# Newsletter

## No Experience Needed!

The global ransomware threat is expected to increase over the next two years due to Artificial Intelligence (AI), warns the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

AI is already being used in malicious cyber activity and will almost certainly increase the volume and impact of cyber attacks, according to the new term of AI on the cyber threat assessment, published by NCSC.

The NCSC report highlights that by reducing the entry barriers for inexperienced cybercriminals, hackers-for-hire, and hacktivists, AI empowers less skilled threat actors to conduct more efficient access and information-gathering operations.

This heightened accessibility, coupled with AI's ability to enhance victim targeting, is anticipated to escalate the global ransomware threat over the next two years.

While it is essential to focus on the risks posed by AI, we must not be downhearted as it presents cyber defenders, like ourselves, powerful tools for our armoury. For example, AI can improve the detection and triage of cyber attacks and identify malicious emails and phishing campaigns, ultimately making them easier to counteract.

## Scam Alert

At Interfuture Security, we have access to the latest National Cyber Security Centre data and other sources of scam and fraud information which is not in the public domain, and therefore not available to the general public.

There is, however, a useful website (www.actionfraud.police.uk) that we ourselves refer to and which you may wish to save as a book mark.

It has been an exciting start to the year for Interfuture, as we hit the ground running and take on two new clients.

Recruiting in advance has paid off and our shiny new engineers have settled in so well, it feels like they have been here for ever! Let's Hear It For The Boy(s)*:

Alistair
Archie
Charlie

Despite all the bad news, bad weather and Bad Habits*, spring is just around the corner and I, for one, am California Dreaming* ...

*Footloose
*Ed Sheeran
*Mamas & Papas

## Tips & Tricks

### Outlook - Find Time

If you are finding it difficult to schedule a meeting at a mutually convenient time, use Outlooks New Scheduling Poll:

- Compose your email, incl. recipients
- Click on New Scheduling Poll (top ribbon)
- Customise options as appropriate
- Outlook will offer a selection of times based on your availability (and possibly that of colleagues with your organisation)
- Click Next, Create / Insert Poll
- Send email
- Recipients can then select their preferrences and Outlook will calculate the best time
- Click on Poll for results

## What's Happening in February

Thankfully Veganuary and Dry January are now over and we move onto more enjoyable days such as Shrove (pancake) Tuesday on 13th February, although please bear in mind that this is also National Heart Month, so go easy on them ..

Apparently, Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the practice of 'shriving', an older term for the practice of confession. Before the onset of Lent, Christians would confess and receive forgiveness from sins so that they could enter Lent guilt-free.

Shrove Tuesday would be an opportunity for families to eat certain foods that would be banned during Lent, such as meat, eggs, flour, milk and fatty foods. Pancakes became popular in England as a way of using up such ingredients that remained in pantries. Who knew?!!

Other notable days are: World Cancer Day and Yorkshire Pudding Day both on Sunday 4th and also, Time to Talk Day on Tuesday 6th, which encourages everyone to be more open about mental health.

## In Praise of AI ..

There is a lot of fear around AI but there is also a lot to get excited about. The explosion in ai web/app tools is enabling people to do their job better, faster and with less effort. Each month we will review a collection and bring you those that seem most useful:

**DALL.E 2** ★★★★★

This is an AI system that can create realistic images and art from a description in natural language.