APRIL 2025

dsp IT SOLUTIONS

TALKING TECH
HELPING YOUR BUSINESS

FROM DAMIEN'S DESK:

Welcome to the April edition of the dSP IT Solutions Newsletter!

As we continue to navigate the ever-changing world of technology, it's more important than ever to stay informed and proactive in protecting our digital environments.

This month, we're diving into the crucial topic of malware and ransomware, exploring their differences, impacts, and the steps you can take to safeguard your business. As cybersecurity expert Stephane Nappo once said, "Cyber-Security is much more than a matter of IT."

Strengthen your password today. It can be a phrase that you will remember it doesn't have to be a series of numbers and letters. More importantly don't use the same password on all of your logins, vary them up.

And; You will see our fantastic editor Jo, has come up with another insightful joke. Thanks Jo!

Stay Safe

Damien Pepper - Director
dSP IT Solutions

DID YOU KNOW?

The first ever 1GB hard drive weighed 29kgs!

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SPOTTING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MALWARE AND RANSOMWARE

Bad software includes malware and ransomware. They can damage your computer or steal your data. It is critical to understand the difference between them to protect yourself and your business effectively.
This article will help you understand both types of threats.

What is Malware?
Malware is a general term that means "malicious software." This includes many types of harmful programs. Malware can do different bad things to your computer, such as corrupting files or stealing personal information.

Types of Malware
There are many types of malware. Here are some common ones:
Viruses:
These spread from one computer to another.
Worms:
They can copy themselves without your help.
Trojans:
They trick you into thinking they're good programs.
Spyware:
This type watches what you do on your computer.

What Malware Does
Malware can cause a lot of problems. It might:
• Slow down your computer
• Delete your files
• Steal your personal info
• Use your computer to attack others

What is Ransomware?
Ransomware is a type of malware. It locks your files or your entire computer. Then it demands money to unlock them. It is a form of digital kidnapping of your data.

How Ransomware Works
Ransomware goes by a pretty basic pattern:
1. It infects your computer, normally through an e-mail or download.
2. It encrypts your files. This means it locks them with a secret code.
3. It displays a message. The message requests money to decrypt your files.
4. You may be provided with a key to unlock the files if you pay. In other cases, the attackers abscond with your money.

Types of Ransomware
There are primarily two types of ransomware:
Locker ransomware:
This locks the whole computer.
Crypto ransomware:
This only encrypts your files.

How are Malware and Ransomware Different?
Goals
Malware:
Harm your computer, steal data, or use your computer for attacks.
Ransomware:
Lock your files and demand payment.
Methods
Malware:
Works in secret. You might not know it's there.
Ransomware:
Shows up. It needs to make its presence known on your computer and demand money for its removal.
Effects
Malware:
There are several different effects malware can have on your computer.
Ransomware:
Computer or important files are always locked.

How Does It Get onto Your Computer?
Common Entry Points
• Through email attachments
• Via phony websites
• Via a USB drive with an infection
• From using outdated software

How Can You Protect Yourself?
• Keep your software up to date
• Use strong passwords
• Don't click on strange links or attachments
• Backup your files regularly

Why It Pays to Know the Difference
• Better Prevention. The more you know what you are against, the better your chance at taking the right steps to keep yourself safe.
• Faster Response. If you are under attack, knowing what type of threat it is helps you take quicker action.

We want to keep you secure in the face of all of cyberthreats. You can download a FREE COPY of Cybersecurity Essentials for Business Owners here:
https://www.dspit.com.au/cybershield/

Why strong passwords matter

Weak passwords put your business at risk.

Scammers can hack a simple 8-character password **IN UNDER AN HOUR.**

Common passwords like "123456" or "password" are cracked instantly.

THE RESULT?

Stolen data, lost money, and broken trust.

To strengthen passwords:

1 **Use at least 12 characters** with a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols.

2 **Avoid personal information,** like names, birthdays, or pet names.

3 **Never use the same password** across multiple accounts.

4 **Use a password manager** to create and store secure logins.

5 **Turn on multi-factor authentication (MFA)** for added protection.

Need help improving your business's cyber security? Get in touch.

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IS IT TIME FOR A DEVICE UPGRADE? CHECK FOR THESE 7 SIGNS

Technology is fast, and in no time, our gadgets get outdated. It is quite tricky to determine when an upgrade is needed. Here are the seven main signs that it is time to get a new gadget.

• Is Your Device Slow and Laggy? Slow performance is a major indicator. If your device takes an eternity to boot up, that might be a sign to get an upgrade.
• How's Your Battery Life? Battery problems are a clear upgrade sign. If your device dies quickly, it's a red flag. Needing to charge multiple times a day is not normal. A healthy device should last most of the day on one charge.
• Is Your Storage Always Full? Running out of space all the time? That's a good indication that an upgrade is due. It is frustrating when you can't install new apps. Constantly deleting photos and files is a pain. More storage is one great reason to upgrade.
• Are You Missing Out on New Features? New devices boast cool new features. If your device can't get the latest updates, you're missing out. Newer models often boast better cameras and screens. They also have faster processors and more memory.
• How Old Is Your Device? Age plays a huge factor in device performance. Most smart phones last around 2-3 years, and laptops, perhaps 3-5 years. Older devices struggle with new software and apps.

• Are Repairs Costing Too Much? If the repair costs are high, upgrading may be wiser. Sometimes, the repair costs are almost equal to a new device. In such cases, it is often better to buy a new one.
• Does Your Device Support the Latest Software? Older devices often can't run new software. This may be a security risk and also means you miss new features. Consider upgrading if your device can't update to the latest OS.

Ready for a Fresh Start?
Don't wrestle with an older, slower device; upgrade to one that will serve you much better. If you need help upgrading, contact us today.

WE LOVE REFERRALS

The greatest gift anyone can give us is a referral to your business friends. Simply introduce me via email damien@dspit.com.au or (03) 9001 0817 and I'll take it from there.

NEED A LAUGH?

Why was the Easter Bunny hired for the job?

He had the most eggs-perience!

APRIL TRIVIA QUESTION . . .
Test your knowledge!

The answer to last month's question was b) Two Pizzas. Can you guess the answer to April's trivia question below? The answer will be revealed in next month's newsletter.

What does URL stand for?

a) Uniform Resource Locator
b) Unified Resource Location
c) Unidentified Resource Locator
d) Uniform Reasonable Location