

Radio Days – 2010-11-20

Tip of the Week – Keeping Safe Online

As all regular listeners will know, I have recommended AVG anti-virus to keep your computer safe. Another program which I have recommended in the past is called Threatfire. This free program helps keep your computer safe by checking that no program tries to do illegal things on your computer. This strategy complements your anti-virus by helping to protect you from zero-day attacks. A zero-day attack is one which occurs before you have downloaded the latest updates for your anti-virus program. This window of opportunity for a new virus to attack you is when you are most at risk, and Threatfire is the best program which I know to help keep you safe during this time.

Threatfire is a free program to add to your arsenal of free programs.

Updating Your Programs

The subject of which programs need to be updated, and how to update them, has reared its head a number of times this week. The simple answer to that is, as usual, be careful.

A more helpful answer is to use a program which I have recommended on a number of occasions in the past: **Secunia PSI**. This program is the best way that I have come across for most people to work out which programs need to be updated (and can be updated safely) and which programs should be ignored. This all comes about because a program will often display a popup message which asks if you want to update it. For the vast majority of people this is one message too many.

To make life easier for everybody, a company called Secunia has released a program called PSI (short for *Personal Software Inspector*). This free program will check all the programs on your computer and advise you when any of them need updating. You can be sure that, if an update is recommended by Secunia PSI, it is safe to go ahead and install the update. It is for this reason that I recommend that you download and install Secunia PSI. I then recommend that you follow its recommendations and update all the programs which it suggests. Your computer will thank you!

The latest version of Secunia PSI, version 2, does as much as it can to automate the process of keeping your computer up to date. If you have not yet downloaded the update, or you have not yet installed Secunia PSI, I strongly urge you to download and install this program. It will help you stay as far ahead of the opposition as it is possible for normal people.

Further Information

Threatfire www.threatfire.com
Secunia PSI www.secunia.com