

# Radio Days – 2008-11-22

## *Tip of the Week — Virus Invasion*

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I have had a number of calls from people who have had a virus invasion. It seems to attack all major anti-virus programs so none seems to be in better shape than the others. This means that you should not worry and start looking for a better solution: assuming, of course, that you do have an anti-virus program.

Many computer owners have reported unexpected behaviour from their computer. Some of these reports are from people noticing something normal for the first time, but there does seem to be an upsurge in the number of reports from people who have a real problem. If your computer has come to this stage then the only thing to do is to download and install one of the main malware-removal programs **AdAware** and **Spybot**. Both of these programs will probably find lots of tracking cookies, but they may also find some real nasties.

Failing that, download and install one of the other free anti-virus programs.

Or call for help.

## *Buying a Computer*

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The first task is to decide what you want the computer for. If it is for normal household use then one of the cheaper ones should do the job perfectly. If your children are really fond of music it may be worth getting a larger hard disc (perhaps up to 400 GB) as downloaders can easily fill a small hard disc very quickly. I am still recommending Windows XP over Windows Vista because Vista has so many fewer drives written for it. Having said that, I recently bought a new printer which came with a CD for Vista only so I had to download an XP driver from the manufacturer's website.

In computers the main choice is between desktop and more portable computers. For a given capacity, desktop computers cost less and last longer than portables. For portable computers the first thing to go is generally the battery, and this can be expensive to replace. Unless there is a real need for portability I recommend you get a desktop (particularly for school children). Laptops are too easy to lose and break.

Laptops are also changing their stripes: they are now coming with low-powered processors and small disc drives for surfing the internet and similar personal use. Because they have an Intel Atom processor they will be much slower, especially when running Windows XP, than you might expect so try using it before you buy. They also tend to have a smaller hard disc so, while they may be perfect for some, there will others who hate them.

There is also the question of software. Some smaller computers come with Linux to reduce the price: for most people this is an excellent choice as it is also faster and comes with a word processor and other programs. Otherwise you may need to buy Microsoft Office though, for most people, OpenOffice will do just as well.

## *Websites*

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AdAware	<a href="http://www.spybot.com">www.spybot.com</a>
Spybot	<a href="http://www.safer-networking.org">www.safer-networking.org</a>
BOClean	<a href="http://www.comodo.com">www.comodo.com</a>
OpenOffice	<a href="http://www.openoffice.org">www.openoffice.org</a>