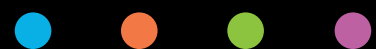# Tied Up?
Untangling your IT knot

arcsystems

Unless you're into knitting you won't think much about yarn, but it does have a lesson to offer anyone running a business.

If you've knitted it into a handsome jumper, it'll look fantastic, it'll keep you warm, and you'll love it.

If you've left a load of loose threads in a basket, they'll soon become a tangled mess, too difficult to even think about separating.

A lot of businesses have got their IT knotted up. The digital wool is tangled. They can't separate the threads, let alone make anything useful out of them.

Here are the yarns, and how to knit them into something stylish.

The Yarns in the Basket

Everyone's yarn basket has got a different collection of colours, but here are some of the most common.
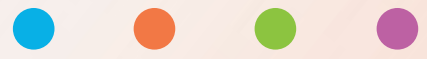
Security

Security never gets simpler, only ever more complex. New software means new weaknesses, and new technology means more 'surface area' to attack. Hybrid work means more devices, in more places, connected to more networks, which means more ways in for threats.

There's always an arms race between security and cyber crime, and businesses like yours are the front line.
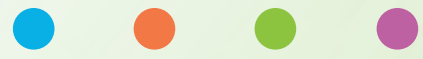
Data

It's many businesses' greatest asset and probably their greatest liability. For some, *data is the business.* Even the least digital business has customer and prospect contacts, stock and inventory lists, and reams of financial information.

Even without the question of security, you need all of your data clean, accessible, consistent, and interpretable. In many cases, it just isn't.

Communications

Lots of workforces are hybrid, which means communication is less casual and effortless than it once was. You need your people reliably connected, wherever they're working. They're all using Microsoft Teams, emails, and probably at least one database or CRM, with shared drives for documents and files.

Then you have external comms. Customer support is a typical and very common example, along with sales and marketing communication.

Operations

Tracking your processes, efficiency, productivity, supply chain, compliance, accounting, and competitors (to name a few) adds up to yet more data, more systems, and more users.

All of those threads should touch, interact, and interweave, but they shouldn't do it like this...

…They should do it like this.

When you have streams of data flowing through multiple systems, used by multiple people in multiple roles, things can get very messy very easily.

Once data becomes inaccurate in one place, it starts to misinform all of the others, and very soon you're less profitable, productive, or efficient than you think you are. Then you find you can't deliver the service you promised, and you have to deal with complaints, or correct hundreds of accounting records, and then you can't reinvest that time or money back into the business.

If you've got the yarn, we'll knit you a jumper

When you untangle your IT, and knit it together the right way, your systems are doing what they're supposed to be doing — growing your business, not stifling it.

Arc Systems streamlines businesses' IT so that they can focus on growing, not fixing problems.

Get your **free IT Health Check** to see if your systems and your data are knotted up, or get in touch if you'd like to speak to a local IT specialist. It's **01268 288100** or **info@arcsystems.co.uk**.

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