

THURSDAY THOUGHTS

This week we approach a Friday bank holiday to commemorate VE Day. As a veteran, married to a veteran, with military links on both sides of the family too many to mention I find it sad that many are hearing about it for the first time this week. In the past we would have had posters, parties in the park or street and numerous events. However with social distancing still in force the VE Day Celebrations will be different this year.

Our street are planning a socially distant tea party at 4pm. Which we will live stream so for those who are isolating so they can feel part of the community.

For those not up our way the Royal British Legion are planning an 80-minute stream on their Facebook channel and website to celebrate VE Day. There will be a Two Minute Silence at 11am and the live stream will start at 11.15am. You can find more here

https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/ve-day-75/?seg=WPDPCCVED&gclid=EAlaQobChMI_u-Q0fSh6QIVTbDtCh3KpgA0EAAAYASAAEglt_D_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

Coronavirus help for businesses from HMRC

If you're self-employed or a member of a partnership and have been adversely affected by coronavirus the HMRC online service will be available from 13 May 2020. You can find out on line if you're eligible. One thing to remember is that HMRC will not contact you by email or text so keep your eyes open for phishing attempts. Information on the scheme and be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme?utm_source=HMRCgovuk&utm_medium=OwnedTwitter&utm_campaign=SEISS

NHS COVID-19 contact-tracing app

An App has been designed and built by the NHS to help slow the spread of the coronavirus. It will send users an alert if they have been in close contact with other users of the app who've reported that they're experiencing coronavirus symptoms and allows the user to self-isolate as a result. The app is voluntary and does not collect any personal data. You can find information on how the app works here: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/nhs-covid-19-app-explainer>

The NCSC has written a technical paper about the privacy and security design of the NHS contact tracing app which gives a high-level overview of the security and privacy characteristics of the app you can find this paper here: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/nhs-covid-19-app-privacy-security-report>

You can read about the testing of the app here: <https://www.forces.net/news/coronavirus-contact-tracing-app-tested-raf-base>

Hackers targeting UK universities for COVID19 research

Info Security magazine reports that UK universities are experiencing a greater frequency of state sponsored hacking. It is believed that Russia, Iran and possibly China have been probing institutions such as Oxford University in a bid to steal research on developing COVID-19 vaccines. Fortunately

there have been no successful attacks to date. You can read the full article here:

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/state-hackers-uk-unis-covid19/>

Nest update

Nest users need to make sure that they can still access the email associated with their Nest account as Nest says it will be notifying users before it rolls out mandatory two-factor authentication starting this month (the authentication will be a six-digit code sent to users over email). The changes were announced earlier this year in response to reports that Nest's security cameras were being "hacked".

BT and NCSC Cyber Aware campaign

With many more of us spending more time online BT has produced a range of 'Top Tips on Tech' as part of the government's Cyber Aware campaign. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has also produced helpful guidance on the secure use of video conferencing, online gaming and shopping to help keep us all protected. You can find the BT tips here:

<https://newsroom.bt.com/the-ncsc-and-bt-share-their-top-tips/>

International hacker group (Infinity Black) arrests

Some good news this week as five Polish hackers (members Infinity Black hacking group) were arrested this week. The gang had been distributing stolen user credentials, developing and distributing malware and hacking tools, and conducting fraud. More information is here:

https://securityaffairs.co/wordpress/102786/cyber-crime/infinity-black-dismantled.html?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=infinity-black-dismantled

Logging Made Easy (LME)

For organisations recognise the need to start gathering logs and monitoring their IT and who want to improve their cyber security. The lack of budget, time or understanding to set up their own logging system is no longer an issue as NCSC have developed a Logging Made Easy (LME) self-install tutorial which can be accessed here: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/logging-made-easy>

Cyberattack detection rates

Although the majority of companies assume they're protected against cyberattacks, the truth is very often the reverse and the majority of cyber attacks can successfully infiltrate an organisation without detection. The most common reasons for this are the reliance of "default" configurations/settings, lack of resources to monitor post-deployment, lack of oversight and governance or unexpected changes to the infrastructure. More information can be found here:

<https://betanews.com/2020/05/05/cyberattacks-infiltrate-without-detection/>

Blogs of the week

There have been 3 blogs or articles that really resonated with me this week.

What kind of business do you want to be during COVID-19?

The blog from The Marketing Centre suggests that all of us respond to a crisis differently. To help businesses understand their journey through this crisis The Marketing Centre have developed an infographic “What Kind of Business Do You Want to Be During COVID-19?”. It’s a really useful tool and you may want to see where your business is on it’s journey through this difficult time. You will find the blog and diagram here: https://blog.themarketingcentre.com/what-kind-of-business-do-you-want-to-be-during-covid-19?utm_campaign=Coronavirus&utm_content=128694932&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin&hss_channel=li-MmtFANQQua

Force-majeure and COVID-19

Lockdowns, social distancing, travel restrictions and the consequential reduction or closure of many businesses will have an impact on just about every sector of our community. One Dentons blog this week examined the impact of COVID-19 on the oil and gas industry. Many of the points they highlight could also apply in other settings. Whether something has a direct impact on your own operations or those of your customers, contractors and suppliers it will force change and a different mindset. There are also implications for contracts which include both the potential application of specific contract terms, force majeure clauses and wider changes in the contract parties' circumstances and attitudes. The Dentons blog can be found here: <https://www.dentons.com/en/insights/articles/2020/may/4/covid19-force-majeure-under-english-law-and-possible-domino-effects-in-the-oil-and-gas-industry>

Mike Alleyne “Day In The Life”

I really enjoyed Mike Alleyne’s blog this week. He certainly needed all his planning skills to make sure he balanced his mental and physical exercise, follow up conversations with business owners, social media updates etc. It was great to hear that his daughter takes after him and wanted a “practice camp” before attending the forthcoming Brownies virtual camp night. The apple hasn’t fallen very far from the tree there! You can read mike’s post here: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/day-lifenlr-partner-coach-2-mike-alleyne-/?trackingId=B3EHOJ6pMgDHpzvABevK3g%3D%3D>