

# Radio Days – 2009-02-21

## ***Tip of the Week – Who is using your Computer?***

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I have had the job of installing Windows on two computers this week. One was caused by a colleague who borrowed a computer to burn some CDs and deleted all data and programs. The owner is a man who spends six weeks on-site followed by six weeks at home. He uses the computer in the evening to play his music collection and watch videos.

The other client had problems with his computer and got the local handyman to fix it. It did not go after this so I was called in to fix things.

A poor technician can unwittingly undo years of getting your computer set up the way you like it with one quick mouse click!

I left both of these computers fixed and working, but the moral of this story is that you should be very wary of just who is allowed to use or fix your computer.

You do not know just how good somebody is until they have had a chance to mess things up!

## ***Online Security: Email Safety***

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Last week you discovered that a web browser like Firefox is designed to bring all sorts of stuff from the internet to your computer. The same is true of your email program. One major difference is that you have no control over who sends you emails and what the sender puts in.

Your email program is designed to bring (or *download*) all sorts of interesting stuff to your computer. Some of the emails which arrive in your inbox are from people you know, some from people whom you do not know, and some from people who appear to be people whom you know but are not.

Again, your best bet is to be wary of all emails: even those from someone that you know. You can find that another person has taken control of a computer and used that computer to send emails to all the people in the computer's address book. If your email address is in that address book then you can easily get an infected email, and all bets are off as to what that email can do.

Most ISPs are now routinely checking for spam and viruses, but these checks are automated and can miss all sorts of problems so you should do your own checking. My favourite program for checking emails is MailWasher. It has two versions: the free version will only check one email address (a normal ISP address, not a Gmail or Hotmail address) while the full version is for people with more than one email address.

MailWasher allows you to delete emails that you do not want to download, and it will also *bounce* emails that come from an unsavoury source. *Bouncing* an email is like writing *Not at this address, Return to sender* on a normal letter, and the person sending the email will hopefully know not to send any more emails to your address. Bouncing can also be used if you have a dial-up internet connection and people persist in sending you emails with large attachments which you do not want.

A good tool always has unexpected uses!

## ***Websites***

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MailWasher Free	<a href="http://www.mailwasher.net">www.mailwasher.net</a>
MailWasher Full	<a href="http://www.firetrust.com">www.firetrust.com</a>