

Radio Days – 2010-01-02

Tip of the Week – Batteries Do Fail!

I had the most unexpected call this last week: a client rang to ask me to fix his mouse. Tried everything I could over the phone (and nothing worked) so I went to his house. Sure enough, the mouse did not work. Worse: his keyboard did not work. There was now some serious stuff to do.

Check the mouse first. It was a wireless mouse, and its controller was plugged in correctly. Check the batteries: they were installed in opposite directions so fix that. Check the keyboard: it, too, was wireless but its wireless controller was not plugged in.

Start again. Plug in keyboard connector. Keyboard and companion mouse still not working. Go to shop, buy batteries, insert and all working. The moral: when a normally-working wireless device stops working just change the batteries. This is just like putting fuel in a car which just stops running.

The worst thing that you can do is have two wireless sets of mouse and keyboard and use the mouse from one controller and the keyboard from the other controller. If the computer itself does not become confused then you are sure to lose your mind!

Microsoft & Free – III

This is the third (and last) program about Microsoft and some of the free programs that the company has created just for you. In the first week the free programs helped you become more productive during your working day, and last week the free programs helped you become safer when using your computer on the internet. This week the programs will help you spend your holiday time in an enjoyable way while helping you learn.

Four free downloads: three from Microsoft for Windows and one for Microsoft Windows Mobile phones. All are good.

- **Image Composite Editor** is a program which you can use to stitch a number of photos together to form a panorama. A panorama is a photo which is too wide to be taken all at once, so needs a number of photos to cover the whole scene. Once you have taken all your photos (making sure that they overlap) you use Image Composite Editor to make a single photo out of the collection.
- **Worldwide Telescope** is a program from Microsoft Research to stitch together images from a number of sources including the Hubble Space Telescope. There are two versions: one which you run in your browser and one which you install on your computer. Both of these programs will give space buffs hours of enjoyment as they look at some of the most spectacular parts of the sky.
- **Bing Maps 3D** is Microsoft's answer to Google Maps. This will both give you another mapping program and keep Google on its toes. Explore and enjoy.
- **Mobile Games** is yet another repository of games for the latest mobile phones. If you have enough time to waste on flattening your mobile phone's battery then you will enjoy some of these free games.

Websites

Image Composite Editor	http://tinyurl.com/5e99su
Worldwide Telescope	http://tinyurl.com/64eb2o
Bing Maps 3D	http://tinyurl.com/cy9z9k
Mobile Games	http://tinyurl.com/yffq9yp