

A PASSWORD CHECK

World Password Day

PROTECTING BUSINESSES

World Password Day is observed each year on the first Thursday of May, and while it might sound like a small topic, weak or reused passwords remain one of the most common ways UK businesses experience cyber incidents.

Why passwords still matter

With more systems now cloud-based and accessible remotely, passwords often act as the front door to your business. If that door is left unlocked through reused, predictable, or shared credentials it doesn't matter how good the rest of the security is. Attackers don't usually "hack" in the dramatic way shown in films. Instead, they rely on:

- Passwords reused across multiple systems
- Old passwords still active from former staff
- Simple or predictable patterns
- Phishing emails that trick users into handing details over

These risks affect businesses of every size, not just large organisations.

Practical steps to review

World Password Day isn't about changing everything overnight. It's a good opportunity to check that the basics are in place:

- Unique passwords for business systems (no re-use between email, accounts, or software)
- Strong passwords that aren't based on names, dates, or predictable patterns
- Multi-factor authentication (MFA) wherever possible - especially for email and remote access
- Password managers to reduce the temptation to reuse or write passwords down
- User access reviews, ensuring ex-staff accounts are closed and permissions are appropriate

These small steps can drastically reduce risk without adding unnecessary cost or complexity.