

# Radio Days – 2011-07-16

## ***Tip of the Week – Online Backup***

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There was a recent case of hacking which may well send a number of businesses bankrupt. It involved a company which provided cloud services for its clients. These cloud services were designed to save its clients money by providing cheaper access to programs which they were already using, plus storing all their data in the cloud so that its clients could save money by not needing a bank of storage computers.

The problem started when a hacker got into the main company's computer system. The first damage was caused when all current data were deleted from the main computer. The hacker's next step was to delete the backups from the backup servers. This meant that all the clients of the cloud company were completely lost: they did not have access to their programs and all the data needed to keep the company working had been lost.

Yes, the cloud may well be the way of the future but, as usual, your data is the most important part of your computing system. If you, or your business, lose your data then you often have no way to continue working. I have a client who uses the online version of QuickBooks and, as suggested by Quicken, they do a local backup each evening in case of an emergency.

Is your cloud data worth keeping onsite as well so that it can be used in an emergency?

## ***Keeping Up To Date***

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I have mentioned this before but it came up again in a conversation with a client. I had installed Secunia PSI on his computer and shown him how to use it to keep his programs up to date. He was confused about the process so none of the suggested programs had been updated.

I was able to make things much easier for him by removing Secunia PSI and installing a new updating program called Ninite. Ninite is a new service which makes it very easy to keep many programs up to date. The programs which it updates are the free programs which I have suggested time and time again, and include stalwarts like CCleaner, Defraggler and Foxit Reader. It also includes all the web browsers like Firefox and Opera.

To use it you go to the website and select the programs which you would like to install then keep up to date. You then download a small program to your desktop. This program, when run, checks your copy of each of the programs you selected to be installed for the latest version and installs or updates all those which have changed or been added.

If truly is as simple as this. It works best with a broadband (ADSL, satellite or wireless) connection because some downloads are large and will take a long time to download using a dialup internet connection.

I have often spoken about the need to keep all your programs up to date because loopholes in many programs allow an attacker to gain easy access to your computer. I have been using Secunia PSI now for some years and the new version 2 is much better than the previous version because it does most of the updating automatically. There are still some programs which need to be updated manually but they are now the exception rather than the rule.

## ***Further Information***

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Ninite [www.ninite.com](http://www.ninite.com)  
Secunia PSI [www.secunia.com](http://www.secunia.com)