

Stack Group

Summer NEWSLETTER
2017

WRITTEN BY

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Managing Director

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The logo consists of the word "STACK" in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue circle. The letter "A" is stylized with two small yellow dots above it.

STACK



Introduction

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Welcome to The Stack Group Summer 2017 Newsletter

In this edition Group Chairman, Jeff Orr, shares his Industry Insights about cyber-security, the new online marketplace for ransomware-on-demand and some of the security surprises which can arise from The Internet of Things.

We would also like to invite you to our GDPR event. This is one of the hottest topics in business right now and with the deadline for compliance fast approaching it is vital that your organisation is aware and prepared! On 19th September 2017, Stack will be hosting a GDPR event in Manchester. Unlike many events, which simply introduce the legislation, our event will present a “Pathway to Compliance” framework, meaning that by the end of the day you will have identified a clear set of actions to take away with you in order to start or continue along your pathway to compliance.

Business Owners, Managing Directors, Information Officers, IT Security Managers and Finance Officers at your organisation cannot afford to miss this event, so if they do not receive this newsletter, we would like to ask that you make them aware of the event. Attendance is free of charge – email our Marketing Manager, Lucy Evans on levans@stack.co.uk for more information or to book a place. You can also read our GDPR article later in this Newsletter.

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Finally, we would like to make our customers aware of product trials and knowledge share events which you can access completely free of charge. Take a web vulnerability assessment, trial our cloud backup tool for 30 days, try out Veeam Cloud Connect or test our Office 365 Backup Solution – all at no cost. Call 0151 521 2202 for information about our free trials. You can also sign up for our free webinar - The Evolution of DR - Gaining IT Resilience – which takes place on 6th September 2017. Again, email our Marketing Manager, Lucy Evans on levans@stack.co.uk for more information or to book a place.

We hope you have a fantastic few months between now and our next newsletter, which is due out in Autumn. If we can be of assistance with any of our IT Services, we would like to ask that you think of Stack and give us a call.

Best wishes,

Steve Cobham
Managing Director
Stack Group
0151 521 2202



Industry Insight

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Cyber-Security, Ransomware & The Internet of Things

In this edition of Industry Insights our Group Chairman, Jeff Orr, shares his thoughts on cyber-security, the new online marketplace for Ransomware-on-demand and some of the security surprises which can arise from The Internet of Things (IoT).

Unsurprisingly security is one of the hottest topics within the IT industry right now. The LA Hackfest has shed light on one or two startling issues such as the fact that most ATM's (cash machines to us) are nothing more than Windows XP PC's with a safe on top. The TV program Click even ran a piece showing one being hacked via its internal USB port and dishing out cash.

Speaking of cash or rather bitcoins, Ransomware like WannaCry is still marauding around wreaking havoc on unpatched and unprotected systems. Unbelievably you can just Google "Ransomware" and find a free download of code which you can modify to your own demand and then launch it on its way. Even more incredible, if you lack the skill or can't be bothered to edit the free one, there's a site where for \$125 you can just fill in a form for how much you want to demand and where you want to be paid and they'll set up and run the code for you. They even provide a support desk service. The final kicker is that if you are too lazy to pick your targets, there is a service for that too!

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Industry Insight

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Although the average age for “ordinary” criminals is 47 the average for hackers is a mere 17. When asked, most say they just do it for fun and never use the credit card details that they steal.

The Internet of Things (IoT) continues to be a popular conversation starter amongst the technically inclined. Personally I find it alarming for a couple of reasons. Firstly the list of bugs already appearing in connected things; such as the NEST software that kept turning off central heating - leaving users in the cold, or the Samsung Smart Fridges with calendar bugs. Secondly I wonder about the proliferation of devices that can be compromised like the CCTV cameras and PVRs that were used to launch the DDoS attack on Dyn that brought down Airbnb, Amazon, BBC, CNN, Netflix, PayPal, Twitter and Visa to name just the well-known brands. Adding millions of smart white-goods is just going to amplify the magnitude of the problem. Remember you can rent a DDoS attack for less than two pounds.

Don't get me started on Alexa or Google Home or any of the voice recognition offerings. Just ask where, besides on the device, they store what they hear.

Finally, we would advise that if you would like any help or advice regarding cyber-security issues, contact a reputable cyber security specialist such as Stack.



GDPR Challenges and Implications

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Challenges and Implications

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is the new EU regulation which is designed to strengthen data protection at organisations which hold or process the personal data of EU citizens.

The regulation is due to come in to effect on 28th May 2018, meaning that organisations have just over 12 months to ensure that they are compliant.

Harmonisation Across the EU

The regulation is intended to establish a single set of rules across Europe. The thinking behind this is it will make it simpler and cheaper for organisations to do business across the Union. It is important to note that organisations outside the EU are also subject to the regulation, just by collecting data concerning an EU citizen. Despite Brexit, the UK will be implementing the GDPR.

Affected Industries

The GDPR will apply to a large number of industries across the globe, with almost all sectors being affected by the regulation. Industries that process huge amounts of sensitive customer data such as the legal and financial industries, as well as social media, creative and telecommunication agencies, are all at high risk. SME's in particular must also pay great attention to the regulation, as traditionally they lack the stringent security measures required to keep data safe from an external breach.

