

## Ask the expert &gt;&gt;&gt;

# Feeling insecure?

More than ever, IT security is uppermost in the minds of all whose business relies on technology. Gavin Dixon of Business IT Solutions (bits), based in the city's Hebron Park, is keen to alert those with wireless Broadband to make sure this connection is secure.

**I**There are places in Kilkenny where a person could bring their laptop and hack into a business's network," said Mr. Dixon. "Wireless Broadband is great but you have to make sure it's secure."

Mr. Dixon's company offers installation of secure wireless Broadband along with computers, networks, domain names and constant maintenance.



"We serve Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the South East," said Mr. Dixon. "We look after everything and we believe in preventative maintenance. We like to nip a problem in the bud rather than have a client at panic stations when something goes wrong."

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"If a client gets us in at the early stages of setting up an office, we can put in cables, advise them on where to position their computers, install a server, set up a network and anything else they need. Most people don't know what they need and it can be intimidating. Sometimes, companies will try to sell servers to new businesses which are way beyond the needs of that company. We tailor everything to the company's individual needs."

Bits can also provide domain names for companies who want their own identity on the net.

"It's much cheaper than people think and as well as a website, they get unlimited e-mail addresses," said Mr. Dixon. "Also, it helps prevent junk mail which people get with the more common e-mail addresses. Once we have everything in place, we look after the client from there on, checking in a least once a month and we're always on call. Because we're local, we're never far away."

Business IT Security, Tel: 056 7786882, info@bits.ie, www.bits.ie

## News &gt;&gt;&gt;

People of Kilkenny can enjoy more guilt-free coffee breaks now that the city has attained Fairtrade City status.

## City awarded Fairtrade status

The Fairtrade Foundation guarantees a fair price for farmers and producers in developing countries.

It seems only fitting that Kilkenny is the first city in Ireland to achieve Fairtrade status as the first ever Fairtrade Network meeting was held here in 1991. Since then, a number of people have been working towards fulfilling the list of criteria necessary for Fairtrade status.

"We had to have a specified number of cafés, restaurants, shops and offices selling or serving Fairtrade products," said Audrey Mongan, Environmental Officer with Kilkenny County Council. "We had to have a steering committee in place and someone out speaking to schools."

Ms Mongan was one of the people responsible for bringing Fairtrade coffee and tea into both County and Borough Council offices.

The city first submitted an application to become Ireland's first Fairtrade City in 1991 and was followed quickly by Cork and Waterford.

"All three cities were declared Fairtrade Cities on the same day," said Ms Mongan, "but Kilkenny led the way."

At a celebration in Langton's Hotel to mark the achievement, Melanie Drea of Fairtrade Ireland confirmed that Kilkenny had been way ahead of the targets laid down by the foundation.

"Since the application was submitted, Kilkenny has 50% more shops and offices on board," said Ms Mongan.

[www.fairtrade.ie](http://www.fairtrade.ie)



## New manager appointed

**T**he Book Centre on Kilkenny's High Street has a new manager. Siobhan Fahy joins the book shop after cutting her managerial teeth in Adams children's clothes boutique in Market Cross Shopping Centre and Anne's Newsagent on John Street, which was owned by her partner, Stephen Byrne.

Originally from Dublin, Ms Fahy moved to Slieve Rua sixteen years ago before moving into the city in 2001. Ms Fahy was full of praise for her new employers and colleagues.

"The Book Centre treats their staff very well and nobody feels like this is just a job," she said. "There's a feeling of being a part of something and that's very important."

