

THURSDAY THOUGHTS

Thursday thoughts this week focusses a lot on the new NHS COVID-19 app launched today. At a webinar this morning we took a straw poll to see how many of our number intend to use it. Of 18 participants only 1 had downloaded the app so far. Of the remainder most were reluctant, there was a lot of concern about privacy especially given the amount of information and negative hype about previous apps there had been in the news. So I thought it would be sensible to look at this subject in detail.

Also this week fake Facebook accounts created by employers to spy on staff, Instagram on Android, ICO Fines for PECR breaches, the need for website cookie banners and could an old TV really cause the internet to go down in a whole community.

My "Blogs of the Week"

RAF Museum(Peter Devitt) - Citizen Airman 2: Ray Holmes

Fox Graphics Design and Marketing - Now that's how to homeschool

Joeli Brearley - 6 Month Rollercoaster ride

NHS COVID-19 App

This new App is very capable and is fully compliant with Data Protection Law and for a change there is also a good level of information and guidance on the accompanying website. The app has received an endorsement from the UK regulator the ICO and the National Cyber Security Centre. The developers engaged with the regulator from the outset so while the development has taken longer than hoped it has a lot of functionality and protection built in. I have taken a look at the concerns some have about privacy especially given the amount of negative hype in the news about previous apps.

More Than Just A Contact Tracing App

This new app is much more than just a digital contact tracing app. It has six functions:

- Location check-in
- Regional risk score alerts
- Digital contact tracing
- Symptom recorder
- Test ordering service (with the results returned through the app)
- Self-isolation countdown and advice

Concern About Personal Information

There is no information in the app that will directly identify you (e.g. name, date of birth etc). In fact Facebook holds much more personal information about us than this app does.

Access to Your Camera

The app uses your camera to read the NHS QR code for a venue and this is stored on your device with a date/time stamp. Camera access is then immediately disabled and the app is not able to



access any photos or other items on your phone. So again this is better than other apps you have installed which can access your contacts list, clipboard, photo album or camera at any time without your approval (depending on your security settings and the app concerned).

Location Tracking

The app does not track where you are just where you have checked in. It cannot be used by law enforcement. The app keeps a log of anonymous contact tracing data for 14 days and venue check-in information is stored for 21 days. All this information is stored on the device. You can choose to use some or all of the app and may delete it at any time.

For Businesses

From 24/09/20 it is a legal requirement for hospitality, tourism, leisure, and close contact service businesses to display an official NHS QR code poster so that people can check-in. This check-in information is stored for 21 days on the user's phone. Businesses need to create their own posters with personalised codes for each business location you will find it here: https://lnkd.in/d_9VqHz.

Educational Settings and Parents

The app is only for those over 16. In an education setting, users may be advised to turn the contact tracing function off (not turning off app just the ability to trace who it has been close to). This is so that phones in lockers do not record contacts. Users also have the option to pause the contact tracing for different time periods. This factsheet has been produced for schools and parents <https://www.covid19.nhs.uk/pdf/parents-carers-over16s-factsheet.pdf>.

Scams to Watch Out For

You will not be contacted by text message, telephone or email unless you have contacted the NHS for support. You will not be asked for:

- for bank details or payments
- details of any other accounts, such as social media
- to set up a password or PIN number over the phone
- to call a premium rate number

More Information

To download the app you should search for the NHS COVID-19 app in your app store.

- More information: www.covid19.nhs.uk,
- Privacy information: <https://www.covid19.nhs.uk/pdf/privacy-leaflet.pdf>
- Resources and FAQs: <https://www.covid19.nhs.uk/information-and-resources.html>

Beware Fake Facebook Accounts

Companies around the world are increasingly using intelligence analysts to monitor their workers. This can be through the use of fake Facebook and other social media accounts which target the employees and make "friend requests". Then the agents use the social media to find data on the staff member's past and log their current internet activities. You can read more here: https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/jgxzvg/surveillance-company-explains-how-to-keep-facebook-from-detecting-fake-accounts-in-leaked-manual



Instagram on Android

A warning this week to make sure that your Instagram app is up to date . A major vulnerability (CVE-2020-1895) has been patched this affects the Instagram on android. If your app is not up to date remote attackers are able to take full control of your devices just by sending you an image. They can then access everything on your phone, lock you out or even use your accounts for phishing.

ICO Fines Company Profiteering From The Pandemic

The ICO has fined Digital Growth Experts Limited (DGEL) £60,000 under PECR legislation. The company sent out thousands of marketing texts without consent promoting a hand sanitising product that it claimed to be "effective against coronavirus". Andy Curry, Head of Investigations at the ICO, said "Direct marketing laws are clear and it is the responsibility of businesses to ensure they comply. Ignorance of it or attempting to rely on vague and misleading evidence in support of a marketing campaign simply does not wash."

