



Dedicated I. T. Support For Home Users & Micro Businesses

SCM Newsletter February 2018

Hello everyone and welcome to the 4th edition of the Stone Computer Man newsletter, It has been far too long since the last newsletter so apologies for that. As always if you wish to opt out of this newsletter then see the link at the very bottom of each issue.

**Security**

You may have heard of the vulnerabilities in Intel processors, Both Intel and Microsoft have been working on this and by now a solution should be in place. The important thing is that as long as you install your Windows updates and keep your anti-virus software up to date you should be o.k. and need not worry.

There is now a scam known as "smishing". Smishing is when a fraudster sends a text message to say there's a problem with your bank account and ask you to call a phone number. If you do so, fraudsters will try to trick you into giving away your personal and security information.

Other messages may be from fraudsters pretending to be your bank, saying that personal information about you has been posted on the internet and ask you to visit a website. Using the link in the message may lead to an attempt to infect your computer or mobile device with a virus.

The text may ask for sensitive information, such as pins or passcodes, tell you that you're owed a refund, or that there is a problem with your account. The key to recognizing a scam will be a sense of urgency to the message, encouraging you to act fast, open a link or respond to the message.

Stone Computer man is now a Sophos affiliate. As you know Sophos do a very good free anti-virus solution for home users. Following a trial Sophos have now released a premium version that offers even more protection. If you are already on the free Sophos Home nothing will change unless you wish to upgrade. If you have been on the Sophos Home Premium trial you may have had an email giving you a free 12 month license for Sophos Home Premium. If you wish to downgrade from premium to free just let me know and I will sort it out for you.



For those wish to take advantage of the Sophos Home Premium you can get it via my website, just click one of the Sophos panels.

I think that £40 per year to cover 10 devices (Pcs, laptops and MACs) represents great value. If anyone has any questions or needs any assistance then please do get in touch

**Windows**

Just a reminder that support has now ended for Windows Vista and so if anyone still has a machine running Vista you really should consider upgrading. Windows 7 will get extended support until January 2020 and Windows 8.1 (not windows 8) gets extended support until January 2023. Extended support means that you will get security updates.

**Apple MAC**

For MAC users if you don't have any security software installed then you may wish to consider getting some. There are more and more MACs and MACs Books in use in the UK today and it is this bigger "footprint" that's makes them an increasingly tempting target for attackers.



**Scams**

Calls from "BT" claiming your broadband is faulty continue and, for me, seem to be increasing. I take great joy in seeing how long that I can keep them on the phone. This not only keeps them from calling someone else but it's a clear indication that I've won when they start to get really abusive.

Please do check that any phone calls or emails that you may receive from "BT", "Microsoft", your bank etc., are indeed genuine.

**Stone Festival & Carnival**

Jill and I are now helping out on the Stone Festival and Carnival committee and there's lots coming up during 2018 so please, if you are interested, do visit [www.stonefestival.co.uk](http://www.stonefestival.co.uk)

The committee has been organising events and raising funds for local charities since 1969 so if you can attend any of these we will all be really grateful.

We have also now taken up Nordic Walking which is great way to get out and about and get fit. For me personally it gets me away from my computer which due to poor posture is responsible for many aches and pains. We went to this guy and he is fantastic, <http://chasenordicwalking.co.uk/>, so if you have been thinking of a bit more exercise have a look.