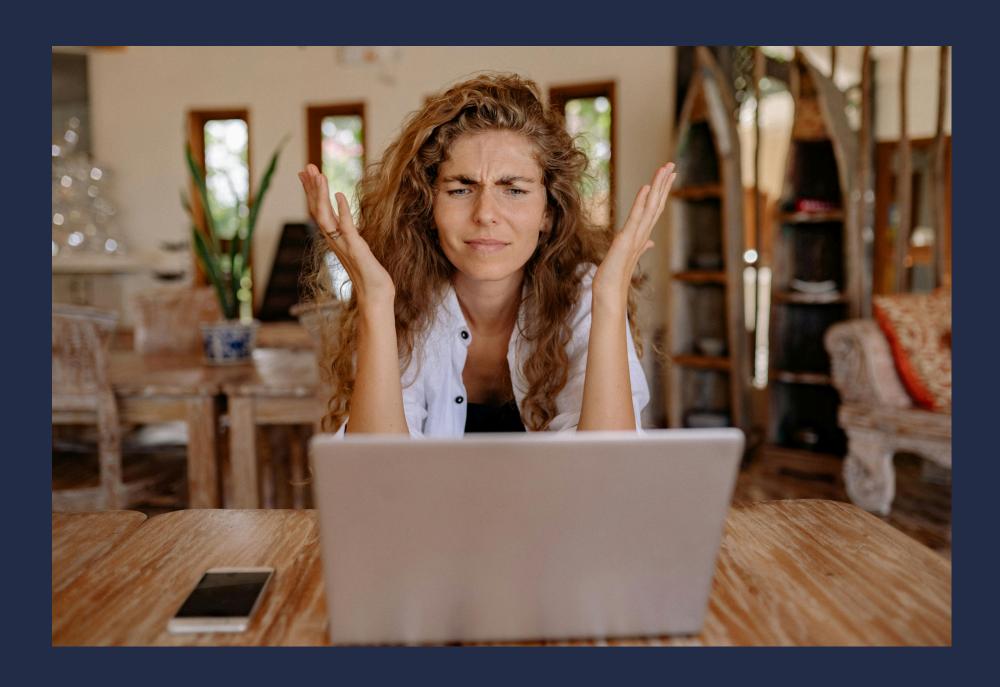# IT Creep
& How To Solve It

What is IT Creep?

IT Creep is the name given to what happens when businesses add services and tools to their IT estate over time. A common result of IT Creep is that SME IT estates are far less efficient than they could be.

There are a few reasons for this, but IT Creep is not uncommon in a business that has been trading for a while.

This guide is designed to give business owners and leaders an idea of the areas they can review to understand how they can solve IT Creep in their business.

Office Suites

SMEs can't avoid using an office app suite. They're great tools that enable communication, collaboration, and productivity. However, many businesses use multiple, disparate office suite solutions which leads to inefficiencies and increased costs.

By consolidating to a single, integrated office suite, businesses can achieve significant cost efficiencies. Using one Office Suite, for example Microsoft 365, businesses can reduce licensing fees, improve teamwork, and manage their estate much more easily.

At Mason Infotech we recommend Microsoft 365 as a robust, all-in-one office suite solution for business.

Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is a critical concern for all SMEs, but most businesses have to manage multiple solutions, which makes it costly and complex. We recommend bringing security services into a unified platform, which maintains your posture but reduces expenditure.

Centralised management of security policies and updates reduces vulnerability to threats, while also making it easier to monitor and respond to threats from a single dashboard. Microsoft Defender for Business integrates with your Microsoft 365 platform to create an all-in-one cybersecurity platform.

Network Management

Efficient network management is vital for maintaining business operations, but managing multiple network solutions can lead to inefficiencies and higher costs.

Consolidating network management services can simplify operations and reduce expenses. You can lower the total cost of ownership by using a unified network management system like Cisco Meraki, which makes it easier to monitor and maintain network performance with a centralised dashboard.

We recommend using Cisco Meraki because it offers a central control and monitoring portal, which makes SME IT support easy to report on, ensuring you always know what's going on in your estate.

Cloud Services

Cloud services provide flexibility and scalability, but using multiple cloud providers can result in higher costs and complexity. Consolidating cloud services with a single provider can lead to significant savings and improved efficiency.

If you currently use a mixture of cloud subscription services and host services on an on-prem server, it's worth considering consolidating to a provider like Microsoft Azure

Cloud Services

Best practice has changed over time, and where once businesses set up connections with backups via multiple providers, there are new, more secure products available that make consolidating services the best move, as managing multiple internet service providers can be costly and inefficient.

With Mason Infotech, you can lower your costs as we negotiate best rates with the local ISPs, and an enhanced service quality. We work with both the big providers and Alt-Net providers to seek the best available connection and service for the location, while your businesses deals only with Mason Infotech.

Get started with IT Support

Click the link in the post above to learn more about Mason Infotech's IT Support solutions.