Website Cookie Banners

Only cookies that are strictly necessary for functionality can be placed on a device before you get the user's permission. This means that you cannot put Analytics, Advertising or Social media cookies on someone's device until you have got their consent. If your website uses cookies you must include a cookie banner and have a Cookies Policy. The banner needs to include a brief description of why you are using the cookies, what their purpose is and give users a choice to accept or reject any cookies that are non-strictly necessary. You will not believe how many websites I see that are not compliant!

Issues With Internet Connection - Could Be An Old TV

We have all experienced the frustration of the sudden loss of our internet connection. Certainly there are more issues at my parents in Devon than we have up in Manchester. Once all the obvious issues have been investigated the team will move on to check if it could be a Single High-level Impulse Noise (Shine). This is where "electrical noise" comes from an appliance like a TV or Microwave. The article in the link tells the story of Aberhosan and how the entire village's internet connection disappeared at 7am, every day. It was tracked down to a house and an old, second-hand television set. You can read the article here: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/this-how-an-old-television-took-out-an-entire-villages-broadband-for-18-months/>

Make Sure Your Business Is COVID-secure

The HSE are carrying out spot checks to ensure workplaces are COVID-secure. They do this by calling and visiting premises to speak to duty-holders. HSE will check the measures that are in place and make sure that they are in line with the current guidance. You can see more about this story here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=coronavirus-hse&utm_term=hse&utm_content=inspections



Blog of The Week

RAF Museum (Peter Devitt) - Citizen Airman 2: Ray Holmes

This year is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and therefore this blog from the RAF Museum is most appropriate. A number of times during my career in the RAF we were lucky to have one of "The Few" as our after-dinner speaker, truly inspirational. For those who have not been so lucky here is the story of 26-year-old Sergeant Ray Holmes of 504 Squadron flying Hurricane P2725.

At 11.23 am on the 15th September 1940, less than five minutes after being scrambled from RAF Hendon. Holmes and the Squadron was airborne and on their way to join the air battle over London. Holmes headed for a group of 3 German Dorniers. The first deployed a flame thrower which blinded him for a while. The pilot of the second Dornier ejected but his parachute caught on Holmes' starboard wing. Once he had shaken that off Ray followed the third Dornier. By this time it was on fire and heading towards Buckingham Palace. Ray had run out of ammunition by now so he did the only thing he could, in his own words: 'I just went on and hit it for six.' The aircraft broke up and fell to the ground with the forward fuselage landing in Victoria Station forecourt and the tail on a rooftop in Vauxhall Bridge Road. As it dived, two 110 lb bombs and a canister of incendiaries broke loose and fell on Buckingham Palace (the Royal Family were at Windsor). Fortunately the bomb that landed in the bathroom of the royal apartments did not detonate but the incendiaries caused a fire in the garden. Ray Holmes bailed out over Pimlico and landed, in an open dustbin in a garden in Hugh Street. He had a few drinks in the Chelsea Barracks Sergeant's Mess and then took a taxi back to Hendon – this was his first combat flight. You can read the full story here:

<https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/blog/citizen-airman-2-ray-holmes/>



The Few

Fox Graphics Design and Marketing - Now That's How To Homeschool

The blog from Fox Graphics Design and Marketing highlights how a home-schooling project during COVID19 brought out the entrepreneurial spirit of one 10-year old boy. Such a simple idea. Samson's Sweets sends boxes of sweets anywhere in the UK. The project allowed Samson to create a product, learn about marketing, target an audience. He helped to design the business' logo, and cleverly got his mum to run the social media pages. You can read about the inspiration for this and how Fox Graphics Design and Marketing became one of his sponsors here:

<https://foxgraphicsdesign.com/2020/09/14/now-thats-how-to-homeschool/>

Joeli Brearley – 6 Month Rollercoaster Ride

Joeli Brearley of Pregnant Then Screwed (PTS) describe the last 6 months as a rollercoaster ride and not in a good way. PTS have worked hard in the last 6 months to make sure the voices of pregnant women and mothers in the workforce are heard and their Vlog describes some of what they have had to deal with. Whether this is responding to Government announcements, campaigning for workers' rights or advocacy. The successes that they have had and the policy changes that they have managed to bring about will affect the lives of millions of families. You can see the VLOG here – it's a graphic demonstration of what can be achieved when we work together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1Jh30QCkRU&feature=youtu.be>

