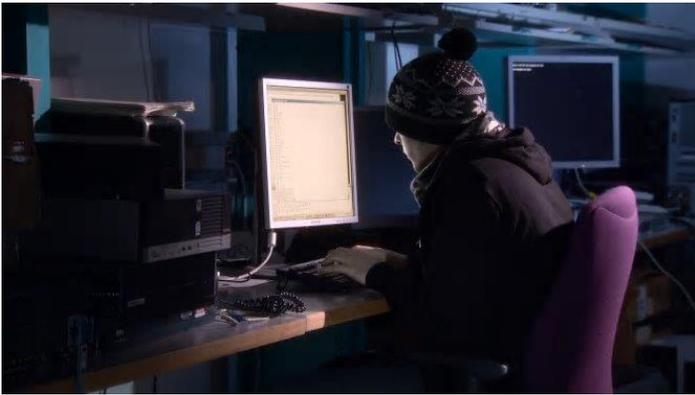


Cyber-crime: the invisible enemy posing a growing threat for businesses and households

March 2018



Mark Hughes, Chief Executive of BT Security says Cyber-crime is posing a growing threat across the region

As an ever increasing number of people and organisations make ever greater use of the internet, the potential impact of cyber-theft, cyber-vandalism and even cyber-extortion is exploding. The more we rely on the fantastic resource of ‘the net’ the more potentially vulnerable we become. It is a daunting thought that there are now about 27 billion devices connected to the internet – well over three times the human population of the world – and that this figure is expected to reach 125 billion within 13 years. If you think this issue doesn’t affect you and that it is a mainly a matter for governments and large organisations, then think again.

There are growing indications that small and medium businesses, the bedrock of a regional economy such as the one in Yorkshire and the Humber, are increasingly in the firing line of the criminals. And research indicates that many are unprepared to meet this threat. Research by Accenture showed that 55 per cent of British workers can’t recall receiving cyber security training, whilst one in five weren’t sure they could identify a phishing email – a common method used by cyber criminals to raid personal bank accounts.

To give a sense of the scale of the cyber-crime problem, BT’s security team detects 100,000 unique malware samples every day – more than one per second – and protects the BT network against more than 4,000 cyber-attacks daily. Half of all reported fraud in the UK is now committed through cyber-crime, according to the National Fraud Bureau, and half of all Britons have been targeted. In the past 12 months alone BT has identified and closed more than 5,000 phishing websites.

The cyber threat is also changing. In the case of phishing, for example, criminals are becoming increasingly skilled at creating what appear to be genuine e-mails for people to click on. Even chief

executives are at risk with the rise of 'Whaling' where phishing techniques are deliberately targeted at board level to impersonate and abuse the board's authority. Ransomware also burst into the public consciousness recently as the WannaCry and Petya attacks spread across the world. With ransomware available for as little as 50 US dollars, criminals can enter this rapidly growing market with ease. Perhaps the most worrying aspect of Wannacry was its relatively unsophisticated nature. It was a known vulnerability and a 'patch' to deal with it was readily available.

Such outbreaks are a stark reminder to us all to get the basics rights:

- Update your anti-virus software regularly
- Install patches
- Invest in regular cyber security training for staff
- Remind staff to be wary of opening suspicious e-mails or links

It's not just about investing in up to date technology. A truly comprehensive approach is needed. For businesses, cyber security must feature at the top of the boardroom agenda. Companies need to have robust cyber security strategy and policies, which are kept under review and continuously put to the test. For larger organisations, this can include 'war games' to test the response to a cyber crisis. At BT we regularly run sessions pitching so-called 'red teams' of ethical hackers trying to penetrate our defences against the 'blue teams' protecting the network.

