

Radio Days – 2008-08-09

Tip of the Week — Stranger Danger

This week I had calls from two people who let somebody else use their computer and lost all the programs and data from their computer. The first person allowed his computer to be borrowed to burn a CD; the younger brother of the second person just used the computer and lost everything. I suspect the person using the computer saw a message saying *Press F12 to restore Windows* (or something similar). This is a suggestion, not an instruction; the other person did not know this so pressed away merrily with dire consequences.

In another encounter a new bookkeeper managed to restore a three-month old backup instead of doing a backup. This meant that she lost three months' of work: her employer was not impressed!

Please ensure that anybody using your computer has at least enough knowledge to keep their fingers on the correct buttons!

Creating Good Web Sites

Tools: HTML & CSS

Last week we talked about some of the programs which produce bad websites (eg your word processor and your desktop publishing program). These programs pretend to create websites: this has been added as an afterthought. Use a program designed to create websites. I suggested that you get some help: there are lots of good books and articles on the web. These will help you with both languages for the web: HTML for content and CSS for styling. HTML controls the text and graphics on your site and CSS controls how they are displayed. Having these two working together allows you to separate content from style. This separation makes it easier to keep a consistent look throughout the whole site and makes changes to both content and style much easier.

Costs

To get your site onto the web you will need a *Domain Name*. This will cost you between about \$15 and \$200 for two years.

You will also need to *Host* your site on a computer. You can do this yourself but I strongly suggest that you use a commercial hosting service. This will cost from \$15 per month (\$180 per year) for a basic service up to \$300 per month (\$3,600 per year) for almost everything.

Adding *Ecommerce* will add another \$100 per month (\$1,200 per year) to these costs. If you are serious about having a modern website this will all be necessary, and you will have to spend some time or money to get all these working together.

Websites

HTML editor www.notetab.com
CSS editor www.newsgator.com/Individuals/TopStyle/Default.aspx