

Radio Days – 2009-11-07

Tip of the Week – AVG Updates

AVG has just released version 9 of both its free and professional anti-virus programs. Their website asks you to update your version (free or professional) before the end of November. There will be no updates available after this date so you will be left in the cold. Please update your computer now, because you will find that as time goes on it will be at increased risk of getting a virus if you do not. Too many people waited too long after the last major update to AVG: I do not want to hear more wails of anguish from this round of infected computers.

Tip of the Week – Windows 7

A listener sent me an email stating that he could not use his USB wireless modem with Windows 7. His modem worked with XP and Vista, but would not install onto Windows 7. I did a Google search for the problem and discovered that it has happened all over the world. I also checked with Telstra and found that this problem occurs with both Windows 7 and Apple's Snow Leopard (the latest version of Apple's OS X).

This is the first problem that I have found with Windows 7: it will probably not be the last.

Buying a New Printer

Over the last few years the price of laser printers has come down dramatically. They are now affordable for all, and much cheaper to run than an inkjet printer. It has now come to the stage where I advise all my clients to buy a laser printer rather than an inkjet, under most circumstances. The exceptions are:

- Printing photos
- Printing CDs and DVDs.

If you print photos then the colours from a good inkjet photo printer are better than those from a laser printer *if you print on photo paper*. It is often still cheaper to get prints of your photos from your local photo shop than to print them at home (have you checked the price of photo paper recently?) unless you use standard printer paper. If you are going to use standard paper then the results from an inkjet will not be all that much better than using a laser printer.

If you want to print on CDs or DVDs then you will need to use an inkjet because the discs cannot stand the heat of a laser printer. Another problem is that the bend in the paper path of a laser printer will become blocked if you try to print on an optical disc in a laser printer.

One problem that has surprised many people is the way that the ink tanks of an inkjet printer dry out if not used regularly. I have met many people who only use their printer every few weeks or months and are horrified to discover that they have to buy a new set of ink tanks every time they want to print a single-page letter. The advantage of laser printers is that the toner is composed of very small particles of coloured dust, and that this dust does not dry out like the highly-volatile fluid in inkjet tanks.

***The cheaper the printer
the more expensive the ink***

Websites

AVG Free free.avg.com