

ReliableTech

Your Monthly Source of Trustworthy Tech Insights

January 2025 - Happy New Year!

And just like that, it's 2025. We've only dipped a toe into this new year, but it's likely to be one of the most interesting and exciting yet, especially from a tech perspective.

But, of course, as with every other year, there are always going to be challenges. And that's particularly true for smaller businesses, charities, and not-for-profit organisations who often feel like they get left behind as technology moves forward around them. That's what we're here to look at this month.

At Reliable, we believe that every organisation – no matter what – can enjoy digital success. It all comes from understanding the IT challenges that are most likely to create obstacles, and learning the best ways to overcome them. That's how everyone can set themselves up for a successful year.

So, without further ado, let's dive in...

Digital collaboration

As we move into 2025, digital collaboration remains a critical IT challenge for non-profits. While many organisations have embraced technology, the full potential of these tools often goes untapped. Effective collaboration hinges on knowing how to use the right tools to foster seamless communication, especially in remote and volunteer-heavy teams. This year, it's essential for charities to invest in both the right technology and the training to make it work. This way, tech becomes a robust bridge that can be relied on to build, maintain, and

nurture connections with the right people.

In the real world... Here at Reliable, we worked with the Brentford Football Club Community Sports Trust to help them work together and communicate to a wide audience using simple digital technologies. We implemented Microsoft's Modern Workplace solution to enable staff and volunteers to collaborate on new programmes, and Microsoft 365 to create a connection with young people in the local area.

[Click here >](#)

Did you know...

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, average charity income in the UK has increased by just 3%, while outgoings have risen by 4 times as much, according to the 2024 'Underfunded and Overlooked' report by The Centre for Social Justice Foundation. Overall, there's been a £4.6 billion loss in funding, and nearly 80% of adults agree that their small, local charities appear to be under-resourced. Given these figures, it comes as no surprise that budget restrictions are a major IT challenge for nonprofits today.

Time constraints

Over the next 12 months, time constraints will continue to challenge non-profits, especially when it comes to IT.

With limited staff and resources – and continued issues surrounding volunteering and recruitment – charities often struggle to find the time needed to properly implement and manage their technology.

This year, it's vital for organisations to simplify their IT processes, adopt intuitive solutions, and seek expert support when needed. By doing so, non-profits can really make the most of their valuable time and resources, ultimately increasing their ability to focus on their core mission.

Fact!

A lack of time and capacity is listed as one of the biggest challenges facing non-profits today in the NPC State of the Sector 2024 report, with 64% of UK charities noting this as a major IT obstacle. Around 1 in 10 non-profits also say that data and digital aren't considered to be a priority for the board, meaning staff and volunteers aren't being given the time they need to engage with digital.

Budget restrictions

This year, budget restrictions will undoubtedly remain a pressing IT challenge for non-profits.

With financial resources often stretched thin, charities face ongoing difficulty maintaining and upgrading their technology. However, it's possible to optimise IT setups without overspending by consolidating tools, embracing scalable solutions, and seeking expert support. In the coming year, non-profits can make smarter IT investments that drive impact while staying within budget, and we're here to help.

Eager For More?

We'll be back next month with the latest edition of Reliable Tech.

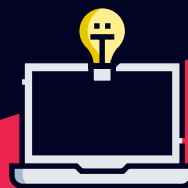
Can't wait? want to know more, contact your Reliable Account manager or contact us below



Powerful quote of the month

"Our future success is directly proportional to our ability to understand, adopt and integrate new technology into our work".

Sukant Ratnakar



Top Tech Tips

Every month, we ask the Reliable team for their top tech tips to share with businesses.

- 1. Centralise communication:** If you need to bring staff, volunteers, fundraisers, and donors together, consider using tools like Microsoft Teams to streamline communication and reduce email clutter.
- 2. Upgrade security:** While you may be a small charity, you're still at risk of breaches. Ensure all devices are protected with strong passwords, multi-factor authentication, and regular software updates.
- 3. Consolidate software tools:** Make things easier for organisation by using one tool for practically everything. Options like Microsoft 365 integrate communication, file sharing, and much more.