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Black Swan News

Welcome to our December newsletter!

There's plenty to talk about in the world of cyber security right now.

Hello and Merry Christmas!

Welcome to the festive edition of our newsletter – we've put the mulled wine and mince pies to one side to bring you the latest news and updates as we head into the holidays.

While Christmas is often a time for reflection, we're taking a step forward by going straight to 2025 and looking at how the cyber security landscape could shape up in the new year.

One of our recent blog posts tackles this very subject, as we look at five talking points, trends and tips to watch out for, including:

- Advanced phishing threats

- Zero trust architecture
- The rise of ransomware
- Supply chain attacks
- Threats from IoT devices

There's plenty of useful information to help you prepare for the year ahead, and to ensure you stay safe and protected from cyber security threats.

To see what these could mean for you or your business in 2025, read our blog here.

Yorkshire businesses warned to be on alert

This news story caught our eye this month, especially as it's on our doorstep.

Businesses in Yorkshire are being warned they are at significant risk from cyber crime in the wake of a new survey from Resilience, in partnership with YouGov.

With cyber crime affecting 74 per cent of mid-to-large UK businesses last year, Yorkshire firms are showing the lowest cyber literacy levels in the country, with key findings revealing they are less concerned about major cyber threats, such as ransomware, data breaches and fraud, and are less likely to implement robust cyber security measures.

This is definitely food for thought for those businesses.

If you are a Yorkshire-based business and are worried about your cyber security, or you know of any that could be vulnerable to attack, please contact us here to discuss your options. We'd be only too happy to talk to you.

Security chief: UK underestimating threat of cyber attacks

At the beginning of December, the new CEO of the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) used his first major speech to deliver a stark warning to UK companies and public sector organisations.

As his speech marked the launch of the NCSC Annual Review 2024, Richard Horne warned that the UK is underestimating the severity of the online threat it faces from hostile states and criminal gangs.

He went on to speak about the "aggression and recklessness of cyber-activity we see coming from Russia" and how "China remains a highly sophisticated cyber-actor, with increasing ambition to project its influence beyond its borders".

Horne also added that the NCSC revealed a significant increase in serious cyber incidents during the past 12 months, of which 12 were at the top end of the scale – a trebling from the previous year.

Horne's words were intended to make an impact – that the private and public sectors must remain alert, a sentiment we wholly agree with.

You can read the full speech at the NCSC website here.

Safety in numbers

Another story we've been following closely this month is how the Blue Yonder ransomware attack continued to disrupt supermarket supply chains in the UK.

The likes of Morrisons and Sainsbury's were impacted, even weeks after the initial attack on US-based forecaster Blue Yonder.

If companies as big as these are being forced to re-evaluate their security measures and cyber policies, we hope that smaller, independent retailers are following suit and doing what they can to protect themselves.

For cyber criminals, everybody is a target.

We would be delighted to talk to any independent shops to discuss their cyber security, because it's better to be safe than sorry.

Keeping it social

Our monthly newsletter aims to keep you up to date with the latest cyber security news – but it is just once a month!

So much happens on a daily basis, and there is always plenty to talk about. While we could fill this newsletter three times over, we appreciate how busy you are and how you don't have the time to dedicate to reading reams of words, so we prefer to keep it short and to the point.

That's why we also like to keep you informed via our social media channels. Please check out our pages here, where we continue to bring you the latest news and updates:

LinkedIn

Facebook

Let the festivities begin!

So, back to the mulled wine and mince pies! Like most businesses, Black Swan will be taking a well-earned break for Christmas.

Our offices will be closed from Monday, December 23 until Monday, January 6.

However, we will continue to respond to any cyber incidents, should they arise, and we will remain available via email: hello@blackswancyber.co.uk

This is also an opportune moment to remind you that customers who take our 24/7/365 monitoring package will be covered by our Security Operations Centre during the festive period.

For more on how you can protect your business or organisation this Christmas, please see our managed cyber security packages here.

Be merry, be safe

As ever, thank you for reading this far. I'll resist the temptation to channel my inner Noddy Holder, and simply say: From everyone at Black Swan, we wish you a peaceful, safe and very happy Christmas 🎅

We'll see you in 2025!

Kevin

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