



Summer in full swing...

At Focus Group we're celebrating sunshine and an award-winning spree! More about that below. This month, we're also jumping into some of the big conversations shaping the future - from the latest in AI security and Microsoft 365, to the power of inspiring young minds through the Dare 2 Dream programme.

So grab a cool drink and let's explore what's been keeping us busy this July!



Let's celebrate!

The technology industry awards season is now officially underway and we're thrilled to share that Focus Group is off to a golden start, with success at the CRN Awards, Channel Champions Awards and Health Tech Awards 2025! These aren't just shiny trophies for the office, they represent much more than that...

So, a **very big "thank you" to YOU – our incredible customers** - the ones who trust us with their most important challenges. And thanks to our amazing people who make it all possible – the ones who lead the projects, support the team, or keep everything running on schedule behind the scenes.

[Award news](#)



AI - Block the bot!

The [BBC](#) recently reported that millions of websites - including Sky News, The Associated Press and BuzzFeed - will now be able to block artificial intelligence (AI) bots from accessing content without permission.

The new system is being rolled out by internet infrastructure firm, Cloudflare - a Focus Group partner - which provides services to around a fifth of live websites.

Content-scraping is just one of the concerns associated with AI. So, whether you're taking tentative steps into the world of AI or fully embracing its benefits in your working world, our latest blog explores the AI security measures you should be considering.

[Read now - AI security](#)

Dare2Dream

We're always excited to meet the tech entrepreneurs of the future and this month we welcomed a cohort of aspiring year 9 students to Focus House for a day of confidence-building, product-developing, sales-strategising and muffin-selling!

Dare to Dream is an inspirational programme, established by the Love Local Jobs Foundation, to challenge young people to change the way they think and to help build the self-esteem they need to fulfil their potential, personally & professionally.

Focus Group supports local secondary school - Shoreham Academy - and each year we help to enable students to Dare to Dream through a programme of mentoring and workplace visits. And each year, the students astound us with their growth and attitudes towards overcoming the barriers that many young people face.

If you're a brilliant business in the South East and would like to get involved, find out more here.

[Get involved](#)



Our top 5 tech podcasts

Looking for fresh insights while you commute, workout or grab coffee? Our team has handpicked standout podcasts – selected for their relevance, strong opinions, and unique views on the trends shaping the business world.

- 1 Acquired** (acquired.fm)
A masterclass in business and tech history, Acquired breaks down the stories behind iconic companies and deals - think Apple, Nvidia, and OpenAI.
- 2 The OpenAI Podcast** (openai.com/podcast)
Straight from the frontier of AI, this podcast features conversations with researchers, builders and thinkers exploring how AI is changing the world.
- 3 FT Tech Tonic** (ft.com/tech-tonic)
Produced by the Financial Times, Tech Tonic takes a global, investigative approach to emerging technologies - from geopolitics and AI ethics to green innovation.
- 4 All-In Podcast**
Equal parts sharp analysis and unfiltered banter, All-In brings together four influential investors and entrepreneurs to break down tech, markets, and current events.
- 5 Hard Fork** (nytimes.com/column/hard-fork)
Hosted by New York Times journalists, Hard Fork delivers witty, informed commentary on tech's biggest stories - from AI drama to Silicon Valley antics.



Microsoft 365 - latest updates



Our Microsoft knowledge hub has been developed to help you maximise your investment in 365. With user experience updates, blogs, product launches and specialist webinars, we highlight the changes that are most important to your business.

This month, we review the latest raft of changes and innovations from Microsoft, covering Copilot's new voice-activated assistant, custom dictionaries for M365 and tighter app and browser security measures.

[Microsoft insights](#)



All your essential business technology in one place



Telecoms



Connectivity



IT



Cyber security



Mobile

Let's connect. Let's grow.