

Radio Days – 2010-04-24

Tip of the Week – Recovery Discs

Many new computers do not come with a CD or DVD to allow you to restore Windows if your computer becomes corrupted. Instead the manufacturer expects you to create *recovery discs* to enable you to restore Windows. You will usually need four DVDs to create your recovery discs. Many people do not create their recovery discs, and there can be dire consequences. I remember a couple who asked what to do as her computer had a virus. They had bought two identical computers, and they stated that his computer was clean. I suggested that they create recovery discs using his computer then use those recovery discs to restore her computer, as it was identical to his, to its clean condition.

Next time we met they confessed that his computer also had a virus so they could not create recovery discs. I explained that their best option was to buy recovery discs so they get the drivers needed to get their computers running as their best.

Please remember that a stitch in time saves nine.

The Best Browser

What is a browser?

Your browser is the program which you use to surf the internet. The most common browser, because it comes with Windows, is *Internet Explorer*. Internet Explorer is also the worst browser because, for far too long, Microsoft has ignored internet security. It is also the browser which adheres least to internet standards. Its market share is steadily dropping as more people become aware of better browsers. But, because it is a part of Windows, please ensure that you always download and install the latest version when it appears as a Windows update. The reason for updating Internet Explorer is that Microsoft's updates do tend to reduce the problems with this browser.

Which Browser is Best?

There are four other browsers which do a better job than Internet Explorer:

- **Firefox** is the most adjustable browser, but it is now becoming very old in its outlook and does not update itself as often or as well as it should.
- **Google Chrome** is my favourite browser: it is very fast to load then display pages, and it is excellent for searching and browsing. The updates are installed silently, without any interruption to your browsing.
- **Opera** is my second favourite browser: it pioneered many standard features and is still the best at adhering to web standards. Updates cause lengthy restarts.
- **Safari** is now a really good browser, much better than Firefox in my opinion. My opinion has changed in the last year or two. Not as good at searching as the others.

Check the *Acid Test* website to see how each browser displays all three tests. Internet Explorer failed miserably, Firefox nearly passed and the others passed easily.

Websites

Firefox	www.mozilla.com/firefox
Google Chrome	www.google.com/chrome
Opera	www.opera.com
Safari	www.apple.com/safari
Acid Test	www.acidtests.org