Radio Days – 2010-10-09

Tip of the Week – Buying a Computer

Buying a computer is, for many people, a major purchase. Far too many people rush in and pay far too much for the wrong computer. There are a number of possible pitfalls:

- Paying more for an old second-hand computer than the price of an updated new one
- Buying a computer which does not meet your needs: insufficient disc space or speed
- Buying a Mac then being unable to run the needed Windows programs without paying more for extra software

For many people the cheapest computer will be more than sufficient. The minimum specs for a computer vary as hardware and software change so I will not give them here. However, for the majority of people who use just the internet and email, a computer with these basic specs will be more than adequate without breaking the bank. Think about a cheap computer next time you go to buy one, but do not get one which starts slowly: this will drive you mad every time that you use it!

File Recovery – 2

You have made your backup and stored it in a safe place. You have checked that your backup worked and, by worked, I mean that:

- You have backed-up all the files that you will ever need to recover
- Your files are stored safely on your backup medium
- Your backup is stored in a safe place

This should be enough to ensure that you will never need to recover files from a backup. Unfortunately, theory and practice do not always agree and accidents will happen. The next step is to ensure, as far as possible, that you will be able to recover all your files easily. This means that there is as little rubbish as possible on your hard disc and that all files are easy to access.

To remove the rubbish from your computer I use CCleaner. This program removes many unwanted files, and this step alone will often speed your computer up. Run it every so often: just how often depends on how you use your computer.

To ensure that all files are easy to access I use Defraggler. This program places all the parts of every file next to all the other parts. This is like finding all the cards in a pack and placing them, in order, back in their cover. Doing this will make the job of your file recovery program much easier.

The last step is to install one or more file recover programs. If you install your file recovery program *after* you lose your data it may over-write your lost data so, for the best chance of recovering your lost files, install the file recovery program *before* you lose the files. One free program which does this is Recuva, but there are other programs and most of them cost money. The reason for this is that, by the time you realise that you have lost data, you are prepared to pay for the program to do the recovery. An excellent program is Easeus: you can install the program now, then pay for it when you need it.

File Recovery / Backup / Disc Cleanup / Updates (Flash, Adobe Reader, Java, Windows)

Further Information

CCleaner, Defraggler & Recuva	www.piriform.com
Easeus	www.easeus.com