Whether you are a businessperson in Leeds or Sheffield or a household in a remote part of North Yorkshire, it is vital that we are all prepared to meet this threat. Financial loss is not the only risk. The recent attack on Britain's healthcare system resulted in cancelled operations, missed appointments and delayed diagnoses. Realistically, online crime is unlikely to be eradicated entirely, but we- Internet Service Providers, Government and other organisations - are stepping up our collective efforts to curb the cyber criminals' success rates through initiatives such as the Government's Cyber Security Information Sharing Partnership, which BT is supporting.

Through collaboration and consensus, I am confident we can win the battle against the rapidly-expanding cyber-crime industry.

EE launches 4G home broadband antenna to connect more homes across the region

March 2018



The new 4G home broadband solution could connect more than 35,800 homes across Yorkshire & The Humber

EE has unveiled a the solution which could connect more than 35,800 homes, especially those in rural areas that are currently only able to access broadband slower than 10Mbps. The service will provide customers with superfast broadband speeds at home using the power of EE's 4G network. Customer trials in the Northern Fells area of Cumbria have delivered speeds of over 100Mbps.

EE's new 4G home broadband, which combines the 4GEE Home Router with a powerful external antenna and professional installation service, has been designed specifically as an alternative for those in rural communities that have yet to be connected with traditional fixed line broadband access – or where customers can only receive slower fixed broadband speeds.

EE has recently been trialling the solution in the Cumbrian Northern Fells, an area with dramatic topography. Currently many homes in rural Cumbria can only get limited broadband access, and EE, working with the Northern Fells Broadband initiative has worked to trial the service with users in the area. The new solution allows customers to access EE's superfast 4G network which currently extends to 90% of the UK's landmass (equal to more than 99.6% of UK homes). EE predicts that there are 580,000 UK homes with slow or no fixed line access which could benefit from the solution – with EE continuing to roll out 4G in to new areas of the UK on the way to its ambition to extend 4G to 95% geographic coverage.

Max Taylor, EE said: "As our network continues to expand into some of the most remote parts of the UK, we've seen the amazing impact that 4G connectivity can have on rural communities. Our newest 4G home broadband router and antenna takes this one step further, ensuring thousands of families in rural areas across the UK could enjoy the benefits of superfast broadband inside their home for the very first time – whether video-calling the grandparents or streaming their favourite TV series."

4GEE Home Router & Antenna

With no requirement for a landline, the 4GEE Home Router is ready to go straight from the box allowing up to 32 devices to connect to it at once. The new 4GEE Home Router is EE's fastest own brand device

with enhanced wi-fi strength, making it the perfect alternative to traditional fixed broadband.

EE's new antenna is fitted to the side of a customer's property and is connected to the 4GEE Home Router situated inside the home by a cable. This eliminates any loss of signal due to thick exterior walls, improving both the speed and consistency of the 4GEE Home Router. The antenna has been designed for use on properties with good outdoor coverage but variable indoor coverage.

The 4GEE Home Router and antenna solution offers speeds as fast as most fixed line fibre broadband services – with trial speeds showing over 100Mbps in Cumbria. Separately, independent recognition has revealed EE offers the UK's fastest 4G, with average download speeds above 30Mbps*.

New Combined Line Checker

EE has also launched the UK's first fixed and mobile broadband combined coverage checker – allowing customers to see which broadband solution is most suitable for them based on their postcode – whether that's via a fixed line or over 4G.

For more information, please visit www.ee.co.uk/broadband

Leeds leads the UK in major new drive for ultrafast broadband

March 2018



Leeds will be one of the first cities to benefit from proposals

Openreach, Britain's national broadband infrastructure provider, has announced proposals to extend by 50 per cent its target for rolling out Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) to reach 3 million premises across the UK by the end of 2020 through a new 'Fibre First' programme.

Eight major cities - Leeds, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Bristol, Liverpool, London and Manchester - make up the first phase of Openreach's Fibre First programme which will connect up to 40 UK towns, cities and boroughs with FTTP networks, with build starting in 2018.

