



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

INTERESTING

The graduate jobs apocalypse is not turning up in the data

Economists Robert Fairlie and Jane Wu, in a CESifo working paper, checked United States census data on graduates aged 22 to 25 and found no sign AI is displacing them. Unemployment in that group over the 2026 northern summer was 7.3 per cent, inside the range seen every year since 2022. It contradicts a Stanford study reported in August that used payroll data and concluded the opposite, so the argument is live rather than settled.

What this means for you: If you have left a junior role unfilled on the theory that software will absorb the work, the evidence for that is thinner than the headlines suggest. Decide it on the work actually in front of you.

Source: arstechnica.com

CYBER SECURITY

Fake "your computer is infected" screens are arriving through Google ads

Security firm Netskope found tech support scam ads running on ordinary sites: maps, weather, real estate, sport. A click fills the screen with a convincing infection warning, hides the cursor, disables the usual exit keys and slows the browser, so the machine feels broken and the number on screen looks like the only way out. Nothing is actually locked or infected. Between 31 August and 14 September, Netskope saw staff at 619 of its client organisations click these ads, Australia third by volume behind the United States and Japan.

What this means for you: No legitimate company asks you to ring a number shown in a browser warning, which is worth saying to your team before it happens. To get out, hold the Escape key down for several seconds and close the tab, or quit the browser with Ctrl+Shift+Esc on Windows, Cmd+Option+Esc on a Mac, then reopen it without restoring the session.

Source: arstechnica.com

An Office update switched off Office 2016 and 2019 licences

KB5002907 was released around 23 September for Microsoft 365 installations more than 90 days behind on updates. On some machines running the one-off Office 2016 and Office 2019 it deactivated the licence, leaving Word and Excel reporting "Unlicensed Product", and in a few cases removed Office altogether. Microsoft paused the rollout on 24 September and says to reactivate with the original product key, or reinstall the same edition where the apps have gone.

What this means for you: The licence is fine and nobody needs to buy anything, but the fix needs that original key, so it is worth knowing who can find it. This is the second Office update in a month to trip up the one-off versions, and those left Microsoft support on 14 October 2025, so their replacement belongs on an agenda rather than waiting for the next surprise.

Source: support.microsoft.com

The iPhone 18 Pro is a better phone and a weak reason to upgrade

Ars Technica's review of the iPhone 18 Pro, on sale since September, describes a quietly iterative year: a faster chip, better heat handling and battery life, a smaller Dynamic Island, and manual camera controls including a variable aperture. Its verdict is that an iPhone 17 Pro owner has little reason to move, a 15 Pro with a healthy battery is still fine, and this model costs more than last year's.

What this means for you: If the business replaces phones on a two year habit, replace on condition instead: battery health below about 80 per cent, or a handset too old for the current iOS. Security updates follow the supported iOS version, not the age of the box.

Source: arstechnica.com

The cheapest fraud control you own is a phone call

The ACSC's guidance on preventing business email compromise is mostly process, not technology. It asks for an approval step in front of any request to change payment details or make a large transfer, confirmed by ringing the sender on a number you already hold, never one taken from the email. This fraud rarely involves breaking into anything of yours: the request arrives from someone else's compromised mailbox, or a lookalike domain, and asks you to update the account on file.

What this means for you: Write the rule down for whoever pays your invoices: no change to a supplier's bank details takes effect until someone has rung them on the number already on file and heard it confirmed, and anything over a threshold you set, say \$5,000, needs a second approval. Say the same to your own customers, so a call back from them is expected rather than awkward.

Source: cyber.gov.au

ALSO ON THE 1300 INTECH BLOG

AI Automation for Small Business: Where to Start

Our guide to choosing the first business process to hand over to AI, and to deciding where a person has to stay in the loop. It is written for an owner who is interested but has not started, and it sets out a 30 day plan that spends the first fortnight thinking rather than buying.

Read it at 1300intech.com.au/blog/ai-automation-for-small-business

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