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Five minute interview: Simon Howard-Johnson, Intact

MicroScope contributor

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This week, we put our questions to Simon Howard-Johnson, vice president of global support and managed services provider Intact Integrated Services.

What is the best advice you have received and from whom?

I was once told by a school teacher, "Treat people the way you wish to be treated". Relationships are everything especially in business...

What is the best book you've ever read?

Dante's Divine Comedy.

Tell us something most people do not know about you

I like peanut butter...

What temptation can you not resist?

A round of golf

What is your most elusive goal?

To have a single digit golf handicap

Where is the one place you'd like to visit before you die - and why?

Iguazu Falls in South America for the wow factor; you can't hear a thing as you approach, then 275 waterfalls meet in a fabulous crescendo at the borders of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, really letting rip.

What do you just have to do before you die - and why?

Donate a large sum of money to charity, anonymously; this is the ultimate act of giving for no glory.

Which bit of technology would you want with you if you were stranded on a desert island - and why?

My iPad. It has music, internet, and just about every application.

Who helped you get to where you are today?

My family; they have been a huge support.

What was your first car and how does it compare with what you drive now?

It was a Ford Escort, and it doesn't compare at all.

What do you believe in most?

Family and friends, they mean a lot to me.

Do you have any pets? If so, what are they and what are their names?

Four English Springer spaniels, Jess, Ollie, Chester and Winston

If you could be someone else for a day, who would you be and why?

My wife; so I could see myself as she sees me and change things that she doesn't like.

Who would you least like to be stuck in a lift with?

Big Bird from Sesame Street, he would take up all the room and his voice annoys me.

Describe yourself in one sentence

I am a charismatic IT geek with a great sense of style and a dry sense of humour.

If you were shipwrecked, who would you like to have with you and why?

Steve Redgrave 'cos once we've built the raft he's perfect to get us home....

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Name three items (smaller than a fridge) that you would like to have with you if you were shipwrecked

A satellite phone, GPS and extra pair of socks...

Do you prefer cities or the countryside? Explain why

I was raised in a city so I have to say countryside, plus I have four dogs.

Describe your perfect night out

Any night I am in the company of people who make me laugh. Good food and wine Oh and of course a babysitter.

What would be your perfect holiday?

My CEO's apartment in Spain on the golf course for two weeks... Please...

Sum up the IT channel in one sentence

Services are the future and collaboration within the channel has never been more important than it is today.

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