

Radio Days – 2009-11-14

Tip of the Week – Does Your Backup Work?

A new client rang me to ask me to check their backup and make sure that it was working. I went out to see him and we discussed their requirements. After discovering their needs we checked that the current backup was working. This was too easy because there was no backup! Their other consultants had assured them that they would be informed if the backup had a problem, and then would correct the problem remotely.

Backups were even more important for this client than for most because their server had recently been blown up during a thunderstorm. They had not had a server (or a business) for about a week while a new server was being built and data re-created, and this outage had cost them dearly.

Perhaps a *UPS* (Uninterruptible Power Supply) would have saved the day by absorbing the power surge, or perhaps not. I suggested that they get a UPS to protect them in future.

Removing Bloat-ware

Many new computers come with lots of unwanted and trial software installed at birth. These programs can both make your computer take longer to start and slow your computer down dramatically. This is why I always check my new computer for unwanted programs and remove them. The programs that I use to do this are:

- Drive Image XML make an image of your hard disc
- Revo Uninstaller: uninstall all unwanted programs
- CCleaner: remove any last traces of unwanted programs
- Defraggler: defragment the hard disc for as much speed as possible

I run these programs in that order.

Drive Image XML is a program which makes an *image* (or exact copy) of a hard disc. This image enables you to recover your hard disc if anything goes really pear-shaped during the following steps in this sequence.

Revo Uninstaller is the best program that I know which can remove all, or almost all, of the fluff which some programs install. It does take a little longer to run than a standard uninstall but it is far more thorough, especially if you use the *Advanced* mode to clean-up after the uninstall. CCleaner is probably not needed after an advanced Revo uninstall (because Revo will have done its own cleaning) but I run it anyway, to be sure to be sure (my Mother was Irish) and Defraggler is run at the end to ensure that all the files on the hard disc are in the best position for my new computer to be as fast as possible.

After you have finished all these steps you may wish to make another image of your hard disc so that you can always get back to this clean state after your computer slows down over the years of use which you and your family and friends will be giving it.

This ensures that you will have the cleanest and fastest computer that you can get from your hardware. Too many computers nowadays are stuffed with trial programs, etc, which are just there to annoy you by slowing your computer down.

Websites

Drive Image XML	www.runtime.org/driveimage-xml.htm
Revo Uninstaller	www.revouninstaller.com
CCleaner	www.ccleaner.com
Defraggler	www.defraggler.com