



## Your Local Technology Update – May 2026

*Friendly, patient home visit IT support (we also visit plenty of businesses)*



**Hello,**

We hope you're enjoying the lighter evenings. Each month we share a short update on **what's changing**, **what to watch for**, and **how to stay safe**—with no jargon or scare stories.

### **This month's update covers:**

1. A major PC change coming later in 2026—your options and the most cost-effective fixes
2. We are expanding again and seeking a senior (over 50) to fill our part time PC doctor position. This would ideally suit a recently retired IT person who needs to keep their hand in and totally retire. Check out our site.
3. New scams targeting older adults
4. How the NHS is moving more services online
5. A simple way to cut technology costs
6. Easy ways to stay connected after retirement
7. A simple annual tidy-up: dust clean + remove unwanted programs

This is how we can help you feel confident with today's tech. Our short newsletter on key tech changes, new scams, and easy ways to stay safe—via friendly home visits, with no jargon or pressure.

*A quick note... If you'd like help with any of this, I'm happy to talk it through in person or by phone. You have up to three 40-minute visits\*\* included in Support Options 1 and 2. \*\*Please note there's an £18 visit charge to cover expenses.*



## Is Your Home Laptop/Tablet/Computer Still Safe in 2026? Finally, it looks like Microsoft has listened...

Windows 10 security updates end in October 2026. If your PC still runs well, you may not need to replace it. Some devices previously thought “not upgradeable” can now be upgraded via a workaround, as Microsoft has relaxed the requirements (quietly). We can advise and help—upgrades can start from £60, and an in-place upgrade often keeps the same look and feel. If you already have a solid-state drive and your device is under 5–6 years old, there’s a good chance we can upgrade it and help you avoid buying new hardware.

1. Call us for a remote check of your Windows 10 PC to see if it can be upgraded.
2. Microsoft appears to have eased upgrade limits set in July 2024, so an upgrade may now be possible. Call 01213084394 to book a remote appointment before you upgrade or replace. Support Options 1 and 2 include free remote access—please use it.

To book, call 01213084394 and ask for Paulette (9am–1pm, Mon–Fri). Outside those hours, you’ll reach me.

### New Scams in 2026

Scams now often come as calm, professional phone calls, convincing texts from “family or friends”, or friendly social media chats. If anything feels off, stop and ask someone you trust to check. We’ll also help you confirm whether a call is a scam. If you’re concerned, tell them: **Call your “IT Manager” (CDoS PCDoctor) on our dedicated support number (do not use for routine calls): 07719 068838.**



## Quick-fire round!

**One browser** – We're seeing a program called "one browser" on some PCs. Check your Programs and Features list and remove it if present—it can redirect searches.

**Spurious toolbars** – Once a month, check Programs and Features for unwanted search toolbars and uninstall them—they can redirect you to unsafe sites. If you're unsure, call us on 01213084394.

## NHS Services Have Moved Online

During home visits I can help you set up the NHS App, prescriptions, and digital messages safely and at a comfortable pace. It's straightforward, but you do need your ID and security checks in place—one short visit usually does it.

## A Simple Technology Tidy-Up Can Save Money

Many households are paying for slow internet or subscriptions they don't use. For example, one client was paying £120 a month for Sky packages but only watched Freeview—saving £1,440 a year, which helped fund a holiday and a new tablet. A short visit can cut costs and improve security. Book a visit with us on 01213084394 (9am–1pm, Mon–Fri).

Remember, we can help with any tech issue—big or small. Support Options 1 and 2 include support "bullets" you can use for a home visit, with the first 40 minutes free\*\*.



## Which mobile Phone is safer?



**Samsung?**

**Apple?**

We all have favorites. A new client recently had an excellent Samsung S-series (I'd avoid the A-series): fast and slick. Prices for both Samsung and Apple should improve as 2026/27 models launch from September. I also avoid buying at the peak—consider last year's model once the new releases land and you'll save a lot.

I used to say Apple was more secure by default. These days, Samsung's on-screen fingerprint sign-in has narrowed the gap, and recent changes have slightly reduced Apple's advantage. Brands I'd avoid include Duro, Motorola, and Huawei. With so much connected to our phones, you need both strong security and good day-to-day performance. Contracts can work, but buying the handset outright and using a SIM-only plan is often better value.

Some clients like "Duro" because it feels simpler, but the trade-offs are speed and (in my view) weaker security. Whatever you choose, your support agreement includes help and training so you can use your phone confidently.

*Editors Note! I spend a reasonable amount of time creating these newsletters and trust you find something in here of value. If there is anything you feel you need us to include PLEASE feel free to email me.*



## How we at CDoS PCDoctor Can Help (At Home or in your business)

- PC safety and security checks, virus cleaning, and safer online banking setup (often best on iPhone/iPad). Avoid accepting cookies on risky sites.
- Landline-to-fibre upgrades, reconnecting devices, and fixing Wi-Fi dead spots (home, garden, or workplace).
- Scam protection and recovery support. If you've been conned, tell us—we'll help secure things, reduce the risk of repeat scams, and work with your bank. Fixed-fee help; no judgement.
- NHS App and phone help and training.
- CCTV Doorbell installations
- Friendly one-to-one home training visits
- We examine your current pay TV offer to see if we can suggest alternatives or a price cut – serious savings can be made just by looking objectively at what you are spending.
- Load Balancing - Home or business networking solutions and usage balancing so one user doesn't hog the internet leaving you waiting.

### To Book a Home Visit

Landline: 0121 3084394 (9am–1pm, Mon–Fri—try this first as Nick is usually out on calls)

Mobile: 07838 199007 (emergencies and out-of-hours support)

Website: [www.cdospcdoctor.co.uk](http://www.cdospcdoctor.co.uk)

Nick Bache – CDoS PCDoctor

Local, reliable IT help for homes and small businesses for 35 years