It is expected that tens of thousands of Leeds homes and businesses will benefit from this latest multi million pound expansion. Further details of the roll-out in the city are expected to be announced later in the year. According to independent website thinkbroadband, more than 97 per cent of Leeds households and businesses already have access to superfast broadband speeds of 24Mbps and above. Openreach will continue to focus on delivering FTTP to rural areas, in partnership with the Government, to make sure some of the hardest to reach communities in the UK get access to future-proofed, FTTP networks.

Clive Selley, Chief Executive of Openreach, said: "Through the Fibre First programme, Openreach is getting on with the job of building an Ultrafast Britain. We are accelerating our plans to build FTTP to three million premises by 2020 which sets the course to reach ten million by the mid-2020s with the right conditions. Where possible going forward, we will 'fibre first'. Working closely with central and local government and our communication provider customers, we will identify the cities, towns and rural areas where we can build a future-proofed, FTTP network that's capable of delivering gigabit speeds to all homes and businesses at an affordable cost. We'll continue to invest in our people and we're already in the process of re-training and upskilling to make Fibre First a reality. We plan to hire around 3,000 engineers in 2018/19 to kick-start Fibre First and further improve the reliability and performance of our existing networks."

Reaching three million premises by 2020 sets Openreach on the right trajectory to achieve its ambition of building a ten million FTTP footprint by the mid-2020s and, if the conditions are right, to go significantly beyond, bringing the benefits of FTTP to the majority homes and businesses across the UK. Welcoming the announcement, Judith Blake, Leader of Leeds City Council, said: "I'm delighted that Leeds has been

selected as one of the first UK cities to benefit from Openreach's 'Fibre First' programme. A world-class city deserves world-class digital infrastructure, and we believe full-fibre technology will be key to unlocking the long-term productivity of businesses in this region. Beyond the economic benefits, ultrafast broadband also has the potential to transform lives and support a better, fairer and more inclusive society. This technology will enable us to deliver more effective public services online, and support this region's residents to access resources and services online that can improve their health, skills and general wellbeing."

Derek Richardson, Openreach Programme Director for Yorkshire and the Humber, said: "This latest multi million pound investment in Leeds by Openreach will give a vital boost to the city's households and businesses. For our vibrant business community, which is known for its innovation, it will mean more firms benefiting from the huge opportunities offered by this exciting technology to attract new customers, provide new services and work more efficiently. Local households, too, will find ultrafast broadband a major step forward when they go online for reasons ranging from training and research to shopping, staying in touch with friends and family and entertainment."

The pace and extent of this large-scale investment will depend on the speed with which the conditions to enable an acceptable return on the investment are secured. Support is needed from communication providers (CPs), central and local government and the regulator to deliver key enablers, including: achieving low build and connection costs; achieving rapid take-up of and generating incremental revenue from the platform; and having a supportive regulatory and public policy framework. As with any infrastructure investment, if Openreach is unable to secure an acceptable return, it will need to review its ongoing capital commitments to the programme.



New ultrafast broadband network launched in Sheffield and Leeds

March 2018



The latest ultrafast broadband, known as Gfast, is now available to thousands of people in Sheffield and Leeds

The two cities are among the first UK locations to pilot Gfast technology, offering download speeds up to 330Mbps – about seven times the UK average. People using Gfast can download a two hour HD film in just 90 seconds, a 45 minute HD TV show in 16 seconds and a nine hour audio book in three seconds.

Openreach, the business responsible for Britain’s largest phone and broadband network, has so far made the technology available to more than 390,000 homes and businesses ahead of a nationwide rollout, which will see ultrafast broadband reaching 12 million UK premises by 2020.

Locations in Sheffield set to benefit include parts of the following wards: Broomhill & Sharrow Vale, Burngreave, City Ward, Crookes & Crosspool, Fulwood, Hillsborough, Manor Castle, Nether Edge & Sharrow, Park & Arbourthorne and Walkley. And in Leeds, locations set to benefit include parts of the following wards: Armley, Beeston and Holbeck, Bramley and Stanningley, City and Hunslet, Farnley and Wortley, Middleton Park, Pudsey and Rothwell.

