**Wingman Insights**
August 2025

Paul Starr
CEO

Welcome to the August edition of Wingman Insights!

This month, we've brought on Mike Goodwin, Co-founder and Director of Technical Pre-Sales at SEP2, for his insights on the UK government's latest tech regulations: the Ransomware Payment Ban and the Online Safety Act. I recently spoke about the ransomware payment ban with IT Channel Oxygen, where I highlighted why the ban must be accompanied by a massive push for improved cyber hygiene to prevent it from becoming a simple box-ticking exercise.

As we delve into these important technical updates, I hope you're also taking some time to enjoy the sunshine and making the most of the summer holidays. At SEP2, we are bringing back the 4ugust initiative, a four-day work week throughout August, to support employee wellbeing across the business. Alongside this initiative we've introduced SOCtember, a tailored approach that gives our SOC team the same opportunity to recharge, without compromising service. I'm looking forward to seeing how Team SEP2 makes the most of the upcoming months.

Mike Goodwin
Co-Founder, Director of Technical Pre-Sales
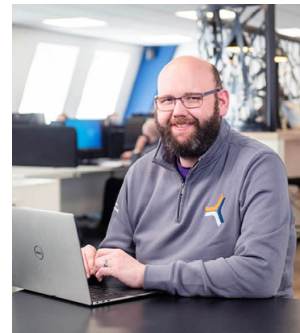
When Good Intentions Backfire: UK Ransomware Payment Ban and the Online Safety Act

In the fast-paced world of technology, governments worldwide are struggling to keep up. As digital threats and online harms grow more sophisticated, policymakers are pushing for new regulations to protect citizens and businesses. From proposals to ban ransomware payments to sweeping legislation like the UK's Online Safety Act, these efforts are often born from good intentions.

The problem is that what sounds like a logical solution on paper frequently becomes a **counterproductive, unenforceable, or even harmful reality.** This gap between legislative intent and operational reality is a defining challenge of our time.

The Ransome Payment Paradox

Like Paul, I have mixed feelings about the idea of such a ban. The goal is undeniably noble: by cutting off the financial lifeline of cyber criminal organisations, we could theoretically cripple their operations. It's a simple, elegant idea. The problem is that its elegance disappears the moment we try to apply it to the real world.

The UK's Online Safety Act: Ambitious Reach, Questionable Grasp

The UK's Online Safety Act is perhaps the most ambitious attempt by a government to regulate online spaces. Its primary goal is to make the internet safer for children and to combat genuinely harmful content. These are goals that few would argue against. However, the act's broad scope and vague definitions create a regulatory quagmire that threatens to **stifle innovation, chill legitimate speech, and prove largely unenforceable against the global nature of the internet.**

With these new regulations, the critical question for all of us is how we can navigate them. For a deeper look at the unintended consequences and what a more thoughtful approach could look like, check out my **latest blogpost**.

News

SEP2 Partners with Wiz
I'm proud to announce the launch of our latest service, Wingman Cloud Security, in partnership with Wiz. This is our eighth Wingman service, built to help you take control of cloud risk with clarity and confidence.

Learn more about Wingman Cloud Security.

Land Rover Experience - Join SEP2 and Sponsors up north!
I'm excited to invite you to a day of cyber security insight, connection, and adventure in the scenic setting of Skipton, North Yorkshire. Join us and our

esteemed partners for thought provoking sessions and a chance to take part in the Land Rover driving experience.

Spaces are limited, register your interest today.

SEP2 on NetTech Podcast

In the latest episode of *NetTech*, Mike Goodwin, Co-founder and Director of Technical Pre-Sales at SEP2, joins host Lara Vafiadis to explore cloud security in the AI era. From how threat actors are leveraging AI to securing board-level buy-in, Mike shares practical insights and three key takeaways to strengthen your cloud security posture.

Listen to the episode.

Website Redesign

Have you seen our latest website redesign? This new website is a reflection of how far we've come, from a small team with big ideas to a company built on trust, technical depth, and genuine partnership.

I'm really proud to share it with all of you here.

"SEP2 have been friendly and willing to go the extra mile to make sure we're happy with the service we're getting and the ongoing outreach to see if there's any changes that need to be made."

- Ryan Davies, Information Security Manager at Multiverse

Read our latest case study