THE MAGAZINE WITH INSIGHT
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HOWARD KENNEDY
LEGAL PROTECTION

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WE TALK TO HOWARD KENNEDY ABOUT THE GROWING AND CRUCIAL ROLE OF CYBER SECURITY IN ALL BUSINESS PRACTICES.

LEGAL PROTECTION

PROJECT MANAGED BY: ANDREW BOURKE

Howard Kennedy is a leading London-based law firm that has built itself a reputation for being straightforward.

"We're a full-service law firm priding ourselves on providing straightforward advice to organisations and individuals. That is our raison d'etre," says Tony McKenna, IT Director for the firm. "The language we use and the advice we give make it as simple as possible for people to understand. We look to get close to our clients and understand their businesses and situations, to advise them ahead of any requirement of the law to be involved."

Being a straight-talking business in an industry known for hard-to-decipher jargon, Howard Kennedy is a company perhaps uniquely suited to understanding the challenges around cyber security.

"Cyber security sits at the heart of what we do as a business. As Tony said, we want to be straightforward, and cyber security is part of that," says Jonathan Freedman, Head of Technology & Security. "It demonstrates why clients can ››

CYBEREASON

Cybereason is the XDR company, giving Defenders the weapon they need to end cyberattacks at the endpoint, in the cloud and across the entire enterprise ecosystem. The Cybereason MalOp™ Detection Engineleverages threat intelligence and AI-driven behavioral detections to provide Defenders with comprehensive attack details from root cause across the distributed network through real-time, multi-stage visibility that enableanalysts to immediately understand and end attacks before they become major security events.

Traditional security approaches are limited to detections based on retrospective Indicators of Compromise (IOCs), the artifacts from previously known attacks. Cybereason leverages IOCs as well as Indicators of Behavior (IOBs), the more subtle signs of never before seen attack tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs).IOB-based detections allow Defenders to identify potential security incidents earlier based upon chains of behavior that produce circumstances that are either extremely rare or present a distinct advantage to an attacker—even when those behaviors are common and expected to be seen in the network environment. These chains of behavior reveal an attack at the earliest stages by surfacing malicious intent and activity that exposes novel attack methodologies. This is how the Cybereason MalOp™ Detection Engine instantly deliverscontext-rich correlations across every affected device, user and system with unparalleled speed and accuracy.

Cybereason was founded in 2012, bringing some of the world's brightest minds from the military, government intelligence and enterprise security together to deliver future-ready attack protection. Cybereason provides a wide range of best-in-class, AI-driven solutions and services, including industry-leading Extended and Endpoint Detection and Responses (XDR and EDR), Next-Gen Antivirus (EPP), Managed and Incident Response Services (MDR and DFIR) and Proactive Threat Hunting. Cybereason delivers unparalleled efficacy to protect all aspects of modern network ecosystems including endpoints, on-premise and private infrastructure, the cloud, application suites and user identities. With automated and one-click remediation options, Cybereason significantly reduces the mean time to respond from an industry average of several days down to minutes.

Traditional solutions require manual analyst intervention for nearly every task, increasing the likelihood of human error and severely limiting scalability for Security Operations. With Cybereason, a single analyst can defend as many as 200,000 enterprise endpoints, because Cybereason is at the forefront of data collection, processing and analysis for actionable security event data at scale. Competing offerings are forced to filter crucial threat telemetry, but the Cybereason XDR Platform powered by Google Cloud is capable of processing all available telemetry at petabyte scale, empowering security analysts to understand the full scope of cyberattacks in minutes. Only the AI-driven Cybereason XDR Platform has the ability to analyse over 23 trillion security events per week to deliver predictive prevention, detection and response that is undefeated against modern ransomware and advanced attack techniques.

With Cybereason, Defenders can move beyond continuous alert triage and investigation with an operation-centric security approach that leverages the Cybereason MalOp™ Detection Engine for context-rich correlations that turn threat data into actionable decisions at the speed of business to detect earlier, remediate faster and reverse the adversary advantage.

