

Radio Days – 2010-12-04

Tip of the Week – Keep Up-To-Date

I saw two clients this week who both had the same problem: they could not use Internet Explorer to get on to the internet. In both cases they had ignored repeated warnings that AVG was outdated. This I find incredible because, each time their computer started, there was a big warning sign that stated that AVG was out of date. In both cases they were using AVG 9, which is two versions old.

In both cases I uninstalled AVG using Revo Uninstaller then installed Microsoft Security Essentials. In one case I had to do a few further hacks but in both cases Internet Explorer could access the internet after the new AV program had been installed.

I have spoken at length about the need to keep your computer up to date. One constant with computers is that change is faster than many people seem able to accept. This is a pity because a well-maintained computer is a thing of beauty.

Which Anti-Virus?

Over the years I have recommended a number of free anti-virus programs. This range of programs has come about as the technology has changed and the various players have come and gone. For some years now I have been recommending the free version of AVG as the anti-virus program of choice for my clients. I have now stopped recommending AVG for a number of reasons:

- It does not update the program automatically
- It is now doing more things that do not belong in an anti-virus program

The problems given above in the Tip of the Week have been appearing more and more often with AVG as more and more of my clients have not upgraded to the latest version before the previous version has been relegated to orphan status. For far too many people the thought of upgrading an anti-virus program is a thought best pushed away as quickly as possible. This has left many people with an anti-virus program which was installed but gave no protection.

Microsoft Security Essentials has now come of age. It is the third version of a Microsoft anti-virus program so has now, according to folklore, reached useable maturity. According to my reading it is more reliable than most other anti-virus programs and is easily the best free anti-virus program. If you are using a free anti-virus program like AVG Free I recommend that you uninstall it (I use Revo Uninstaller for this job) then install Microsoft Security Essentials. I have installed it on my computer and on a number of my clients' computers. So far it has worked flawlessly.

The only possible problems for some is that you must have a genuine copy of Windows, and MSE does not work for versions of Windows earlier than XP.

Please ensure that you are using an anti-virus program as this helps keep the internet safe for all of us. This is just like driving safely (especially at this time of year) to keep the roads safe for all users.

Further Information

Revo Uninstaller www.revouninstaller.com
Microsoft Security Essentials www.microsoft.com/security_essentials