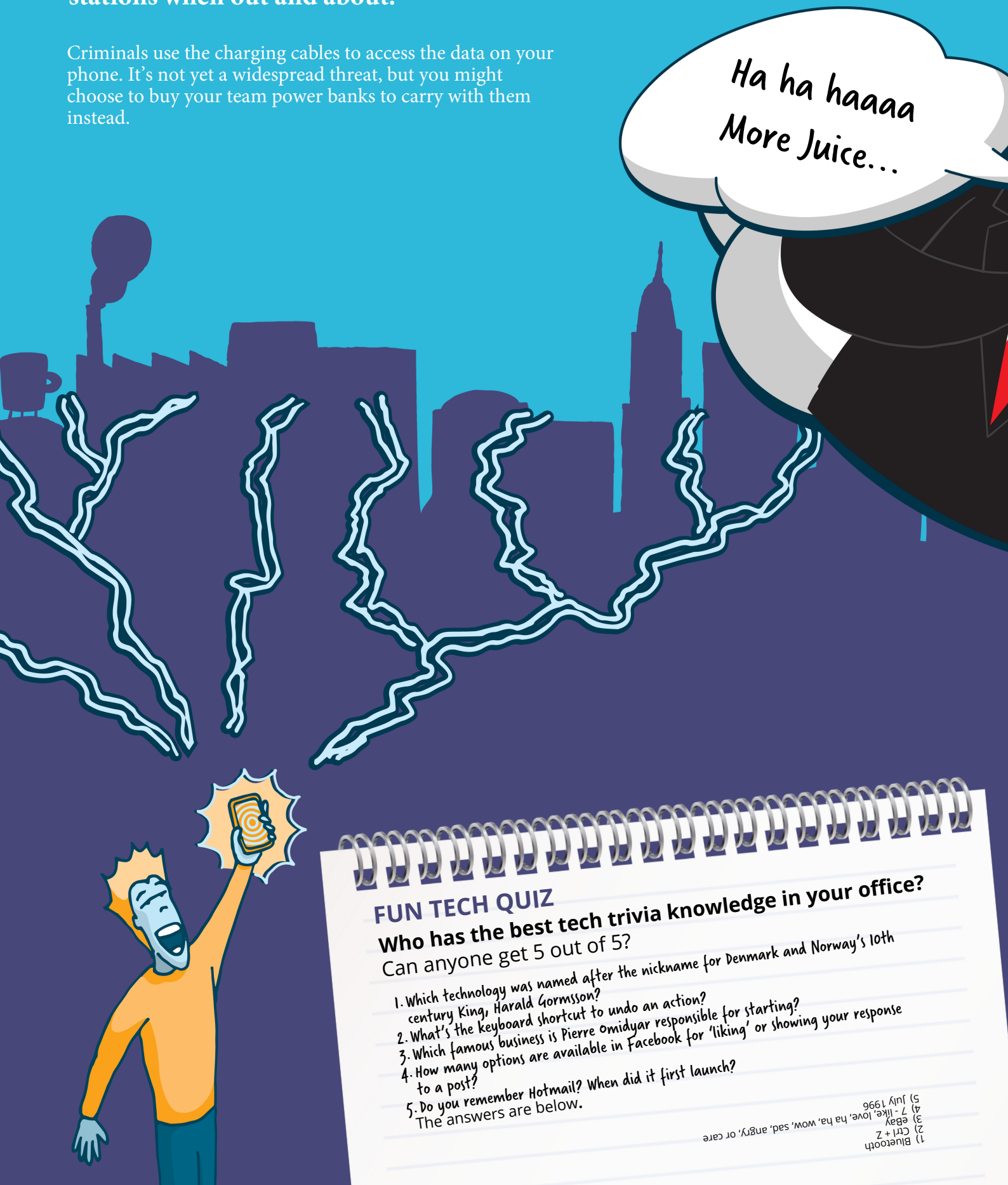
Create your new email address > Continue (or make a note first) > Next > Done

Now you have another layer of protection from spam.

