Radio Days – 2011-06-25

Tip of the Week – Satellite Broadband

This week I discovered that the Broadband Guarantee has now been discontinued. A client had been advised to place her application for satellite broadband quickly. When she did do it, she was told that applications had closed.

The government is now converting all satellite broadband applications to the NBN Co. The NBN Co is the company created to provide the federal government's fibre optic internet and telephone service to the vast majority of Australians. It will be responsible for all rural broadband connections: you can contact them on 1800 881 816. They will provide an interim satellite service from 1 July 2011.

On their website they expect to be providing a complete service for satellite broadband from November 2011

Check Your Accounting File

In my last job as an employee I worked for MYOB as a telephone tech support person. It was there that I learnt just how important it was to keep checking your accounting data file for internal consistency. This should be done each time you use it so that you can recover from your most recent backup at the earliest possible opportunity if something goes wrong.

What can go wrong? All sorts of things! And, according to Murphy's Law, they will always go wrong at the worst possible time. The most common cause is that you save a transaction just as there is a problem with the electrical power to your computer. I could not always find out why a data file because corrupt, but when I did it was always because of a bad power supply.

Why does this happen? Sometimes it happens because you switch your computer off before a transaction has been completely written to disc. Sometimes it happens because the power is corrupted by a large electrical device (like a welding machine) which starts or stops just as your accounting program is writing to your hard disc. These problems result in a data file which has inconsistent data. The reason for this inconsistent data is that an accounting transaction is not a single piece of data but a number of small transactions which, together, provide all the information needed to keep track of what has changed in the data file.

For example, if a customer pays some invoices you write these changes to your data file:

- The final balance in the customer's record
- The final balance in each of the paid invoices
- The amount of the payment

You can easily find all these details in your data file if you know where to look. If any one of these transactions has not been written then your accounting file is out of balance and all reports printed from an unbalanced data file are suspect.

Some accounting programs can perform simple corrections automatically if you discover the error in time. If you cannot do the needed corrections yourself you have two options:

- Start a new data file with what information you can salvage from the old file
- Send your file to the manufacturer for repair. This is not always successful because of the amount of corruption.

Remember: A Stitch in Time Saves Nine!

Further Information

Broadband Guarantee	www.dbcde.gov.au/broadband
NBN Co	www.nbnco.com.au