Derek Richardson, Openreach’s Programme Director in Yorkshire and the Humber, said: “It’s great news that Sheffield and Leeds are playing a leading role in the development of this exciting new technology. Gfast will help transform the broadband picture in the UK by ushering in a new era where ultrafast speeds are widely available. The amount people are doing online and at the same time, from streaming high definition movies, TV, gaming and online shopping to using mobile devices over wireless broadband, is growing every year and this pace shows no sign of slowing. We need to stay ahead in order to meet the evolving needs of our customers. Gfast will allow us to do that by building on the investment we have made in fibre to date. It will transform the UK broadband landscape from superfast to ultrafast, and it will reach the largest number of people in the quickest possible time.”

Gfast technology allows ultrafast speeds, which previously required fibre optic cables to be run all the way to a property (Fibre to the Premises - FTTP), to be transmitted over existing copper lines and fibre broadband cabinets. It’s enabling Openreach to make ultrafast speeds available more quickly to a much larger number of homes and businesses than if it focused on FTTP alone. Gfast technology is expected to exceed a million premises by the end of the fiscal year.

Anybody wanting more information or wishing to check if they can get Gfast should visit www.openreach.co.uk/ultrafast

South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire play leading role in Britain achieving broadband target

March 2018



The two areas were praised for their part in Great Britain achieving the target

South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire have already surpassed the national average. South Yorkshire has reached more than 95 per cent coverage, and over 550,000 households and businesses having access to superfast speeds of 24Mbps and above over the Openreach fibre network. And North Lincolnshire has reached more than 97 per cent coverage, with about 128,000 households and businesses now having access to superfast speeds.

Access to superfast broadband across South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire continues to increase, largely thanks to Openreach's commercial rollout and the multi-million pound Superfast South Yorkshire and North Lincs partnerships.

Derek Richardson, Programme Director Yorkshire and the Humber for Openreach, which employs around 2,200 engineers and other workers in the region, said: "This is a great news for both the country and for the region. For a number of years, the two regions have led the way with the roll-out of this exciting

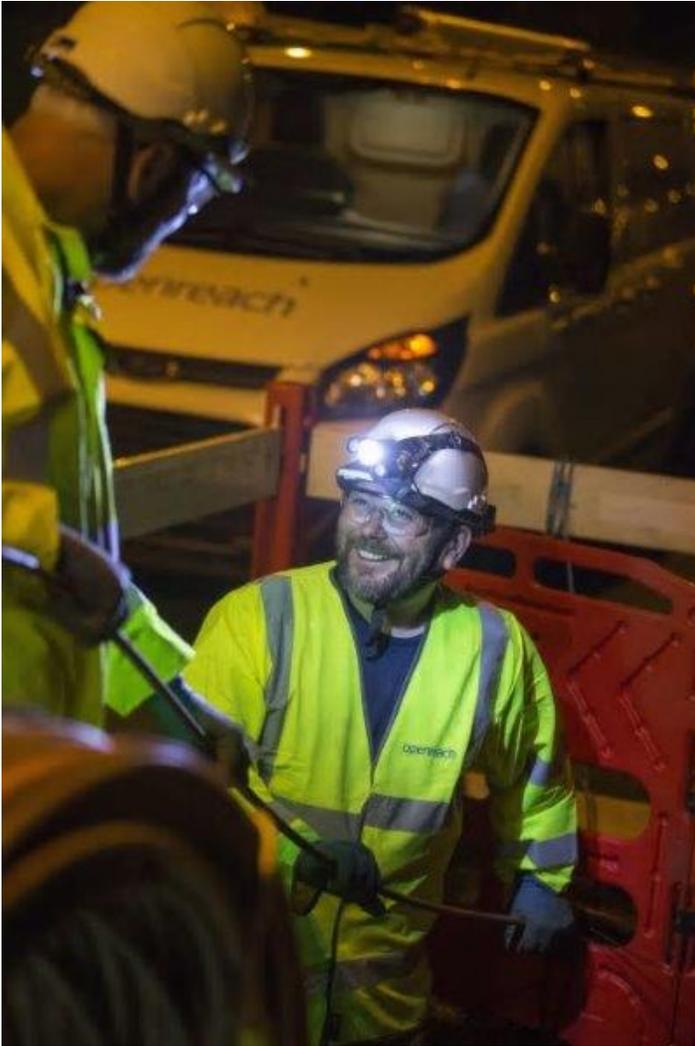
technology, which is providing a major boost for the economy. We have some of the highest superfast coverage figures, which is a tribute to the hard work of local engineers and the success of both programmes. The multi million pound schemes have been two of the largest and most complex engineering projects in the area over recent years and they are great examples of the public and private sectors working effectively together. We have managed to bring new services to areas which fall outside the private sector's commercial programme and we're determined to go further. Openreach is continuing to work with its public sector partners, to get faster broadband to even more locations."

