

## Interfuture News

We're in summer properly now! For those lucky enough to be on holiday over the next few months, we hope you have a lovely time.

We're trying to bring some sunshine to your IT in this edition of the **Interfuture Systems Newsletter** as we look at some green IT tips, as well as other advice and guidance designed to help your IT work better.

We hope you find the newsletter informative.

Any feedback or questions please contact us via our website or on our social media channels.



## VPNs

A **Virtual Private Network (VPN)** is a service that creates a secure, encrypted connection between your device (or multiple devices, depending on the service) and the internet. Why is this useful? There are a few reasons:

**Privacy and Security:** VPNs prevent cyber criminals (as well as government agencies or sites that track your data) from accessing your IP address and encrypt your internet traffic, keeping your search data secure.

**Access Restricted Content:** some online content is locked to certain regions. The best example of this is probably **Netflix** - the content that appears on the UK version is different to what appears on the US version depending on who has the rights to certain media. By using a **VPN**, you can make it appear that your device is in another country, allowing you to access the alternative site.

**Safe Public Wi-Fi Use:** public Wi-Fi is notorious for lacking effective cyber security measures, making it easy for bad actors to access your data. A **VPN** adds a layer of protection by making it more difficult to be tracked.

**Bypass Censorship:** some countries have strict internet censorship that prevents certain sites from being accessed. **VPNs** allow users to get around this.

If you'd like an extra level of privacy and security, as well as the added benefits of being able to access content from across the globe, then it is a worthwhile investment. However, if you already have a good level of cyber security, it might not be necessary.



## One Man's Trash...

If you're looking to expand your IT, but you're on a budget, we recommend trying refurbished devices. Some won't be appropriate as they might be outdated, but if you're lucky you may find a near-new machine for a fraction of the price.

It is also better for the environment than buying a new machine, which is a nice bonus!





# It IS Easy Being Green

There are a few simple steps you can take to make your IT more environmentally friendly.

Ensure the power saving mode on your PC is active, and switch off devices completely where possible.

Additionally, try to promote green IT use to colleagues.

Together we can save energy and reduce costs: a win-win!



- **Diminished performance** – without these features, your PC will slow down and crash more often.

Obviously, those are all negatives – there are no upsides to sticking with **Windows 10**. If you switched to **Windows 11** though you'll receive:

- **Stronger security** – the most up to date protect, with improved hardware needed to run it, resulting in better efficiency.
- **Built in AI features** – **Copilot** is integrated into the OS to help with search, settings, productivity and automation.
- **Modern interface - Windows 11** is designed to be more user friendly, with an emphasis on making multitasking easier, as well as just an improved overall aesthetic.
- **Better integration** – with **Phone Link** to help sync seamlessly across devices, as well as support for programs like **Microsoft Teams**.
- **Future-proofing** – **Microsoft** claim that support for **Windows 11** will continue into the 2030s.

So, it is time to update **Windows 11**: trust it will be worth it!

# This One Goes To 11

While **Windows 10** has served us well, come October, all support for **Windows 10** will finally end and all users will be encouraged to move to the newer **Windows 11**.

What does this mean for you? Well, if you don't upgrade your devices to **Windows 11** you will no longer get:

- **Security updates** – any new antivirus innovations will not be added to your PC, leaving you at risk from cyber-attack.
- **Bug fixes** – if there is a fault with a program it will never be fixed.
- **No technical support from Microsoft** – they're moving everyone to **Windows 11** and that is where their focus will be.



## Extra Tip

Speaking of updates with **Windows 11**, we wanted to remind you that updating all of your devices regularly is a good idea.

With the latest updates installed, you can ensure you have the most up-to-date security and the best versions of applications that you use.