Radio Days – 2010-01-29

Tip of the Week – MSE vs AVG

This week I had two experiences with anti-virus. When I switched my computer on I saw a message stating that Microsoft had released an update to Microsoft Security Essentials. The message asked me if I would like to update to this new version. I clicked **Update** and it all just happened automatically.

Contrast this with my second experience.

I saw an old client who still had AVG on his computer so I checked to see what version and whether it had been updated recently. His version was 8.5 which had been discontinued a year or two ago. Because it was such an old version it had not been updated for many months. Trying to do a manual update produced a screen which stated that support for his version had been discontinued and that he should update to AVG 2011.

I removed AVG from my client's computer (using *Revo Uninstaller*) and installed MSE. This is a smaller download and MSE uses many fewer computer resources than AVG. If you are still using AVG please remove it and install MSE.

Protecting Your Computer

There are two programs which I have mentioned in earlier shows. Each program helps you to protect your computer and each program has been updated to make them easier to use.

Secunia PSI is a program which checks most, if not all, programs on your computer to see if they have been updated. Most updates to programs are security updates (to patch a hole in the program's defences) and the update should be installed when it has been released. The first problem for so many people is to know what programs they have on their computer, and the second problem is to know when a patch has been released. There is also the minor matter of how to install the patch. Secunia PSI is a very neat program which does most of the hard work for you. This means that you can, in most cases, install PSI then relax while it does all the hard work for you. If you need to install an update manually it will let you know and you can then either do the install yourself or get someone in to do it for you.

Threatfire, on the other hand, is designed to complement your anti-virus program. AV programs see if a virus' signature is found in a program before it runs. Threatfire, on the other hand, checks the behaviour of a program before it runs to see if it breaks the rules for what programs are allowed to do.

Together these two programs are an excellent addition to your computer's safety toolkit.

Further Information

Revo Uninstaller	www.revouninstaller.com
Microsoft Security Essentials	www.microsoft.com/security_essentials
Secunia PSI	www.secunia.com
Threatfire	www.threatfire.com