# Radio Days – 2008-08-02

## Tip of the Week — Think

Over the last week I have received two emails from separate people, and seen a client's email, which warned of the perils of an email-borne virus with a postcard. This was due to arrive very soon and should not be opened.

Two things to *Think* about here: it was warning of a new virus and the virus had yet to arrive. It also had the dire warning that if you did not send this on all your friends would suffer a horrible death at the hands of the Mafia. This is called *Social Engineering*.

If you ever see anything like that again please be the person to send a message to the sender and let them know that it is a hoax. If you are not sure then just Google the guts of the message (eg *postcard virus*) and see how many hits you get (I got over one million!).

## From last week

I had a recent call from a client who had Zone Alarm and could not use the multi-user version of MYOB. This is something that I have seen before so I closed down Zone Alarm and MYOB worked. I uninstalled Zone Alarm and installed the free version of Online Armor with the suggestion that they bought the full version. Zone Alarm still has problems, but if it works for you then continue to use it. Online Armor (especially the full version) is still my preferred choice and is becoming more so.

## Creating Good Web Sites

One bit of good advice given to budding writers is to read works by good writers and so learn from those who have gone before. The same advice should also be given to people who want to create good websites. Those who build good websites are usually pleased if newcomers to the art want to learn from them.

So, what makes a good website? There is much controversy, but many people would agree on some (if not all) of the following: ease of use / good navigation / follows standards / good use of colour / excellent writing.

The languages to learn for websites are HTML (Hypertext Markup Language: the text and images on the page) and CSS (Cascading Style Sheets: how text and images display). Using two languages is good because it separates what is on the site from how the site looks.

Tools used can vary from Microsoft Word & Publisher (which both produce appalling HTML) to dedicated (and expensive) ones like DreamWeaver. The real pros use simple tools: a text editor (Notepad is the one which comes with Windows) is just right for the task and a good one will allow you to check and format your work as you go. My favourite is NoteTab Pro for HTML and TopStyle for CSS.

## Websites

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| ZoneAlarm | www.zonealarm.com |
| NoteTab | www.notetab.com |
| TopStyle | www.newsgator.com/Individuals/TopStyle/Default.aspx |