

Radio Days – 2010-02-12

Tip of the Week – We Are From Microsoft

A scam which has been around for a while is starting to come to my notice more and more. This probably means that it is making lots and lots of money. The scam involves you getting a phone call stating that the caller is either from Microsoft or Windows and they are ringing to let you know that your computer has a virus.

This is a well-known scam. Please do not be fooled by slick presentation and persuasive talk: they are after your money and your credit card details. Ask for the caller's name and phone number and pass them on to the ACCC on **1300 302 502**. They will use the details and perhaps another scammer will spend some time in jail!

Copying Photos from Camera to Computer

This is a task which too many people find is so difficult that they avoid it whenever possible. If you take time to master the program (either the program which came with your camera or one of the many available on the internet) you will find that copying photos from your camera to your computer is both quick and simple. The program which I have installed on many clients' computers is Google's Picasa. This free program has many features which will appeal to many photographers.

I find that the easiest way to copy photos is to remove the card from my camera and place it in the correct slot in my computer's system unit. Picasa (or another program like Photoshop or Photoshop Elements) can then copy the photos from the card to the computer. I prefer this method because many people connect their camera to their computer before installing the software. Connecting a camera to your computer before installing the appropriate software often means that the camera will never work properly with the computer.

When I setup Picasa on a client's computer they usually want all photos stored in a folder whose name is the date that the photo was taken. For this to work, of course, the date and time in your camera must be accurate. If you travel to another time zone please remember to change the time (and date if necessary) so that this works when you return. This also means that, if you have an itinerary for your trip, you can tell where each photo was taken. One client reset his camera's date and time to 1 January 2004 each time he turned it on so this method did not work for him.

If you use a card (like my SD card) which has a lock switch, you can lock the card to prevent the photos being erased accidentally before you have had a chance to copy them to a backup medium. Losing photos this way is a major source of frustration!

If you know what you are doing you can get these photos back if you act quickly enough, but prevention is always better than cure, especially with irreplaceable photos!

For those beginning the exciting world of digital photography Picasa is a great place to start. It will give you some idea of how digital photographs can be modified, and how easy this can be. When you have mastered Picasa you can then move on to a program like Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, or any of the other programs which help you get the best from your photographs.

Further Information

Picasa <http://picasa.google.com.au>