

# Radio Days – 2009-05-16

## ***Tip of the Week – Web Browsers***

---

One topic which comes up regularly is web browsers. Microsoft recently released the latest version of its browser: *Internet Explorer 8*. This version has some features which almost make it worth downloading. If you are using IE6 on Windows XP then this is a must-have download as IE8 is much safer than IE6 and much more standards-compliant. IE8 displays well-written modern websites which use modern technologies like CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) much more effectively.

Competition is an interesting thing. For years Microsoft has ignored the web browser, but new browsers like Firefox and Chrome have reduced its market share to less than about 65%. This forced Microsoft's hand, and now the latest incarnation of Internet Explorer has arrived. First impressions are interesting. In some ways it has improved on its competition but mostly it is just playing catch-up.

## ***Computer Accounting 101***

---

The end of the financial year is almost upon us so now is a good time for all business people to start thinking about using a computer accounting program. There is enough time to get to know a program before the new financial year starts, and to start again if you make too many mistakes.

There are a number of questions which you need to ask yourself before you can make a good decision about which program to use. In no particular order, some of these questions are:

- What program(s) does your accountant suggest?
- Do you want to store your data locally or on the internet?
- Do you need payroll?
- How many transactions do you create each day / week / month?
- How much training and support will you and your staff need?
- What sort of computer (if any) do you have?
- What is your budget for software and training?

Many people want free programs. I remember an email from a listener objecting to having to pay for a program which I described as free: he had downloaded the full version, not the free version. Accounting has very few free programs, although many have trial versions good for a short time or number of transactions. One free program is e-Record from the Tax Office. This is suitable for small cash-based businesses which do not need to keep track of debtors and creditors. Its reporting is minimal, at best.

The most popular programs, because they meet most of the needs of most businesses, are QuickBooks and MYOB. Both programs have good support networks, and accountants will generally be able to take your data file and produce both BAS and tax returns. Both programs have trial versions: you can download them from the website or buy them at many stores for \$10 (with a \$10 rebate when you buy the full version). These trial versions will work for 90 days or 500 transactions, whichever comes first. The downloads are large enough that you will need a broadband internet connection.

## ***Websites***

---

Internet Explorer 8	<a href="http://www.microsoft.com/windows/Internet-explorer">www.microsoft.com/windows/Internet-explorer</a>
QuickBooks	<a href="http://www.quicken.com.au">www.quicken.com.au</a>
MYOB	<a href="http://www.myob.com.au">www.myob.com.au</a>
e-Record	<a href="http://www.ato.gov.au/erecord">www.ato.gov.au/erecord</a>