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Here's our IT Hints and Tips Number 3, packed with practical tech tips for everyday users. Each item includes a helpful link so you can take action right away.

CDOS Hints and Tips 2025 No 3

PLEASE SEE OUR HELPFUL SECURITY
HINTS AND TIPS THAT ANSWER SOME
OUR SUPPORT CONTRACT CLIENT'S
QUESTIONS THAT KEEP COMING UP...

✦ Christmas 2025 (Where did that year go?) Editorial by Nick Bache.

No sooner than "Black Friday" has finished (I do hate that term!) Christmas is just around the corner and a time for joy, connection, and thoughtful giving. Technology can be more than just gadgets; it can be a way to bring families closer, simplify daily life, and add a little sparkle to the everyday. To help inspire your gift-giving and prepare for the year ahead, we've curated festive ideas and practical tips. If you are having trouble finding any of the gift ideas below drop me a line at support@cdospcdoctor.co.uk and we'll be pleased to find and or order them for you. Payment only by credit/debit card please.

SECURITY WARNING*

*It doesn't matter how many times I say the words "NEVER, EVER, speak to strangers who call you on the phone asking for information, surveys, solar panels, bank information bogus security warning it seems that the "Trusting over 60's" being good decent people from an earlier perhaps simpler time KEEP on trusting what's being said by complete scam artists. Over the last few weeks over £50,000 to my knowledge has been pilfered from the unsuspecting and trusting souls in Sutton Coldfield. The answer is always **SHOOT FIRST AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER!** This means be on your guard, never get involved in any conversion that pops up out of the blue from your bank, building society, pension provider. Very rarely will they ever approach you directly unless their algorithms suspect that you are actively involved in being scammed. Watch out for doorstep scams armed with credit card machines mysteriously refusing cash... as well from tradesmen advising they've seen a loose tile on your roof. There was an excellent program on BBC Radio 4 you and yours on the 24th November at about 11.30am check it out on BBC Sounds. We are in the middle of BBC Scam week and boy are the fraudsters out and about at present.*

And there's more...

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Amazon Issues Attack Warning For 300 Million Customers

– So, the basic rules are:-

Use the amazon app on your phone

Establish MFA (multifactor authentication)

Only buy on the amazon website not a link from another site. If possible; use an iPhone. I know! Those of you who have Android Samsung will start to whail about me and my hatred of Android but unless you have Malware bytes paid for and installed on the Android you simply are unprotected.

Which is safer Android or iPhone? Bottom line iPhone or iPad...

I know IT people have their prejudices, but the reason is that the eco system is very hard to get a dodgy app onto the iPhone platform. (Not so by bad actors into Android.

I'm not saying the iPhone hasn't had its security moments, but Apple do make efforts to protect you in many ways. Expensive – yes it can be, but I recommend to price conscious client to go for Refurbished older models on Amazon. An iPhone SE is very comparable in price or older models. Say anything from iPhone 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 line up.

So, if you are looking for a new phone consider the Apple. I must say that the change over does take a little getting used to but like everything it all falls into place in a few days it all becomes quite logical. I know quite a few IT people who will disagree with this view but it is my blog! In Samsung phones defence I would say that the camera and tech is very good but really the eco system I still find illogical and “Clunky”

And there's more - See Below...

Tech Gifts for Christmas: Perfect Picks for the Over-60s

Technology can be a wonderful gift—helping loved ones stay in touch, feel secure, and enjoy everyday life with ease. Here are ten thoughtful tech ideas that make meaningful presents for the over-60s this Christmas:

1. **GrandPad Tablet** – Easy video calling and large icons for simple communication.
2. **Amazon Echo Show 10** – Hands-free smart display for calls, music, and assistance.
3. **Smart Speakers like the Amazon echo** are great company for older folks who sometimes don't have family near but need to keep in touch. So, stop being so scared of them and dip in for some fun and if your worried about "Alexa" hearing everything you say (which it doesn't) unless you say the "Wake Word" Alexa or Computer etc you are perfectly safe. Remember there is always a "Mute Button" and they are so useful. If you can just get over a little technology entering your home life could be so much easier and comfortable. For instance, I'm always putting phone down somewhere and "alexa call my phone" justifies the £29.99 expense alone!
4. **Jitterbug Smart4 Phone** – Senior-friendly smartphone with health and safety features.
5. **Fitbit Inspire 3** – Lightweight tracker for heart rate, steps, and sleep.
6. **Similar "Fitbit style watches" start from £24 on Amazon.**
7. **Clckr MagSafe Stand & Grip** – Comfortable phone grip and stand.
8. **Ring Security Video Doorbell** – Clear video and instant notifications for peace of mind. (CDoS fits and installs these)
9. **Kindle Paperwhite** – Adjustable lighting and large text for cozy reading.
10. **Tile Mate Bluetooth Tracker** – Helps locate keys, wallets, or bags.
11. **iRobot Roomba j7+** – Smart vacuum that cleans automatically.
12. **Aura Carver Digital Photo Frame** – Displays family photos updated instantly via Wi-Fi.

