

Radio Days – 2009-09-05

Tip of the Week – Storing Information 2

I have just discovered some new programs which seem tailor-made for those who need to keep track of a range of inter-related information. One of these programs, a combination of notepad and wiki, is called *wikidPad*. For those who are used to Wikipedia it will seem like a home-coming. There are two similar programs: *ConnectedText* and *tiddlyspot*. *tiddlyspot*, like *WikidPad*, is free but *ConnectedText* costs USD 30.

All are able to store related information in various ways. *tiddlyspot* is an online program so you can both access it from anywhere and share it with friends, while both *wikidPad* and *ConnectedText* are programs which you download and install on your computer. If you are the sort of person who needs to keep track of miscellaneous pieces of (possibly) related text then all of these programs will work for you. Why not try them out?

A Stitch in Time Saves Nine

Over the last few weeks I have had a number of events which remind me of this old proverb. I deleted some files accidentally and discovered that I could not get all of them back despite noticing the problem and starting work within a few minutes. The reason that I could not get them back was because they had been overwritten by other files in a very short time. This is a standard “feature” of Windows and means that you must (repeat *MUST*) start file recovery steps immediately.

I am reminded of a client who lost some important photos of a 20th wedding anniversary trip. She waited to ring me for some three weeks after accidentally deleting these photos and, of course, they were no longer available for recovery. Being prepared, and earlier attempts to recover, would probably have saved the days. A backup would have made recovery child’s play.

My preferred file recovery program is *Recuva* (pronounced *recover*) and it is installed at all times. It is too late to start downloading and installing a file recovery program after the files have been deleted. Even opening a web browser runs the risk of overwriting the crucial files which you are attempting to recover.

This means that you should have your file recovery program installed and ready for action, just as the spare tyre in your car is always in good condition and pumped up to the correct pressure, just in case.

There are also, of course, other ways where you need to be careful that you do not take too long to fix a problem. A client was using two programs from the same company, and updated them when the new versions arrived. This caused a major headache as the updated system did not work as it had before the update. There had been no backup taken before the update (this is a separate problem as a backup can often save the day when things go wrong) and no checks were made to ensure that the new system was working correctly. Some months down the track, when there were obvious major problems, there was no easy way to recover the system as it was before the new versions had been installed. This means that there will be ongoing problems in this company.

Websites

wikidPad	wikidpad.sourceforge.net
ConnectedText	www.connectedtext.com
tiddlyspot	tiddlyspot.com
Recuva	www.recuva.com