

Radio Days – 2009-11-21

Tip of the Week – Finding a Good Computer

A good computer comes from a good computer shop, so the question really becomes *How do I find a Good Computer Shop?* There are a number of tried and true methods which work for finding a good anything or anybody (dentist, doctor, restaurant, etc):

- Ask your friends, neighbours, workmates, etc
- Ask how long they have been in business (2/3 of long-established business are good).
- Get some quotes, then ask a knowledgeable friend which are good.
- Check how much they advertise. Shops with little advertising are either so good that their customers keep coming back or so bad that they will die soon.
- Check the price: if it is too cheap then it is probably nasty as well.
- Trial and error.

Faster Backups

Many of my clients have all the good intentions in the world about doing their backups and doing them at the correct time. A few even manage to do what they say they will do, but they are in the minority. I have used a number of backup programs over the years, and I have installed about as many on my clients' computers. All of them have their good points, and all have their failings.

I have just discovered, and fallen in love with because it does nearly all the things that I want in a backup program, a backup program called *SyncBack* (a combination of **S**ynchronise and **B**ackup). The only things that I feel might have been added is for the program to know where your emails and address book are kept. If you know what to look for you can find where these files are kept.

You can specify where many email programs keep their files, and I always move these files to an *Emails* folder inside *My Documents*. This makes your backup easier. The Windows Address Book used by Outlook Express is stored in an obscure place: just search for **.wab* using Windows' Search function. This will tell you where your address book is stored, and you can use this information to backup your address book.

SyncBack also has the ability to create a number of backups, so that you can have one backup for photos, another for music and yet another for your business data. You can also group a number of backups to run at the same time. These two features, alone, makes it one of the very top backup programs around. Having created all the backups that you need, your next step is to drag the backup name from the SyncBack window to your desktop to create a shortcut to that backup. This makes it one of the easiest programs to use: the creators have obviously done a lot of real-world thinking to come up with such a good program.

Another feature which is not mentioned in the promotional literature on the website is the program's speed. I have not, in all my time searching for and testing backup programs, found one as fast as this. It takes such a short time to do a second backup that you are not sure that the backup has been done. For this reason I get the program to display a report listing the files which have been copied to my backup disc.

Highly recommended.

There are three versions: SyncBack Pro, SyncBack SE and SyncBack. They cost USD 50, USD 30 and free.

Websites

SyncBack www.2brightsparks.com