

Radio Days – 2008-12-13

Tip of the Week — If You Can't Be Good Be Careful!

This tip comes because of my recent virus infection. It was a really good virus which left me with just one option: re-install Windows and all my programs. This is a right pain in the neck and just the thing to remove any joy from a computer nerd's life.

There are steps which you can take to make this less painful. Firstly, have good protection: a firewall and an anti-virus. They don't always work, but they are much better than nothing. I have had one virus infection in well over a decade while other people have about a virus infection every month or two!

Secondly, make regular backups. This will allow you to recover your data more easily if things go badly wrong, as they did for me.

Finally, for the intrepid: you can partition your hard drive into two and use one partition for Windows and your programs and the other for your data. This does not guarantee that you will have no data loss but your computer will be easier to restore when you hard drive is partitioned. Be warned: this is not for the faint-hearted or those who rush in where fools fear to tread.

Getting Online

There are two types of internet connection: always on (ADSL and satellite) and sometimes on: (dialup and wireless). Which one is right for you? I shall attempt to answer this question today. For most first-time internet users, those who have never had access to the internet, I suggest that you do a course at a learning centre so that you can see if you feel at home on the internet. Some find the internet so engrossing that they cannot imagine life without it again, while others find that it is all so confusing that they never want to go there again. The first type will be better off with an always-on connection while the second will be better off without an internet connection. Everybody else will want a sometimes-on connection.

ADSL is only available within about 4 km of the telephone exchange. This is for technical reasons. If you live outside the broadband area you can ring **1800 88 34 88** to arrange for a subsidy for the installation of satellite broadband although you will still have to pay for your usage charges. If you subscribe to the cheapest and most advertised offer you will find that, like the cost of inkjet printer ink, you will be paying through the nose for excess usage charges. Yes, the cost is only about \$29.95 per month, but for \$5 more per month you will get three times the download data limit and a faster connection.

For dialup internet the maximum cost will be \$25 per month (plus call charges), and wireless is much more expensive. Please check your coverage for wireless, and insist on a full refund if you cannot get coverage at home or work. This is the major problem with wireless and, to a lesser extent, with satellite as trees and clouds can interfere with the signal.

Websites

None this month.