

THE QUESTION IS NO LONGER **IF** YOUR
ORGANISATION WILL FACE A CYBER INCIDENT,
BUT **WHEN**. THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW.

THE AJT TIMES JUNE 2026

Hi there,

Welcome to the AJT Times Cyber Security Special.

According to Hiscox's 2025 Cyber Readiness Report, **94% of SMEs plan to increase their cyber security investment in the next 12 months.** They're updating employee training (70%), hiring specialist staff (60%), and investing in software to identify and manage threats (54%). **Are you with them, or are you making it easy for attackers to damage your business?**

Too often, businesses only take cyber security seriously after they've suffered an attack which could've cost them considerable amounts of money and significant reputational damage. **This is our plea to you to not be one of those businesses. Speak to us today to get your free cyber security review booked in.**

Read on for more info, plus an expert look at the damage caused by the attacks on Co-op and M&S last year, what Co-op did to come out on top in the face of a savage breach, and what you can learn from them.

All the best,

Russell & the AJT Managed IT Services Team

THE CYBER SECURITY LANDSCAPE 2026: KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

We've scoured the 250+ pages of three key reports to pull out the key stats and expert opinions so you don't have to.

CYBER ATTACKS IN THE UK

612K

UK businesses experienced a breach or attack 2024/2025

Gov.uk Cyber Security Breaches Survey

93%

Businesses that experienced a cyber crime were hit by phishing

Hiscox Cyber Readiness Report 2025

65%

UK cyber attack rate - second highest behind Germany (67%)

Gov.uk Cyber Security Breaches Survey

TOP 3 EMERGING AI-DRIVEN THREATS IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS:

1. Social engineering attacks
2. AI malware & phishing attacks
3. AI taking control of company data

Hiscox Cyber Readiness Report 2025

THE IMPACT OF CYBER ATTACKS IN THE UK

Business damage caused by SME cyber attacks:

33% Incurred fines that damaged financial health

30% Had lower business performance indicators

29% Had greater difficulty attracting new clients

The human impact of SME cyber attacks:

39% High stress for employees

32% Burnout

31% More sick days

PREVENTION & RECOVERY

Nearly all who have experienced an attack (96%) believe better awareness or understanding of cyber attacks and procedures is key to better response time for future breaches.

Hiscox Cyber Readiness Report 2025

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

“Nobody wants to believe that their business operations could grind to a halt following a cyber attack. But any leader who fails to prepare for that scenario is jeopardising their business’s future.”

**Richard Horne, CEO
National Cyber Security
Centre (NCSC)**

Hiscox Cyber Readiness Report 2025

“Don’t be an easy target; prioritise cyber risk management embed it into your governance, and lead from the top.”

**Anne Keast-Butler,
Director, GCHQ**

Hiscox Cyber Readiness Report 2025

M&S AND CO-OP CASE STUDY: WHAT LOCAL BUSINESSES CAN LEARN



In April 2025, M&S and the Co-op were both targeted by the criminal hacking group, Scattered Spider.

M&S lost £300m in operating profit, wasn't able to take online orders for 46 days and it took 15 weeks for click-and-collect operations to be fully restored.

The Co-op, because of its investment in security monitoring and preparation, contained the breach quickly. Stores stayed open and ransomware was never deployed, though supply disruption still caused significant damage.

The same attacker but very different outcomes. Find out more about the attacks, their impact and what your business can learn in our case study.

[Read the full case study](#)

The right measures won't make your business invincible. But they'll help make sure that when something happens, it doesn't become a crisis you can't recover from.

If you haven't booked your free cyber security review yet, get in touch. Reply to this email, call 01273 600089, or speak to anyone in the team.

Thank you for reading. Keep an eye out for the next edition of the AJT Times!

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