

Radio Days – 2008-11-15

Tip of the Week — Printer Problems

When I came to printing this document I found that my brand-new printer would not work. I tried all the things that I tell you to do: switch off the printer, switch off the computer, switch everything back on, tear your hair out.

Nothing.

Eventually, with time running out, I deleted the printer then re-installed it. This time it worked and I discovered that the problem was that it had the wrong network address. Why this should happen when it worked perfectly the previous time I do not know. The problem was solved and I could wipe my brow and go on air.

Keeping the Nasties at Bay

The nasties are everywhere on the internet, and this is not meant to frighten you. It is just as true on the roads where you have to be on the lookout for pedestrians, dogs, children, balls and kangaroos all running onto the road at the same time.

I recently had a problem where an unknown problem had disabled a computer and I had to get it working again. The problem turned out to be that some of the core Windows programs had become corrupted and needed to be reinstalled before the computer could work properly.

The way to fix this was with a program called **SFC** (System File Checker). This program takes the correct Windows programs from your installation CD and replaces any corrupted ones on your hard disc. To run it you click on **Start » Run**, type **cmd** and press **Enter**. This will open a black screen with white writing. Now type **sfc /scannow** and insert your installation CD when prompted. If you have a recovery disc instead of an installation disc you will need to beg, borrow or steal an installation disc because a recovery disk is not in the correct format.

Another problem is that programs can make changes to the way your computer is set up, either intentionally or by accident. A very good program to detect these changes is called TeaTimer and is installed with AdAware. While the messages will annoy some people they do keep you informed of changes to the registry, and this is one of the places where changes need to be made if a virus is going to be installed successfully on your computer.

The intrusion prevention measures used by AdAware are also used by Windows Vista's User Account Control or UAC. This is one of the features that most people really hate about Vista, and here am I suggesting that you install something similar on your computer. While it can be intrusive, it can also be a lifesaver if it stops a virus or trojan horse program from infecting your computer.

Life is never simple!

Websites

AdAware / Teatimer www.lavasoft.com