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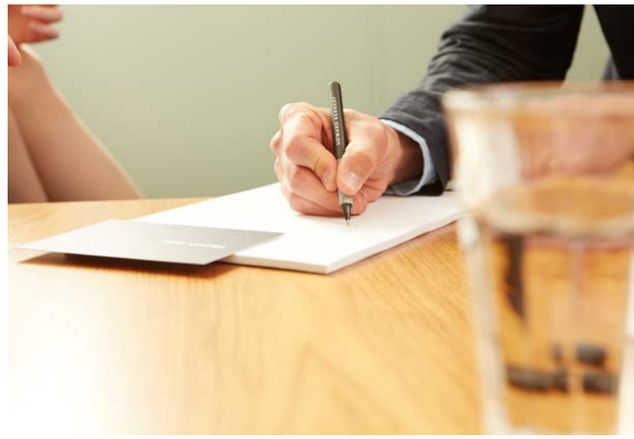
trust us with their information and their business. We have designed our IT environment and project planning to put cyber security at the heart of what we do. In the modern world, if you do not have cyber security, you do not have a business. It's absolutely crucial."

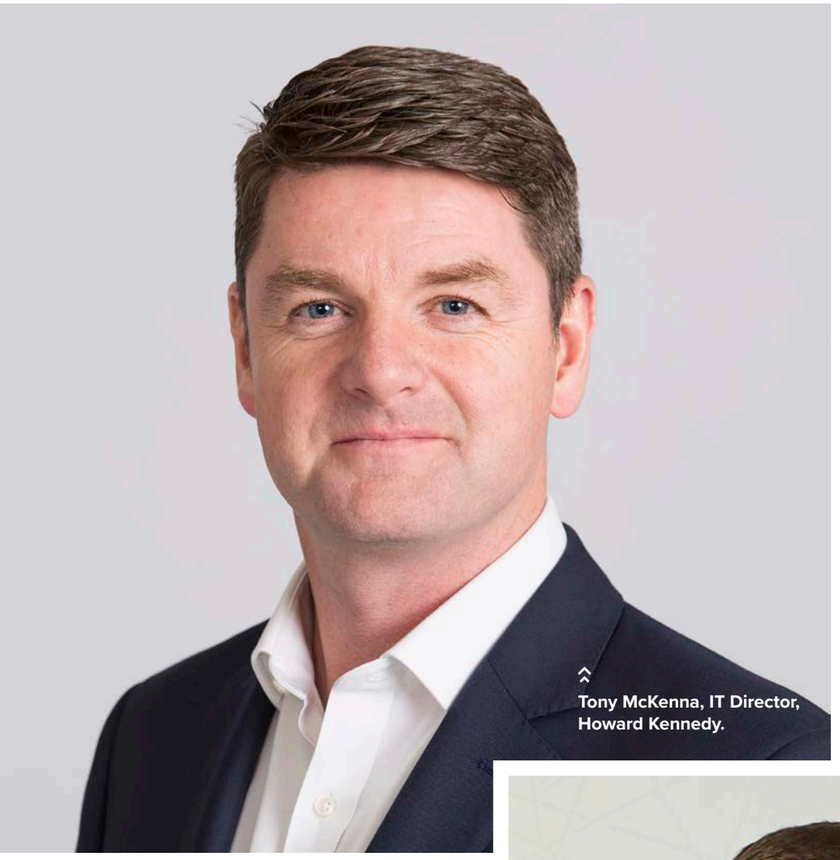


HEARTS AND MINDS

Cyber security is a key factor in all the decisions Howard Kennedy makes, with every new technology or process analysed from a security perspective. However, it is equally important to ensure that every person involved in a project shares that priority.

"It's front and centre in the conversation now where four or five years ago it would have been more of a background issue," McKenna says. "We take it into account in looking at which suppliers to use and selecting partners to work with, as well as in the benchmarking questions we ask the people we work with."

"I tend to describe it as Hearts and Minds," Freedman says. "The last couple of years have been about reinforcing the message of cyber security across the business, not just by saying this is our policy, but by helping people understand why it's important, >>



Tony McKenna, IT Director, Howard Kennedy.

FAR HORIZON

Howard Kennedy is currently engaged in a multi-year technology refresh program called "Programme Horizon", aligning its technology to its business strategy, including laying out its longer-term plans around cyber security.

"Over the last 18 months to two years we've been making strategic investments in cyber security, deliberately avoiding a common pitfall across multiple industries," Freedman says. "Lots of organisations may use 15 different cyber security products, each solving a different problem but not in a coordinated way. These solutions are extensive, difficult to manage and hard to get value from. We make targeted investments in cyber security. We select individual products as part of a big picture, being conscious of how they fit together to deliver long term protection and value."

and not just at work but in their personal lives. This is not just important at work, it's important in the 21st century."

Howard Kennedy engages people on a personal level to help them be more cyber aware in their whole lives, not just at work.

