

Radio Days – 2011-07-30

Tip of the Week – Check Your Results

I received a call this week from a new client who had started using QuickBooks and found the payroll did not give him the expected results. It turned out that there was a minor error in his payroll setup which was easy to correct. It was then easy to correct his pay slips so that all figures were correct.

Another client had a problem sending emails. They would not go when sent using the firm's internet connection but would go when sent using a dialup connection to the internet. This suggested that there were errors in her email program and her network connections. There were indeed errors in her email program setup: more than one so it was a matter of making the first correction followed in order by the others. After these simple corrections, all her emails were wending their way through the ether to their destination.

So many people seem to feel that if something in their computer does not work as they expect there is a major catastrophe and that the sky will fall in and drown the whole world in tears. Please remember that many apparently complex problems are, in fact, quite quick and easy to correct. Do not feel that all problems are bigger than Ben-Hur and will never be resolved: it ain't necessarily so!

Who Dares Wins

It has often been my great pleasure to meet people who have taken to using their computer, or a new computer program, with gusto. This makes a massive change from meeting all those people who take great pleasure in informing me that they do not even know how to turn a computer on. My slogan is *Teaching Skilful Computing*, and I find that those who take the time and trouble to learn how to use their computer more skilfully are the people who get the most out of their computer. I suspect that they also get more out of life in general because they are not afraid to try new things in many areas of life.

The British SAS (and, I think, the Australian SAS) has the motto *Who Dares Wins!* This excellent motto deserves to be placed everywhere to remind us that safety is not the best way forward. As I have often reminded people: if our ancestors had not ventured forth from Africa we would all still be living in caves and wearing bearskins. We need to have people who will lead us out of Africa. It is for this reason that we need to develop a culture of *Who Dares Wins!* rather than a culture of trying to kill every last germ in our kitchen.

I urge you to look at your computer as an adventure, a way of being able to do things which otherwise would keep you in the old paradigm of *It was good enough for my father, and for his father before him, so it is good enough for me*. We live in exciting times, times where new things are all around us waiting to be gathered for our delight and learning (and are these two not the same thing?).

From time immemorial humans have had times when things have changed, never to be the same again. These changes started with the taming of the wolf to help us hunt and the latest change to hit our shores is the invention of the computer. Computers will not go away, so please come to see this invention, like all the others before it, as yet another step on the way to our destiny in the stars!

Further Information

None this week.