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ALERT

for businesses as cyber attacks set to double crime figures

Businesses in the region have been alerted to protect themselves from sophisticated cyber criminals, amid concerns that attacks are set to double the national crime figures.

Minster's Managing Director, Nick Marlow, has issued the warning saying businesses, especially SMEs, are under '**extreme risk**' as criminals create ways to simultaneously **hack thousands** of global IT systems.

The alert comes amid concern that **crime statistics** for England and Wales will **double this summer** when the Office for National Statistics (ONS) begin to include a category of **cybercrime**, alongside other types such as burglary, when it publishes its Crime Survey on 21st July.

A field trial by the ONS last summer found **2.5 million incidents of "computer misuse"** - affecting 46 for every 1,000 adults in England and Wales.

Nick said: "Viruses and other malware are **constantly evolving** but the blunt truth for any business is if you don't have **adequate protection** through properly

deployed anti-virus software, **you will be attacked.**

"Online criminals are becoming **increasingly sophisticated** and it means businesses could have their systems affected even if they aren't the intended target.

"There are **countless examples** from across the country where businesses have unintentionally sent **spam emails** to customers and compromised their **security, personal information and reputation**. Even worse, there is a growing trend in businesses having their **files encrypted** and held to ransom. That's just the tip of the iceberg."

To combat the cyber criminals, Nick advises that businesses need to be **pro-active** and carry out a full review of their network security, **identify their potential failure points** and review their disaster recovery plan.



*Nick Marlow,
Managing Director at Minster*

"All desktop computers, laptops, mobile devices and servers connected to a network have to be protected. **Statistics show that people are more likely to be attacked through their computer than in person.** It's frightening but true and that's why businesses and individuals **must take action**, protect themselves with robust and more sophisticated anti-virus software, and fight back against cybercrime."

The warning comes after police forces in Minster's region urged businesses to sign up to the West Midlands Regional Cyber Security Information Sharing Partnership (CiSP).

Minster have compiled a 'Cyber Security' guide for customers which gives helpful tips on how best to protect yourself. For your FREE copy of this guide, please email info@minstermicro.co.uk.

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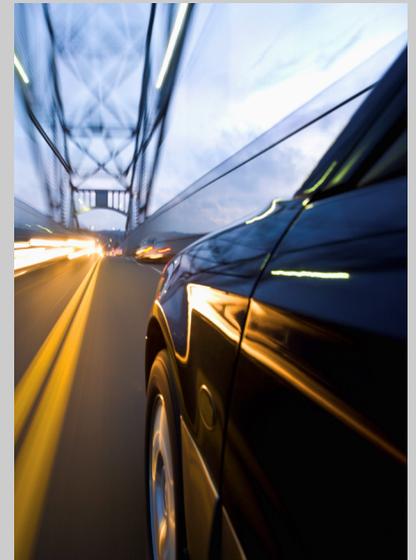
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Payroll Upgrade Success!

After another successful payroll upgrade season, Minster are pleased to announce that our remote upgrades will continue on to next year.

After sending out a short survey to see how our payroll customers found their upgrade experience and we are very pleased with the results...

- **100% of those who had a 'remote' upgrade would do it again.**
- **100% were either VERY satisfied or satisfied with the level of communication during their upgrade**

Our online 'Knowledge Base' proved successful with 90% that used it found it easy to use.

For more results from the survey, please email maria.burdett@minstermicro.co.uk

Made In The Midlands Exhibition Success

On Thursday 12th May, Made in the Midlands held the biggest event in company history, in the form of the 2016 Made in the Midlands Exhibition in Wolverhampton.

The exhibition saw over 1,500 attendees from the manufacturing sector in attendance. Minster were one of 150 exhibitors there which led to the introduction of new customers and a wealth of discussions regarding potential collaborations.

Made in the Midlands CEO, Jason Pitt said: "I was delighted with the amount of attendees at this year's exhibition. Our exhibitors were fantastic ambassadors of the sector. They displayed passion and enthusiasm for succeeding within this industry and we are sure that we will continue to build our reputation going forward with our future events."

For more information, please visit www.madeinthemidlands.co.uk

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