"We challenge our colleagues through sending out simulated attacks, monitoring responses and providing targeted education," McKenna tells us. "Blanket education, through emails and broadcasting, has its place, but targeted messaging can bring the subject to life with real-life scenarios. A lot of this can sound quite spooky and futuristic and sci-fi, but we know all too well there's a lot of this going on in real-time today."

Jonathan Freedman, Head of Technology & Security, Howard Kennedy.

Their mission statement is to protect their people, both clients and colleagues, from evolving threats like ransomware and advanced persistent threats.

"What we've tried to do is identify partners we can establish a close working relationship with," Freedman says. "Unless you're an enormous company you won't have facilities to do everything internally, so you need partnerships with companies like Cybereason, which are core to our strategy for how we deliver protection to our people." ››

"IN THE MODERN WORLD **IF YOU DON'T HAVE CYBER SECURITY, YOU DON'T HAVE A BUSINESS.**"

It includes technological solutions that can identify where bad actors are not only spoofing Howard Kennedy, but also its partners.

"When we're involved in multi-party legal transactions, we can identify where other partners and systems may have been compromised and support them to proactively close down these threats," McKenna says.

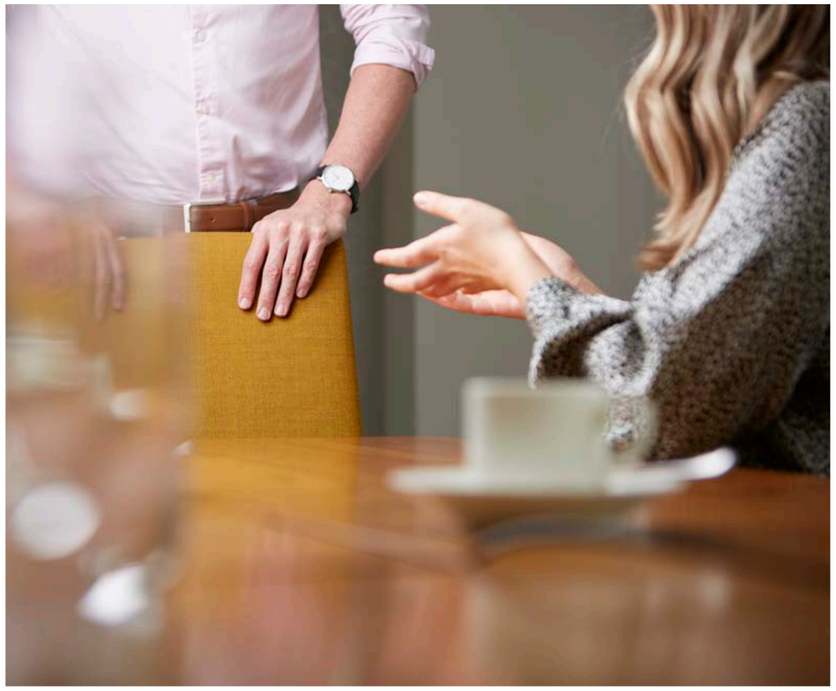
Howard Kennedy has an ambitious three-year plan to reach £80 million in revenue by 2024. One of the strategic pillars of that plan is smarter working, leveraging all of the company's technology, processes and enhancements.

