Radio Days – 2009-01-10

Tip of the Week — Stay Safe Online

The standard things that I have talked about over the years: make sure that you have a good selection of safety programs online. This means a good firewall, a good anti-virus and a good anti-malware. My favourites are ZoneAlarm for your firewall, AVG for your anti-virus and BOClean for your anti-malware. All these programs are free for non-commercial home use, and ZoneAlarm has no restrictions.

Your New Computer

Copying Old Data to Your New Computer

The easiest way to copy data from your old computer to your new computer is to use a USB stick or external hard disc to save all the data that you want from your old computer. You can then copy all your old data from the backup to your new computer. Make sure that you have all data saved from your old computer before continuing with the next step, as the next step cannot be undone.

Another option is to use a special USB cable which allows you to connect two computers. These cables cost about $25.

If your old computer does not have USB ports then you will need another approach. There are two options: take your old computer to a computer shop and get them to copy the data from your old hard disc to your new one or to a DVD. You can then copy all the data that you need at your leisure.

The other option is to buy a card with USB ports. If your old computer uses Windows 98 then you will have to be sure that the card comes with drivers for Windows 98 as it came out before USB ports were in wide use.

If your old computer uses an earlier version of Windows then you will have to take it to a computer shop as earlier versions of Windows cannot use this method and use outdated wires to attach discs to computers.

Removing Your Old Data from Your Old Computer

You have options, and they range from doing nothing to shredding the whole disc.

- Do nothing: this leaves all your old data available for the next user.
- Delete all data files: this leaves the data files in the Recycle Bin for later retrieval.
- Empty the Recycle Bin: this will stop most people from finding your data.
- Secure wiping: this will stop all but the CIA.
- Shred or burn your hard disc: this removes all traces.

Which option should you use? This all depends on your data and its value to the wrong people.

Websites

ZoneAlarm	www.zonealarm.com
AVG	http://free.avg.com
BOClean	www.comodo.com