Radio Days – 2008-08-30

Tip of the Week — Backup Easy

After last week's session I realised just how much I hated doing a backup, and how badly I was doing my backups. This led me to start thinking about how I could improve *my* backup experience in the future. I backup about 12 GB, it takes 2 hours and needed 4 steps. I still backup 12 GB, it still takes 2 hours but it now takes only 1 step so is much easier. I can start the backup and walk away (or keep working, as I am doing now) and the backup continues in the background. This is so much easier and so much less stressful that my backups are now done every day that I work on the computer.

If you hate doing your backups please see if there is a way that you can make them easier to do as they can be vital, especially in a business.

When the Internet Doesn't Work

Have you ever been frustrated when the internet doesn't work? This hit me, as well as some of my clients, in the last week or two, and it drove me mad. I needed to be able to do internet banking and I needed to be able to look up something on the web, and nothing worked for me. For my clients it was usually that the internet suddenly became slow rather than just not working.

This can have many causes and can take some time to sort out. The first advice is to try another website: if this works then the problem is usually with the slow website. Sometimes a website is not available: this happened with one of my websites when the hosting company deleted a file and killed the site. There is nothing that you can do then except try again later.

Sometimes the best option is to switch off both your computer and your modem, and then to go for a walk or chop wood. This can be the best thing because it gives both you and your computer time to recover: often the problem is just that there was a spike in the power supply and that can cause all sorts of problems.

Sometimes the problem is that another program had taken control of your computer and left it with no time to do any real work. If this is what has happened with you then you are in good company because it seems to happen quite frequently judging by my clients' computers. The only thing to do is to track down the offending program and either stop it or repair any damage that my have happened.

Apparently Internet Explorer can have the occasional hissy-fit and stop working for a given website. The solution is there but quite drastic. To do this click *Start » Control Panel » Internet Options*. This displays a tabbed dialogue box. Click on the right-hand tab *Advanced* then click *Reset…* to reset Internet Explorer to its factory settings. This is the standard way to return Internet Explorer to a working condition.

Sorting out these problems can take quite a bit of time, but can also save your sanity in the end.

Websites

None this week