

inside zhero

Let's take a look at what is happening at Zhero



MESSAGE FROM IZAK

This month we celebrate the birthday of one of the most remarkable women of the 20th and 21st centuries, Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen has ruled the UK longer than any other Monarch in British history and she has an unprecedented sense of duty and dedication to a life of service. On her 21st birthday on 21 April 1947, Princess Elizabeth was on a tour to South Africa with her parents. In a public broadcast from Cape Town she said:

"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service."

Six years later, on 2 June 1953, Elizabeth was crowned Queen of the

British Commonwealth at Westminster Abbey in London. My admiration for the Queen goes way beyond her total commitment as Head of State. She has a unique ability to change and adapt with the times. I see her adaptability as inherently linked to my undertaking as a provider of first-class IT where facing any challenges head-on is key to success.

In this issue of Inside Zhero we honour the Queen's 96th birthday on Thursday by acknowledging some of the extraordinary contributions made by the UK to IT and technology.

Izak Oosthuizen
Bestselling Author and
Founder and MD of Zhero

THE MONARCH WITH TWO BIRTHDAYS

The Queen is lucky enough to have two birthdays – her real one on 21 April and the official celebration in the UK on the second Saturday of June. Why two birthdays? As we all know, Great Britain isn't known for its good weather, especially in November when the Queen's great-grandfather, Edward VII was born. Edward VII, who was King from 1901 to 1910, decided to celebrate his birthday in summer when the weather was better, marking it with a military parade. This year, the Queen will celebrate her official birthday on 12 June. On 2 June, the Trooping of the Colour, also known as the Queen's Birthday Parade, will also celebrate the monarch's special day with more than 1400 soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians taking part in the spectacular military event.



A TIMELINE OF TECH

Here is just a handful of many significant British tech inventions:

1812	computer
1875	telephone
1924	television
1965	touchscreen
1989	World Wide Web
1992	SMS
2006	iPod

COMPUTER

While the invention of the PC in 1971 can be attributed to the American John V. Blankenbaker, it was a London-born Brit, Charles Babbage, who created the first programmable machine way back in 1821. Babbage conceived a steam-driven calculating device, the 'Difference Engine', that would be able to compute tables of numbers. Unfortunately, the project, funded by the British government, failed due to inadequate technology at the time. Nevertheless, Babbage's innovation paved the way for the workstations and hand-held devices that we now cannot live without.

TELEPHONE

Like computers, smartphones and other phones have become indispensable technologies. The first telephone message was sent in Boston in March 1876. The sender, Alexander Graham Bell, called out these famous words to his assistant:

"Come here, Watson, I want you."

In June that year, the technology was demonstrated at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia and may have passed under the radar if the Emperor of Brazil hadn't caught everybody's attention by shouting:

"My God ... it talks!"

So, the telephone originated in the United States? Yes. And it is an American invention? No. Bell was born in Edinburgh in 1847 and he only became an American citizen in 1882. Put simply, when he invented the phone he was British so the technology can be claimed as a British invention.

TELEVISION

With an abundance of TV programmes being made in America, it would be easy to assume that the television was an American invention. It wasn't. The 'modern fireplace' was dreamed up by Scotsman John Logie Baird in February 1924. The prototype was demonstrated at Selfridges a year later and in 1928, Baird showcased the first working version, also experimenting with colour TV. That same year, he orchestrated the first transatlantic television transmission between London and New York and the first transmission to a ship in the mid-Atlantic. The first official TV broadcast was made in 1932 between London and Glasgow. So thanks to Baird, and a few other innovators with vision, we have our smart TVs, monitors and other screen-based tech.

TOUCHSCREEN

Touchscreens put literally everything at our fingertips – not only on hand-held devices but also in shops, takeaways, ATMs and airports. This technology had its roots back in 1965 when Brit E.A. Johnson invented a capacitive touchscreen at the Royal Radar Establishment in Malvern in the UK. It was only much later in the 1990s that Apple produced the Newton PDA, equipped with handwriting recognition and IBM released the first smartphone called Simon, both using touchscreen technology. But thanks to Johnson, we now embrace smart touchscreen technology on our iPhones, tablets and laptops.

WORLD WIDE WEB - WWW

With the likes of Google and Microsoft dominating our browsing experience, you might be fooled into thinking that Americans were responsible for inventing WWW, the world's largest collection of information. However, again we can thank the British for this incredible achievement. The WWW was originally conceived by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989, a British scientist working at CERN. In its earliest form, the Web was designed to meet the demand for automated information-sharing between scientists in universities and institutes around the world. By April 1993, CERN had put the WWW in the public domain. We can also thank Berners-Lee for writing the world's first HTML, a language that some of you coders still can't live without.

SMS

Can you imagine your life without instant messaging using the likes of WhatsApp, Facebook or MS Teams? Probably not. The first SMS was sent by British engineer, Neil Papworth, on 3 December 1992 when he typed 'Merry Christmas' on a computer and sent the text to the mobile phone belonging to the Vodafone director at the time, Richard Jarvis. In 1993, the Finnish technology company, Nokia, became the first handset manufacturer whose total GSM phone line supported user-sending of SMS text messages. In 1997, it became the first manufacturer to produce a mobile phone with a full keyboard, the Nokia 9000i Communicator

iPod

In 1979, Kane Kramer from Hertfordshire, invented the IXI, a device that stored only 3.5 minutes of music onto a chip. This was to be a prototype for Apple's iPod, which the Cupertino-based tech giant first released in 2001. Kramer always believed that the capacity of his IXI would improve and his sketches at the time revealed a credit-card-sized player with a rectangular screen and a central menu button - sound familiar? He took out a worldwide patent but, by 1988, could not raise the £60,000 needed to renew patents across 120 countries and the technology became public property. Only in 2008 did Apple acknowledge Kramer as the father of the iPod although he was never to reap any financial reward from his invention. As of 2020, Apple has sold over 400 million iPods.

ZHERO FOR ZERO TRUST

The Zhero Trust security approach to IT is nothing new. An analyst at Forrester Research first coined the term in 2010 while Google announced that it had implemented Zero Trust security into its network a few years later. In 2019, a global IT research and advisory firm listed Zero Trust security access as a core component of cybersecurity strategies for businesses to deploy. With ransomware on the increase and the threat of global hacking from Russia hanging over our heads, you need to implement Zero Trust now more than ever. This means

- Verify Every User
- Validate Their Devices
- Intelligently Limit Their Access

Join Izak for his 'Zhero Trust Solution' webinar on 27 April at 10 am. He will discuss exactly what Zero Trust security is, the principles behind it, and how you can implement Zero Trust in your business. Book your place here.





MEET THE TEAM

Christopher Dawha

SOC ENGINEER

1. What made you realise you want to go into the IT industry?

My brother bought a P1 computer back then and used to take turns in playing Super Mario and other games. Since then, I developed a love of computers within me.

2. What's your most-used productivity tool?

MS Onenote is a really good tool to have

3. What do you enjoy the most about your job?

Everyone in the team share and understand the cooperate vision and working with a dedicated team to complete different scheduled tasks makes workflow easy and deadlines met.

4. How would you describe yourself?

Adventurous, curious to learn new things and above all I'm a Christian and a believer.

5. Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?

I can dance when I am alone

6. Are you a sports fan?

I'm not a big fan of any sports

7. What is your favourite film?

Courageous

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