Nationally, Openreach Chief Executive Clive Selley today recognised the "huge contribution" of more than 9,300 Openreach people across the UK following a Government announcement that 95 per cent of the country can now order superfast broadband speeds of at least 24 Megabits per second (Mbps).

Openreach has rolled out more than 35 million kilometres of fibre optic cables in an initiative taking more than 145 million man hours.

Broadband Boost Keeps Internet Traffic Moving For Kirklees-Based Highways Engineering Company

March 2018



An engineering firm in Kirklees, is experiencing life in the fast lane since being upgraded to superfast broadband

Sanderson Associates specialises in keeping the highways, traffic and transportation on the move, and is one of more than 1,500 homes and businesses now able to access superfast speeds of up to 80Mbps since the Flockton telephone exchange ‘went live’ with fibre broadband.

Carl France, Finance Manager, said: “We had been struggling with speeds of less than 10Mbps at our Grange Moor base and it was becoming increasingly difficult to work effectively and efficiently. As soon as we were able we signed up for superfast broadband and the difference is incredible. Our broadband speed is now around 70Mbps, which enables all of the staff to be much more productive.”

Flockton was upgraded as part of the multi-million pound second phase of the Superfast West Yorkshire & York roll-out. Engineers from Openreach, the business responsible for Britain’s largest phone and broadband network, have brought fibre broadband speeds within reach of 30,000 homes and businesses

across West Yorkshire on behalf of the programme. Five new fibre broadband street cabinets connected to the Flockton exchange mean that more than 1,500 further homes and businesses in Huddersfield, Wakefield and Dewsbury can now access broadband speeds of up to 80Mbps via their chosen broadband service provider. And further expansion is set to follow later in the programme.

Cllr Peter McBride, Kirklees Council, said: “This is a perfect example of the benefits of superfast broadband and how vital having the right digital infrastructure is to supporting innovation and economic growth in Kirklees. In Phase 2 of the Superfast West Yorkshire and York programme over 150 structures have been built in Kirklees so far, bringing superfast broadband speeds to over 19,500 homes and businesses.” Cllr Mather, Kirklees Council, added: “With so many people now benefitting from a faster, more reliable internet connection, it has opened up a whole new world of opportunities and reinforced Kirklees as a great place to live and do business. There is a clear demand for faster broadband connectivity, with many homes and businesses signing-up to use the new technology installed as part of the Superfast West Yorkshire and York programme.”

Carl France added: “Superfast speeds mean that our engineers can now connect to our internal systems from their laptops when working on site – this was nearly impossible before. We can now also transfer large AutoCAD files to clients in a fraction of the time it used to take and it is much easier for staff to work flexibly. We are also now looking at moving our onsite backup facility to the Cloud and are exploring options. The boost in speed is saving us time and improving productivity across our business which will in time, I’m sure, also help us generate cost savings.”

