



Holding on to things longer than we should.

We're all guilty of it from time to time. Whether it's a pair of trainers (like my trusty Adidas Gazelles on the front cover), an old pair of jeans, or even a relationship that's not what it used to be, we all hold on to things longer than we should. It's the same with computer software too.

So why do we do it well it's familiar, comfortable, just easier sometimes, and what harm does it do anyway?

In the case of my old trainers, no harm at all ... aside from the occasional disapproving glance or comment from my family.

For computer software however, the answer is quite different.

The world of computer software is a constant battle, being fought between the software vendors and the hackers, with you and I caught somewhere in the middle.

When a piece of software is first released, it's like a new shiny toy for the vendors, and they go to great lengths to keep it up to date and secure, also protecting those of us who have chosen to use it.

After a while however, when the next new shiny toy comes along, they spend less effort on the old software.

For some time, vendors will continue to support older software.

They'll continue to release security updates and patches, but in the end, all software reaches the end of its life (like my comfortable blue gazelles).

At this point if you're still using the software, you're on your own. Without the vendor, the battle is between you and the bad guys ...

A big problem is looming at the end of 2019.

Some of the most commonly used business software is coming to the end of its life on 14th January 2020. And when it does, it will no longer be supported by Microsoft.

Based on current usage, half of all businesses are going to be affected by this “2020 problem”, where software will continue to work, but when it goes wrong, there’ll be no one to fix it.

And that’s what the bad guys love. Cyber criminals love old software because it leaves companies extremely vulnerable to attack.

Here's the list of Microsoft software that's going to expire.

- Windows 7
- Office 2010
- Exchange 2010
- Small Business Server 2011
- Windows Server 2008

What should you do if you're using any of the old software?

IT plays an integral role in your business, so any upgrade requires thought and careful planning. Upgrading your software in plenty of time is essential if you want to stay operational.

With an estimated half of all businesses in the same situation as you, resources will be scarce for last-minute upgrades, so you need to start making arrangements now.

And if you need some help, give us a call: **0118 435 9991**

What happened to the Gazelles?

My trusted blue gazelles finally became end of life ... or my life at least. They're destined for the charity shop and a whole new life where I hope someone gets as much pleasure from them as I have.

My blue gazelles are dead. Long live my Puma Suedes.

