

Radio Days – 2011-07-09

Tip of the Week – GPS Maps

A client this week had a problem with installing the update for her GPS. She had paid for and downloaded the map update needed for a trip to an unfamiliar part of the country. As part of the download she also downloaded the instructions for installing the update. All her attempts to perform the update came to naught because the instructions did not match what happened on the ground.

She rang me and I, too, had the same problem, so I had to come back during office hours so that I could get expert help from the manufacturer. The problem was easy to solve: just install the update to the GSP receiver! There was no mention, in the instructions, of ensuring that you had the latest update for the GPS receiver. Once the GPS receiver had been updated the instructions made sense, and the update to the map was completed in record time!

I mentioned this to another client and they told me that they had had the same problem with their GSP, and that it was the same age of the same model. They had thought that the problem was their fault! Not in this case.

The moral of this story is that not all problems which you encounter are your fault!

New Tax Rates

The government had introduced new tax scales for the year starting 1 July 2011. These tax scales include the *Flood Levy* to help pay for the recovery from the floods over the last year. If you are an employer then you will have to take note of these new tax tables. This may well mean that you have to update your accounting program. For most accounting programs, if you have a support contract, it may be a downloadable update. If you do not have a support contract you will probably have to pay for an upgrade, and the cost of an upgrade is typically about 75% of the cost of a new version.

If you have an accounting program this will be one of those times when you need to get the latest version because the layout of the *Employment Summary* (former *Group Certificate*) has changed. The change in layout of the Employment Summary has become common, over the last few years, when there has been a change in tax scales. The most recent layout change was when the amount of salary sacrificed to superannuation was included when calculating to see whether you were eligible for payments like child support.

These sorts of changes happen all the time with accounting programs, as with most other programs. Part of the reason for making changes is to ensure that the manufacturer has enough income to stay in business to provide support so that you can get the help that you need. The other reason for changes in accounting programs is that the federal government keeps changing the rules! Nothing like a bit of outside interference to keep you on your toes!

It is for reasons like this that you need to keep in your accountant's good books so that she or he can keep you abreast of these sorts of changes.

Further Information

Nothing this week