This second phase of the Superfast West Yorkshire & York roll-out will extend fibre coverage to 98 per cent of the programme area. The additional £13 million investment will bring fibre broadband speeds within reach of a further 33,000 homes and businesses across West Yorkshire and York by the end of 2018.

Derek Richardson, Openreach Programme Director for Yorkshire and the Humber, said: “Increasingly, we are reaching some of the most difficult and rural parts of West Yorkshire and York. Rural geographies present many challenges not faced in more urban areas. Long stretches of narrow, winding roads can create the need for temporary traffic lights and other traffic restrictions with engineers often having to build long stretches of new underground cabling ducts. There can also be complications connecting power to the new fibre cabinets situated in particularly remote locations.”

Around 850,000 households and businesses in West Yorkshire now have access to high-speed fibre broadband as a result of Superfast West Yorkshire & York and Openreach’s own commercial fibre broadband programme. It’s an ‘opt in’ service, but because the Openreach network is ‘open’, residents and businesses wanting to upgrade have a wide choice of fibre broadband providers.

Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Calderdale Council, Kirklees Council, Leeds City Council, Wakefield Council, and York City Council, are working with BT to extend high-speed fibre broadband to 98 per cent of households and businesses across the majority of West Yorkshire and York by the end of 2018.

For more information about the project or to find out when superfast broadband will be delivered in your area visit www.get-fibre.co.uk.

Superfast North Yorkshire to extend high-speed broadband roll-out

March 2018



North Yorkshire County Council and its wholly-owned company NYnet sign contract for phase three of its Superfast North Yorkshire (SFNY) project

The contract with Openreach, the business responsible for Britain's largest phone and broadband network will deliver superfast broadband coverage with speeds of more than 30Mbps to an additional 14,239 homes and businesses in North Yorkshire.

In partnership with Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), the Government's broadband delivery programme, and the EU, the council is to be the principal funder of the £29.7m phase three. The contract will receive funding of £12.1m from the County Council, £7.3m from BDUK and £1m from the European Regional Development Fund. Openreach will invest a further £9.2 million to deliver the new infrastructure.

This latest phase of the roll-out will mean that 95 per cent of all homes and businesses in the county will have access to superfast broadband. At the completion of phase two of the Superfast North Yorkshire project at the end of December 2017, about 90 per cent of properties in the county could receive superfast broadband. 12,500 of the phase three connections will benefit from having fibre optic cables linked directly to the property, capable of ultrafast speeds up to 1Gbps – enough to stream 200 HD movies at the same time.

The news comes as take-up of superfast broadband in phase one premises funded by Superfast North Yorkshire has risen above 50 per cent, 15 per cent ahead of the national average take-up. Councillor Don Mackenzie, the County Council's Executive Member for Broadband, said: "The outcome of the phase three procurement is remarkable and puts the quality of broadband provision to some of our most remote communities on to a new, much higher level. It is very good news indeed for those residents who have been waiting patiently for SFNY to get to them and their patience is likely to be rewarded with some of the best broadband quality in the country. Openreach will now be compiling a list of communities, which are likely to be included in the phase three programme and which we expect to be able to publish in April. The council and SFNY will consider further additional investment in superfast for the residual five per cent of premises likely to be excluded from the phase three list, so that they too have the possibility of receiving high quality broadband between now and 2021, when phase three concludes."

Steve Haines, Managing Director of Next Generation Access for Openreach, said: "This major investment

is a vital new chapter in the story of rolling out high-speed fibre broadband across North Yorkshire. A massive amount has already been achieved since the Superfast North Yorkshire partnership was launched six years ago with 90 per cent of households and businesses now able to access superfast broadband across the county. Research shows that the first phases of the contract have already added £7 to the North Yorkshire economy for every £1 invested by Superfast North Yorkshire. However, we recognise the need to continue building on this success. As we reach further into the most remote areas, the challenge becomes greater, but we are committed to rolling out both superfast and ultrafast broadband as far as possible. This third phase will run the length and breadth of the county, reaching many of the remaining communities most in need of high-speed broadband.”