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GDPR Challenges and Implications

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GDPR – Key Challenges

Under the GDPR some of the key challenges for business include:

Expanded Rights of Data Subjects - The strengthened data protection rights under GDPR give data subjects more control over their personal data. When initially gathering personal information, consent must be given by the individual for their details to be processed by the organisation who wishes to use it. Data subjects will also be able to ask whether personal data concerning them is being processed, where it is held, and for what purpose. Finally, an individual will also have a right to be forgotten, whereby at any time, they can ask to have all information about them completely erased.

Fines - When GDPR is implemented, there will be a substantial increase in fines for organisations who do not comply. In the UK, the power to issue fines will sit with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO). Fines will range from 4% of global revenue or up to €20 million, whichever is the greater. In Oct 2016, the ICO issued a fine of £400,000 to Talk Talk for their 2015 data breach. Under the GDPR 4% Global Revenue Rule, that fine would total £72 million.

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Breach Notification - When GDPR is enforced, breach notification will become mandatory. A breach may take place in a variety of different ways, for example, accidental data disclosure by a staff member, cyber-attack resulting in data theft or malicious data sharing by a disgruntled employee. Whatever the event, all breaches must be reported to the supervisory authority - which in the UK will be the ICO - within 72 hours. If reported outside of this timescale, a further fine will be issued. However, there are some exceptions to this requirement. If you can show that the personal data was subject to technological protection measures rendering it unintelligible to unauthorized people (e.g. encryption), you don't need to notify affected data subjects of the breach.

Implications - In the lead up to the implementation date, many organisations will need to plan and modify their systems and operations in order to achieve compliance. Initially businesses will need to understand where all of their data is stored as well as how to manage the consent process. Further to this, organisations will need robust technology and security in place which has the ability to scale and protect all of the data which is in its possession.

To find out more about GDPR and how Information Technology can help you prepare for this regulation, we are hosting acknowledge share event at The Etihad Stadium on 19th September 2017. Please continue reading for further information.



Event Invitation: GDPR - Your Pathway To Compliance

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Event Details

Date:

Tuesday 19th Sept 2017

Venue:

The Mancunian Suite, Etihad Stadium, Ashton New Rd, Manchester M11 3FF

Catering:

Lunch will be provided on the day. Drinks & Canapés will be served
14:00 – 14:30

**For more information or to book a place at this event, please contact
Lucy Evans on levans@stack.co.uk or call 0151 521 2202**

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Event Invitation: GDPR - Your Pathway To Compliance

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Event Content

With the GDPR deadline fast approaching it is vital that organisations prepare for the new regulation.

This event will help you to answer some of the key questions surrounding the GDPR such as what exactly it is and when it will come in to force. Unlike many other events, which focus on simply introducing and explaining the legislation, our event will go on to present a simple “Pathway to Compliance” framework, which allows you to identify the specific needs of your organisation in relation to the GDPR, and the activities which need to be undertaken in order to achieve full compliance. By attending this event you will not only get a clearer understanding of the upcoming legislation, you will also identify a clear set of actions to take away with you from the event.

Stack Group is presenting this event in partnership with Company 85 and Clearer Thoughts Ltd. It is free to attend and is suitable for Managing Directors, Business Owners, IT Managers, Information Officers, HR Managers and Finance Officers/Managers.

For more information or to book a place at this event, please contact Lucy Evans on levans@stack.co.uk or call 0151 521 2202. For the full event agenda, please visit: www.stack.co.uk/gdpr-event

Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery

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Information is at the heart of every business and organisation in the UK, with access to information being critical to success. Unfortunately it is not uncommon for data and information to be lost during a disaster – be it flood, power outage, human error or computer virus. Just as a car comes with a spare tyre, your business needs a simple and effective solution to get back on the road in the event of a data or system outage.

When it comes to disasters and data loss, many organisations think that “it will never happen to me.” The reality is that simply hoping nothing bad will happen is not a great strategy for protecting your business. To make sure you are prepared, you need a business continuity solution in place which allows your business to recover within a quick and realistic timescale.

To help our customers to understand more about Disaster Recovery Stack are hosting a live knowledge share event on 6th September 2017. Join us for our webinar “The Evolution of DR – Gaining IT Resilience”, where Olly Kennedy from Stack Group will help you to answer these critical questions:

- What is Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery and why is it important?
- What are the basic considerations towards achieving true IT resilience?
- What are the key questions to ask to ensure that total data protection aligns to my goals?
- What is the true impact to my business from a single disaster event?

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As well as the interactive webinar, attendees will receive a complimentary Guide "What is BC/DR and Why Do I Need It?" which details what you need to know about BC/DR and the infrastructure needed to withstand any disaster.

To book a place on the webinar Register Now or Email levans@stack.co.uk

Thank you for reading our Summer 2017 Newsletter.

We hope you have a fantastic few months between now and our next newsletter, which is due out in autumn. If we can be of assistance with any of our IT Services, we would like to ask that you think of Stack and give us a call.

Best Wishes,

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