



Four things worth knowing from the week, and one worth doing something about.

INTERESTING

A lawyer let ChatGPT write his brief, and the court fined him

The New Mexico Supreme Court has held a defence lawyer in contempt after he filed an appeal brief quoting testimony from witnesses who never existed. He had fed the trial transcript into ChatGPT and filed what came back without checking it. He was fined US\$5,000 and barred from that court while a disciplinary investigation runs.

What this means for you: The failure was not the software, it was that nobody read the output against the source. If your staff use AI to summarise a contract, a quote or a meeting, make the rule explicit: whoever sends it is the person who checked it. Invented detail is most convincing inside a document that is otherwise correct.

Source: arstechnica.com

CYBER SECURITY

Scam callers are posing as IT and asking staff to set up a passkey

Microsoft says extortion groups have been phoning and texting staff while posing as their own company's help desk, saying a passkey or sign-in setting needs updating urgently. The link leads to a convincing copy of the Microsoft sign-in page, which hands over the password and the live session at once. The attacker then registers their own MFA method to keep access, and works through SharePoint, OneDrive and Exchange.

What this means for you: Set the rule with your team before the call comes: nobody from IT will ring out of the blue and talk you through changing how you sign in. Hang up and call your provider on the number you already have. If such a call has already happened, say so the same day, because sessions can be shut down quickly.

Source: bleepingcomputer.com

September's Excel update quietly breaks paste

Microsoft has confirmed that September's security update for Excel, KB5002914, can make pasting fail silently: the copied cells stay selected, nothing lands, and there is no error message. It affects the one-off, boxed versions of Office, 2016 through to 2024, not the Excel that comes with a Microsoft 365 subscription. Microsoft has it listed as a known issue and is still investigating.

What this means for you: If someone in the office has spent the week fighting Excel and blaming the spreadsheet, this may well be why. Only the one-off versions are affected, so check which one you are on. Rolling the update back also removes a security fix, so that is a call for your IT provider.

Source: support.microsoft.com

iOS 27 has landed, minus two features

Apple released iOS 27 and iPadOS 27 to everyone on Monday, and has confirmed on its own product pages that two features shown during the beta are not in it: suggestions in Messages, and the Passwords app fixing a compromised password for you. Both are now due in a future update, with no date given.

What this means for you: The password one was the useful one, so for now it stays a manual job. Open the Passwords app on your iPhone, look at its security warnings, and change anything flagged as having turned up in a breach. Ten minutes, and worth mentioning to anyone else in the business running work email on an iPhone.

Source: macrumors.com

Someone left. Deleting their account is step seven of seven.

Microsoft publishes its own process for removing a former employee, and it runs to seven steps. Deleting the account is the last of them. The six before it cover blocking sign-in, saving the contents of the mailbox, wiping the phone, redirecting the email to whoever is picking up the work, and handing over the OneDrive files.

The order matters because of the clock. Once the account is deleted, Microsoft keeps the mailbox and the OneDrive content for 30 days and then removes it permanently. Take only the licence away and the mail, contacts and calendar go on that same 30 day clock, although the OneDrive files stay reachable.

What this means for you: Pick the last person who left and check three things: that their sign-in is actually blocked, that email to their old address still reaches someone, and that the shared logins they knew, the reception mailbox, the social accounts, the alarm code, have been changed. The first two are a question for whoever manages your Microsoft 365. The third is yours, and it is the one that gets missed, because it is not attached to a person.

Source: learn.microsoft.com

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