

# Radio Days – 2014-07-05

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## ***Discussion — Solve The (Real) Problem***

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I have spoken in the past about making sure that you solve the problem, the whole problem and nothing but the problem. This, as so often happens in my life, is about ensuring that you do as I say not as I do!

### ***The Symptoms***

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The symptoms had been appearing for a couple of weeks. They were mostly my computer shutting down at unexpected times. This was, I thought, the beginning of the end as it is just coming up for its fifth birthday in a week. And yes, I am planning a cake with five candles!

I thought that I should make a long-overdue backup of everything on my computer, and decided that I would do that tomorrow. So, once again, I shut my computer down without doing the backup that I berate all my clients for not doing.

Yet again, do as I say not as I do!

The next time I started my computer the same thing happened. Again! Again I thought that I would do a backup when I had finished working on my computer and again I decided to wait until the next time I did some computing because I did not have the time to do a backup.

I forgot to remember that I had setup an excellent backup program on my computer, as I had done on so many of my clients' computers, precisely because it did not take much time to run. This program is called SyncBack and is, like all good backup programs, easy to setup if you know what you are doing.

It is even easier to run. All you need to do is insert your backup medium into any available USB port then click on the desktop icon and your backup will run, usually taking no more than five minutes. However, in common with so many of my clients, I had too often decided that five minutes was too long so I had too often decided to wait until tomorrow to do my very important backup.

And, as we all know, tomorrow never comes (because it is always today!).

### ***The Final Straw***

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The final straw happened just as I was about to start writing my cheat sheet for my date with the radio station on the Friday night after my favourite computer shop had closed for the weekend.

What was the last straw? My computer decided not to start! I am not sure what happened as I had turned away when I pressed the start button but everything just stopped. There were no lights showing anywhere on my computer so obviously there was a major problem with my computer.

This meant that I had to take it to my favourite computer repair shop. There was a massive problem with this because I still had to get my cheat sheet for that Saturday's radio show out so that I did not make an even bigger fool of myself on air the following day.

Time, I thought, for a major panic!

### ***The Panic***

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There were a number of reasons for the panic. Let's see if I can remember all of them.

- The repair shop did not open on Saturdays so there was no chance that I could get my data off the hard discs (assuming that they were still working) until Wednesday at the very earliest.

- This meant that I could not print my cheat sheet so that I did not make an absolute fool of myself on air
- This also meant that I could not email my cheat sheet to the radio presenter so that he had something to help him appear reasonably intelligent during our conversation.
- And, the final straw, I could not upload this Saturday's cheat sheet to my website for you, dear listener, to read at your leisure.

Because I had not completed the cheat sheet for that Saturday's radio show I was tempted to take the coward's way out and call in sick but manfully I soldiered on and did the best I could.

### ***The Repair***

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On Monday morning I took my computer and a backup disc for the contents of its hard disc into the repair shop and there it sat waiting for the other computers ahead of it in the queue to be repaired. At last, on Thursday, I got a call from the repair shop asking why the external hard disc was there. I explained that I wanted the technician to copy all the data off the computer's hard disc onto the external hard disc.

He asked me why I wanted that because there was nothing wrong with the computer. He told me that he had plugged it in and it just started normally!

### ***The Problem***

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Time to start thinking!

If the problem was not with the computer, and the computer had had no power the last time that I went to use it, it must be with the power into the computer. I checked and found that the UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) box was well past its use-by date and had given up the ghost.

It was not just that the battery had died: the electronics had died as well.

No power was available from that UPS.

The obvious short-term solution was to plug my computer into a power board and get all my work done until I had a new UPS. This I did. I then had to complete all last week's work as well as the work for this week.

It is well said: Physician, heal thyself!

### ***Further Information***

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SyncBack [www.2brightsparks.com](http://www.2brightsparks.com)