If it all a bit overwhelming but you want to dip your toe in the deep end we will supply, fit, install, set-up and trained you on the do's and some of the obvious don't of wearable technology.

Tech Gifts for Christmas: Top Picks for All Ages

From stocking-stuffers to show-stoppers, these gadgets bring joy, convenience, and a touch of magic to everyday life:

1. **Apple Watch Ultra 3** – Rugged smartwatch with advanced health tracking.
2. **Sony WH-1000XM5 Headphones** – Premium noise-cancelling headphones.
3. **Meta Quest 3 VR Headset** – Immersive virtual reality gaming and experiences.
4. **Samsung Galaxy Z Flip 6** – Stylish foldable smartphone.
5. **Dyson V12 Detect Slim Vacuum** – Smart cleaning tool with laser dust detection.
6. **Kindle Paperwhite Signature Edition** – Enhanced e-reader with wireless charging.
7. **Anker Soundcore Motion X600 Speaker** – Portable waterproof Bluetooth speaker.
8. **DJI Mini 4 Pro Drone** – Compact drone with 4K video.
9. **Logitech MX Mechanical Keyboard** – Sleek keyboard for productivity.
10. **Nintendo Switch OLED** – Family-friendly gaming console with vibrant display.

Year-End Tech Tips

As the year wraps up, it's the perfect time to tidy up your digital life and prepare for a fresh start in 2026. Here are three quick but powerful tips:

- **Review Software Licenses**
 - Check Microsoft 365, antivirus, and backup subscriptions.
 - Make sure user counts match actual usage to avoid overspending.
- **Do a Digital Clean-Up**
 - Delete unused accounts, clear browser caches, and organize cloud storage.
 - Back up important files to external drives or secure cloud services.
- **Stay Cyber-Safe During Holiday Shopping**
 - Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) on accounts.
 - Avoid public Wi-Fi for purchases and double-check retailer URLs.
 - Watch out for phishing emails that spike during the festive season.

If you are not sure how

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we wrap up 2025, it's exciting to think about what the next year will bring. Here are a few tech trends to watch in 2026:

- **A new windows laptop** – We resell Amazon Laptops Refurbished from £200 then transfer your data, train you on using the new Windows 11 and provide ongoing support
- **A Tablet** – Buy an apple iPad even if you have android phone it's a great way to get used to apple and allows for a safe ordering online if you don't want to do it on your Android phone...
- **A new Ring video door bell** – We install Ring Door bells and link them to your phone / echo show device.
- **Wearable tech** – Monitor Blood pressure, pulse and heart rate and can be an early health warning. Apple watches are not that expensive when looking at refurbished and it's a good way to save the planet
- **AI Adoption Everywhere** – Smarter tools across business and home life, from customer service bots to personal assistants. AI is not something to be fearful of so call us and find out the truth about AI (pretty and ugly)
- **Hybrid Work Evolution** – Companies refining flexible work models, blending in-office collaboration with remote productivity.
- **Cloud Cost Optimization** – Businesses focusing on smarter cloud usage, automation, and efficiency.
- **Cybersecurity Resilience** – Stronger protections, with AI-driven security and zero-trust models becoming standard. Bottom line the option to say no to MFA is simply a thing of the past so start to think outside the box to try and protect yourself and your wallet.
- **Sustainable Tech** – Energy-efficient devices and greener data centre's driving innovation. OK that translates to buy refurbished and buying someone else's cast off's refurbished and upgraded but at the half the price of the new kit replacement. This is called stretching your pension out for MAXIMUM GAIN.

💡 These trends aren't just buzzwords—they're practical shifts that will shape how we live, work, and connect in the year ahead.

and finally...

Like it or loathe it we are going through the third decade of the 21st Century. I find that whatever age you are one's mind is always locked into "Your Decade" when we were the movers and shakers of our day. However, we can learn new tricks, and it keeps the mind active.

It's always good to learn from those who you know and you can trust. We are local, been around for the last 35 years in the IT industry and most importantly we understand people and talk English not tech-speak. You if you get a new gizmo for Christmas and haven't got a clue why not convince one of your family to buy you an hours Technical training. Its only £30 (half the normal £59 price) during Black Friday (LoL!) No... seriously it only £30

🎄 Wishing you ALL and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a joyful start to the New Year! Lets make it better than the last.
