Radio Days – 2008-08-16

Tip of the Week — Web Misfires

As usual, some clients rang with a problem: two clients, one problem. This time it was a web browser that would not do its job. In both cases it was Internet Explorer, and the latest version at that. In one case my client could not access his bank to do internet banking. I installed Firefox and all worked well again. In the second case a member of a photographic club could not upload photos to the club's website for a competition. Switching to Firefox solved this problem also.

After installing Firefox both clients could get onto their website immediately. I wish that I knew why this happens, but to me it just reinforces my earlier comments: download and install Firefox immediately. This just shows me the value of competition.

Backups and How to Do Them

What to Backup

This is an easy question: everything that you cannot afford to lose. One client came to work on a Monday morning to find that their computer had been stolen. They bought a new one, reinstalled all software and restored from backup. The problem was that the backup was some weeks old so they had to enter all the missing data for those weeks. We then did a backup. Even after this experience the company does not insist on a backup being done each day, despite all data being copied to a USB stick in under 15 minutes.

If your important data (often music and photos for home users, accounting and emails for a business) were lost because your computer was stolen or your house burnt down, could you re-enter it all in a reasonable time? If the answer is *NO* (and it usually is!) then you need to implement a good backup system which is used regularly.

How to Backup

Any method will work, provided it is carried out regularly. Any routine carried out regularly will trump no backup, and your backup always is planned to be done just after it is needed! There are many good backup methods available: they range from a simple batch file (which you probably do not know how to do) to a backup program like Genie Backup Manager (my favourite program for business users).

Many free backup programs exist. You can even use programs which you would not expect to be able to backup: in particular I am thinking of 7-Zip which does an excellent job of creating a zip file on an external medium. All of these methods and programs can by set to run at a certain time using the *Scheduled Tasks* section of *Control Panel*.

Websites

Firefox	www.mozilla.com
7-zip	www.7-zip.org
Genie Backup Manager	www.geniesoft.com
Second Copy	www.secondcopy.com
Comodo Backup	backup.comodo.com
CD Check	www.kvipu.com/cdcheck/