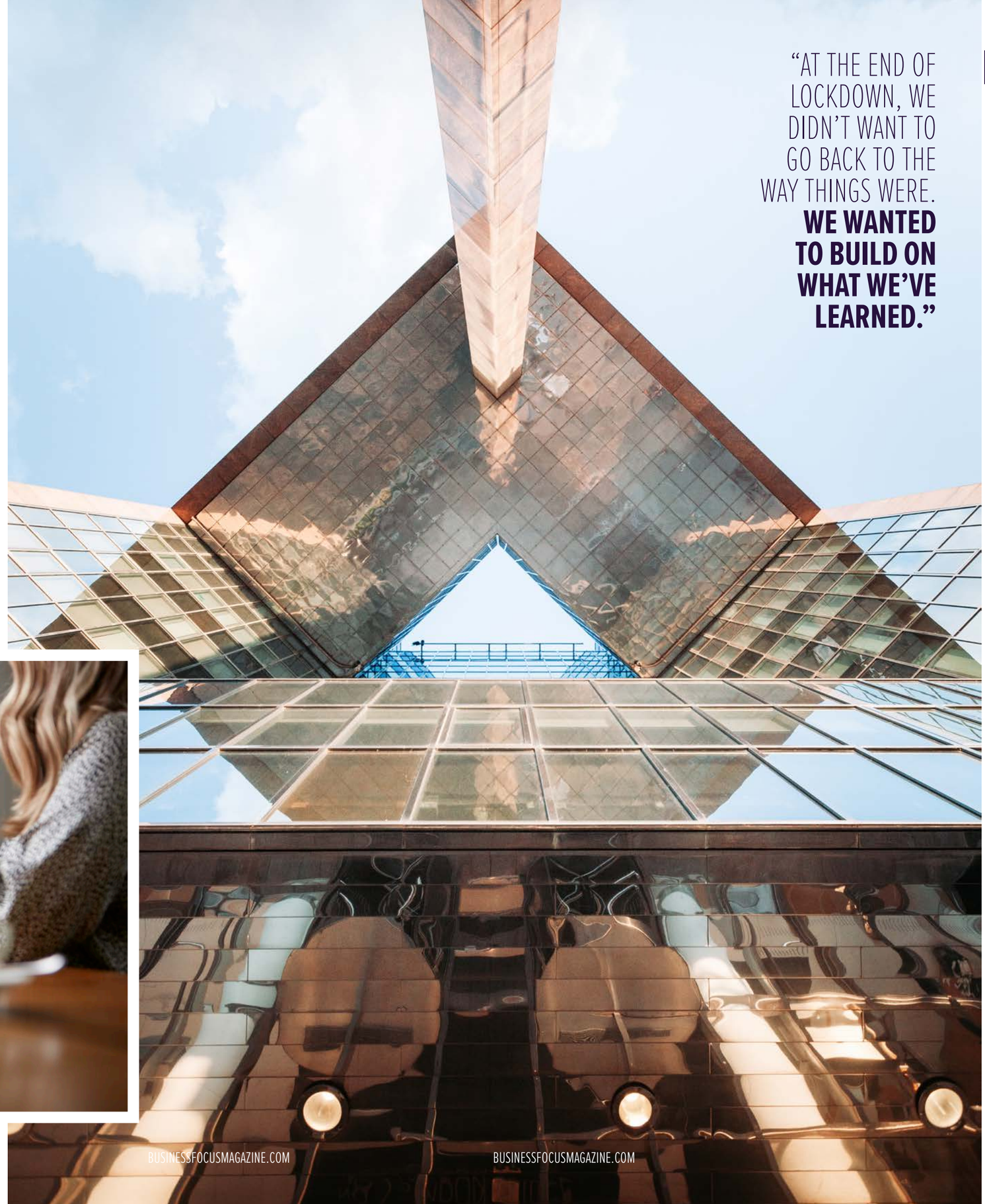
"From a technology side, the specific projects we're working on at the moment come under our smart working and responsible business strategy," Freedman says. "We partnered with Osirium and are using their automation platform as part of our smart working strategy, automating a lot of those manual processes such as updating information to streamline what we do in IT."

MATCHING SOCIETY'S NEEDS

"Cyber security is evolving constantly, and we have invested in technologies aiming at where we want to be in ten years. We already have the technology in place to do it," McKenna adds. "The broader technology platforms we use, not just from a cyber security perspective, are helping us implement a roadmap to where our clients see the legal industry moving in the context of ensuring Howard Kennedy are easy to do business with."

Howard Kennedy is a future-looking business. With this new strategy, the firm wants to not just be the best possible partner it can be for its clients, but also have a positive impact on society in general. Of course, society is changing.





"AT THE END OF LOCKDOWN, WE DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE. **WE WANTED TO BUILD ON WHAT WE'VE LEARNED."**

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"The other big challenge that's out there for the industry in general is hybrid working. What does that look like? What does the office of the future look like?" McKenna asks. "We've taken some strong actions very early. We completely refreshed our laptops over 2020/2021, so everyone has a laptop with the latest technology. We moved to softphones very early on as an enhancement to give our colleagues the full office experience even working at home."

"At the end of lockdown, we didn't want to go back to the way things were," Freedman agrees. "We wanted to build on what we've learned."

Indeed, Howard Kennedy's HR department has implemented a policy that is a clear move to a much more agile working policy, to address that level of uncertainty some staff have about the future.

Meanwhile, Howard Kennedy's facilities team have looked at how to make the space in the office more appealing.

"Something we've done relatively recently is replacing our on-premises desk phones with cloud-based telephony," Freedman points out. "All phone calls are delivered to a mobile app. Now your phone is wherever you are."

"The office is moving from the place where you do work to a place where you can work," McKenna says. "We're making great strides to make the office a place you want to go to, and that reflects on technology decisions around the sort of infrastructure we need, including completely wireless infrastructure so people don't need to plug into their desk. It gives people flexibility and freedom while maintaining reliability and performance."

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