Radio Days – 2010-05-08

Tip of the Week – Microsoft's New Security Tool

Microsoft released a new security tool some months ago. I have not bothered to report on this tool because Microsoft's reputation in the security field is almost as bad as that of the virus writers. This seems about to change because Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE) appears to be one of the best free security programs around. It is designed for people who do not want to spend their time agonising over their computer's security, and early reports suggest that, this time, Microsoft may just have got things right.

If you do not have any internet protection, please download MSE (this is a small download by the standards of internet security programs: about 11 MB for Windows XP and 7 MB for Windows 7 and Vista) and the free version of ThreatFire (about 9 MB), then install these programs. This combination, according to initial reports, will give you protection which appears to be as good, and simple, as you will get from free programs.

If you do not have internet protection please download these two programs to do your bit to stop the spread of internet nasties which can hurt both you and your friends.

Copying Data to a New Computer

Have you ever had the sinking feeling which comes after you have cleaned all your data from your old computer then given it away only to realise that you have lost that one vitally important piece of data? It happens to us all, so do not be too downhearted. The solution is to keep your old computer for a month or so after you have stopped using it. This will give you the time to check that all your data has been transferred to your new computer.

In my work I find that there is always some vital piece of data, perhaps your email addresses, which stubbornly refuses to be copied across to the new computer. One reason is that most people do not allow their computers to show hidden and system files, and many files which you need are hidden this way. Also, when searching for files, you need to search for both hidden and system files, otherwise these files will not be seen by the search program.

To show hidden and system files just go to the *Control Panels » Folder Options* then select the *View* tab. Now make sure that *Show hidden and system files* is selected and *Hide protected operating system files* is not selected. This allows you to see files which are either hidden or system. To search for hidden and system files, again make sure that *Search hidden and system files* is checked in the search box so that you can find your emails, among other files types.

Microsoft delights both in hiding files which you need to backup (like your emails and, if you use Outlook Express, your address book) and in ensuring that you do not know that these files are hidden, and then seems to make it your fault that these files get lost. Go figure!

Websites

Microsoft Security Essentials	www.microsoft.com/security_essentials
ThreatFire	www.threatfire.com/download

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