

Radio Days – 2010-06-19

Tip of the Week – Switch Off

During the week I had two calls from clients who could not get on the internet. One was easy: there was a broken wire in the telephone line so it was a simple matter of removing the broken cord and replacing it.

The other problem was more difficult to solve.

Every test that I did showed that there was no problem, and that the internet was working. Every test, that is, except the one that mattered: getting onto the internet. Eventually, in absolute frustration, I switched the computer off, removed the power cord from the back of the computer then waited for a minute until I and the computer had settled down. Then I replaced the cord, restarted the computer and tried the internet. Lo and behold, the internet was working as though nothing had been the problem.

When in doubt this is a technique that has worked on many occasions. I do not know just why it works, but I have used this trick many times and suggested to my clients that they use it. If you are having a problem with a piece of electronic equipment then I suggest that you try this one: switch the appliance off, remove the power cord, wait one minute, then plug the power back in and switch the appliance on.

Online Backups

I have, many times in the past, talked at length about backups. Many people find that making a regular backup is beyond them so they do not do a backup at all. This leads to a catastrophe when the inevitable problem occurs. The solution is to do backups, but make them automatic and online so that the backup is always done and always in a safe place away from your home or office. This solution means that you will always have backups of your data files saved so that you can recover them at any time. For you to be able to do online backups you need a fast internet connection. Dial-up is far too slow.

Online backup also mean that you can access your data from any computer connected to the internet, at an internet café for example.

Reasons for making your backups online:

- No need to remember to do backups
- Latest version of files accessible at all times
- Backups stored off-site for security

Reasons for not using online backups:

- No guarantee that the provider will stay in business
- No guarantee that the servers will not crash
- Unable to keep versions of files
- No idea where files are stored

Websites

This list of online-backup websites just scratches the surface. Do your own search for others, then research the results.

Skydrive	http://windowslive.com/online/skydrive
Dropbox	www.dropbox.com
Mozy	http://mozy.com