

Radio Days – 2011-06-18

Tip of the Week – One is Enough!

Again I have come across clients whose computers have more than one anti-virus program. Again, as usually happens, the programs are the three-month trial program plus a purchased program to keep the computer clean. The symptoms of the problem are that the computer is slow, both to start up and to run any program. This is because of the inevitable fight between the two (or even more, in some cases) anti-virus programs because they both want to be the first program to check everything on the hard disc to see that there are no viruses present.

Another problem existed with another client: an upgrade to the latest version of their AV program had slowed their computer to a crawl.

In all these cases the problem was fixed by removing the offending programs (using the free version of Revo Uninstaller) then installing the free anti-virus program from Microsoft.

Check Your Accounting Data

This week I had the opportunity to talk to a client who had not used her accounting program for over a year and wanted to know if she was using it correctly. I did a quick check: printing a *Profit and Loss* report. This showed that her figures appeared to be completely wrong (there were no expenses showing) so I did some more checking. It transpired that her BAS figures were even more suspect than her *Profit & Loss* so the next step was to check how her data file was set up.

The person who had created her data file had created the items used to enter transactions in such a way that her reports could never work if she continued in the old way. This meant that all her reports were invalid, starting from when the business commenced using an accounting program. Her program version told me that nothing had been updated since 2000 when the GST was introduced. This meant that the business' accounting data file had probably been created by someone who knew nothing (or very little) about accounting and nothing (or very little) about the program.

I was reminded of a data file which I saw when I worked in tech support at MYOB in 1995. This file came from a pub which had no *Cost of Sales* figures. To see just how wrong this is I ask you to imagine a pub which bought no beer, wine or spirits!

Do you remember the old song about a pub with no beer?

This was what this old MYOB file showed! I suggested that the bookkeeper create a new data file and re-enter all her data again. This she refused to do. I wish that I knew the outcome of this debacle but I suspect that the owners would eventually realise that their figures were completely wrong. If they did not make that discovery then their accountant should have done so to create their next tax return.

My suggestion to this week's client was that she create a new data file to start from the beginning of the new financial year in July. This is what we are going to do.

Have you checked the results from your accounting program to see if they are acceptable?

Further Information

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