Radio Days – 2009-04-11

Tip of the Week – Recovery Discs

Many buyers of laptop computers, in particular, do not get any recovery disc with their new computer. Instead, there is usually either a suggestion that you create a recovery disc when you first start your computer or else just an insignificant icon on your desktop which allows you to create your recovery disc.

I strongly suggest that you run this recovery disc utility. You never know, but it may just prevent anything going wrong with your computer. In case you have not yet realised it, computers are funny things and they need even more TLC than members of the opposite sex.

Online Security: Backup for Recovery

In this series of articles I have talked about keeping unwanted programs (viruses and other malware) away from your computer. I have also talked about removing unwanted programs after they have insinuated themselves onto your computer. In this segment I want to discuss the need for a backup should the inevitable happen.

In the course of more than three decades working with computers I have seen far too many events where a current backup would have snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. Defeat, in all these cases, meant lots of lost time, money and effort. A good backup program can keep a current copy of all your data in less time and with less effort than most people seem to expect. As usual, I have a preferred backup program: Comodo backup. Regular listeners will know the name *Comodo* as I have mentioned it on more than one occasion.

Comodo backup is easier to setup and get started than many other backup programs. It installs easily and runs when you want it to: when you start the program or at the scheduled time. Comodo backup will only backup the files that you tell it to backup. To copy a complete hard drive or partition you will need an imaging program: a good free imaging program is Drive Image XML. This free program makes an exact copy. This means that it can restore a hard drive exactly as it was before a crash or virus infection. These two programs, together, can give you to ability to recover both your programs (including Windows) and your data.

Now that you have all your programs and data safely stored away it is time to check that they have, in fact, been stored successfully. There are two ways of doing this: the traditional and a much easier way. The traditional way involves restoring everything to a new location in your computer. This will take a long time, if you have a lot of data, and requires a lot of work.

The easier way just means that you check that each file can be read successfully. There is an easy way to do this: run a program called CD Check. Download and install this program, then check all the files on your USB memory stick or external hard drive.

Websites

Comodo Backup	backup.comodo.com
Drive Image XML	www.runtime.org
CD Check	www.kvipu.com/cdcheck