Technology update

Have you heard of juice jacking? It can happen if you or your team use free mobile charging stations when out and about.

Criminals use the charging cables to access the data on your phone. It's not yet a widespread threat, but you might choose to buy your team power banks to carry with them instead.



FUN TECH QUIZ

Who has the best tech trivia knowledge in your office?

Can anyone get 5 out of 5?

1. Which technology was named after the nickname for Denmark and Norway's 10th century King, Harald Gormsson?
2. What's the keyboard shortcut to undo an action?
3. Which famous business is Pierre Omidyar responsible for starting?
4. How many options are available in Facebook for 'liking' or showing your response to a post?
5. Do you remember Hotmail? When did it first launch?

The answers are below.

1) Bluetooth
2) Ctrl + Z
3) eBay
4) 7 - like, love, ha ha, wow, sad, angry, or care
5) July 1996

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Growth and comfort do not coexist."

Ginni Rometty, CEO of IBM

Tech Fact#1

In 2020, the most common password in the world was '123456'. Hackers can crack this in less than a second

Tech Fact#2

In 1981, Microsoft began development of a program called 'Interface Manager'. By the time it had launched in 1985, it was known as... Windows

Tech Fact#3

There was a third founder of Apple. Ronald Wayne – who even designed Apple's first logo – sold his 10% stake just two weeks after partnering with Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. In total he got $2,300 for it. Had he kept his stake, today it would be worth $230 billion and he'd be one of the richest people in the world

NEW TO MICROSOFT 365

Moving and sharing files is easier in OneDrive and SharePoint

OneDrive and SharePoint are great tools for collaboration and sharing. However, even their biggest fans would admit they're clunky when you're moving or copying files.

There's been an update. Now when you move or copy a file or folder, you can choose the destination.

It's a new, smoother way to put what you want, where you want it.

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DO YOU REALLY NEED A PASSWORD MANAGER?

If you and your team aren't already using a password manager for your business software and applications, is it worth the time and expense of setting one up?

In short, yes… yes… YES!

A password manager is a great way to protect your business from fraud and cyber-attacks. And as cyber-crime grows and malware attacks increase (which they will continue to do this year), your business should be implementing as much protection as it can to keep your data safe.

Using long randomly generated passwords is one of the basic fundamentals of good data security. But those passwords are a nightmare to remember and type in.

Your password manager can not only create very strong passwords, but it will store and encrypt them, and even log you into your accounts at the click of a button. They improve security and make your life easy at the same time.

Drop us an email if you'd like a recommendation for a specific password manager.

Business gadget of the month

Now that you're back in the office, does it feel noisier than usual? Probably. So perhaps it's time to treat yourself to a pair of noise-cancelling ear buds.

Bose Quietcomfort earbuds are a little pricey, at £249, but they will block out all the annoying office sounds. And the sound quality is excellent for listening to music, or joining your next Zoom meeting.

Q A

QUESTION

What's the best thing I can do to protect my business from a cyber-attack?

ANSWER

Typically it's your people who are your weakest link. Criminals spend a lot of time trying to fool them. Invest in good cyber security training to identify risks and promote best practice.

QUESTION

Do we really need to backup our business data?

ANSWER

Yes!! Imagine the worst-case scenario, where all of your data is deleted or stolen. Your client information, your projects, everything. How long would your business survive without it? No more than a few weeks. A good backup is a business basic.

QUESTION

I know we need to encrypt our data, but what does that actually mean?

ANSWER

When you encrypt data, it goes from a 'plain text' version that anyone can read, to a coded version of the text that you need a special key to unlock. It means if your data falls into the wrong hands, the information can't be read or decoded.

This is how you can get in touch with us:
CALL: 01909 738343 option 2
EMAIL hello@proactiveitltd.co.uk
WEBSITE: www.proactiveitltd.com

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