

Radio Days – 2013-07-27

Tip of the Week – Keeping Up To Date

For some time now I have been suggesting that you download and install Secunia PSI to ensure that the programs installed on your computer are kept updated automatically. There have been a number of computers that I have seen recently, including my own, which are running Secunia PSI but are not updated.

Worse, there are some programs which Secunia PSI reports as updating but, however long you run the program, it does not seem to complete any of the updates. For this reason I don't recommend that you rely on Secunia PSI to do the updating, but I do suggest that you use it to let you know which programs need updating and that then you do a manual update.

Given the number of viruses which are written then released into the wild each day I strongly urge you to keep all your programs up to date. It would be great if Secunia PSI lived up to its promise, but at least it lets you know which programs need to be updated. I suggest that you run it at least once every three months.

If you cannot manage a quarterly update then please use Secunia PSI when the clock changes between Summer and Winter time to see which programs need to be updated, then update them manually. This give you the best chance of keeping the dreaded attackers at bay.

This is not the option that you are promised on the Secunia website but it is the best way that I know of to keep your programs up to date, and thus your computer as safe as possible in the current climate of virus and other attacks.

Tips to a Better Internet Experience

There are many little things which can make any part of life easier. Watching Master Chef I see that there are tricks which experienced chefs use which are completely foreign to me. In a similar vein, there are tricks which I use every day which make my life easier. Some of these tricks are to do with using the internet more effectively. There are a number of tricks which you can start to use to make your internet use easier.

Which Browser?

Many people are not aware that there are a number of browsers. Internet Explorer comes with Windows so almost everybody uses it despite it being the worst of the current crop of browsers. Apple used to provide its Mac browser, Safari, for Windows users but it quietly dropped Safari on Windows about a year ago. The other three browsers, Chrome, Firefox and Opera, are still available and free.

All Browsers

There are a number of things which all browsers do. These common things are becoming so good that you can make your life easier if you get to know these shortcuts. There are three browsers which are worth checking out for ease of use: Chrome, Firefox and Opera. The link to each browser's website is given at the end of this document.

There is a browser which comes with Windows, and that is Internet Explorer. It is Microsoft's apology for a browser but, because it appears to be a part of Windows, most people do not explore further. There are some websites which will only work in Internet Explorer, and I hope that you will get one of the better browsers which are free to download and install.

As I write, the latest version of each of these browsers is:

- Chrome: version 28
- Firefox: version 22
- Opera: version 12

Updating Your Browser

All three browsers allow you to check quickly to see if there is a new version.

- In Chrome, click on the three horizontal bars to the right of the address bar then select *About Google Chrome*. This new page will either tell you that your copy of Chrome is up to date or start downloading the latest version to keep you safe when browsing.
- In Firefox, click on the word *Firefox* in the top left-hand corner of the screen, then click *Help » About Firefox* to see if there is a new version. You will either see the message *Firefox is up to date* or you will start to download the latest update.
- In Opera, click on the word *Opera* in the top left-hand corner of the screen, then click *Help » Check for updates*. Again, you will get a message stating that your copy of Opera is up to date or you will start to download the latest update.

Searching in Your Browser

All three browsers will search from the address bar. This removes the confusion which many people feel as they enter an address into the search area of their favourite search engine and not get the result they expected. This new way of searching is a vast improvement as you only type in one area of the program: it does not matter whether you are typing an address or typing a search term. Each of these programs is smart enough to know what you are asking for!

Chrome is the browser which makes it easiest to select your favourite search engine, while Opera lets you select search engines and order them according to your preference. With Firefox you takes what you are given.

Saving Web Sites

All browsers have a way to make access to your favourite sites easy. Some do it by setting up a list called *Favourites* where you can just click on the name and you are taken directly to that website. I have seen people with about one hundred favourites, mostly unwanted!

I then suggested that they removed the unwanted ones and usually the person was delighted to be shown how to do that. The usual way to deleted unwanted Favourites is to right-click on the unwanted entry then left-click on the menu where it says *Delete*.

My experience is that the *Speed Dial* offered by Chrome and Opera is an easier way to keep track of favourite websites. Speed dial works like the speed dial on your mobile phone: once you have added the site to your speed dial you just open a new tab then click on the site that you want to visit.

That is all that there is to it: just two clicks! Couldn't be easier! My favourite way of getting to much-visited websites. I use this to listen to my favourite internet radio stations, to do my internet banking and to

Further Information

Secunia PSI	www.secunia.com
Chrome	www.google.com/chrome
Firefox	www.mozilla.com
Opera	www.opera.com