

Radio Days – 2011-02-19

Tip of the Week – Selling Cars on the Internet

Many people sell their cars by placing them in an obvious spot beside the road with a sign saying *For Sale*. This may have been the best (and cheapest) way to sell a car in days of yore.

Placing your car beside a busy highway leaves it vulnerable to both vandalism and damage from the elements. There is, in this internet age, a better way of selling a car: use one of the many websites which allow you to sell your car online. These all tend to have a large number of buyers (and buyers always go to the places where there are more sellers) so the chance of finding a buyer on the internet is much higher than using the street corner as your selling agent.

There are so many online car sales sites that I will not mention any. Use your favourite search engine if you do not know of a car sales website. I suspect that you will have a buyer much more quickly this way. You could use both methods together and see which is quicker!

Backup for Photos

After last week's talk I hope that you have copied all your photographs to the folder called ***Pictures*** or ***My Pictures***, depending on your version of Windows. They sit there, in all their glory, waiting for the disaster which will delete them at just the wrong moment. This is the time when you should be thinking about how to protect your precious memories.

The best way to protect your photos (and any other computer files which are important) is to make copies onto another storage medium. My preference is to make backups onto either a USB memory stick or an external hard disc. I suggest USB sticks for storing up to 8 GB and external hard discs for storing more data. The reasons are both that this size is the point when USB sticks become more expensive than external hard discs and that storing more than about 8 GB on a USB memory stick is too slow.

The best program that I have found to date for doing your backups is called SyncBack. This is a compound word covering both ***Synchronise*** and ***Backup***. It is as easy to setup as any other backup program and is much faster than most when doing a backup. It also has the added advantage that it only copies new data files to the backup medium. This means that your first backup will take longer than subsequent ones because, like most people, you will not have made a backup before and so there are all these files on your computer just waiting for you to copy them to your backup disc.

Having made your backup you should then take it to a safe place where it will be protected from both flood and fire. It is also a good idea to protect it from theft as well. In my last job, doing telephone technical support for a well-known accounting program, we often got calls on Monday mornings which asked for help recovering from the theft of both computer and backup data. Unfortunately we could only offer help by replacing the accounting program: there is no way that anybody other than you can ever have your data.

Please do not become the victim when theft, flood or fire destroys both your computer and all your precious data in one fell swoop. The solution is to store your backup disc well away from your office or home. This way you should not lose both your computer and your backups.

Further Information

SyncBack www.2brightsparks.com