



aspadvisor

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2006

Welcome to the first issue of **aspadvisor**.

This monthly newsletter will keep you informed about IT issues relevant to business users, new technologies we can recommend, and general **asp** news.

Sneaky spam

Spam (unsolicited bulk electronic messages that are named after the Monty Python "spam" sketch) have been filling our Inboxes almost since email was invented. We now require spam filters on our email servers to try and eliminate this junk communication, but spam has been getting smarter, masquerading as legitimate email and confusing the spam filters.

Tips to Keep Your Accounts Safe

- If you receive an email from a bank, **be very suspicious**. Banks will rarely email their clients, especially about security matters as they generally will advise of issues within their own secure site.
- **Do not** follow the link from the email. To check your accounts, **always** log on using the web address you would normally use.

Spam is now disguising itself so effectively that, once through the spam filters, people who receive it often have trouble discerning spam from their other messages, especially when the spam appears to come from a trusted source, such as a bank.

These emails often inform you that your account requires a task to be completed due to current security problems or concerns, and asks you to log on to the website to verify your identity, provided by a

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asp tests - Telstra NextG Wireless Broadband Cards

Until now, mobile broadband cards have not provided users with the speed, reliability or coverage required to make them viable as the sole means of connecting to **asp**, email, your intranet or the internet.

Now, however, the next generation of mobile broadband cards have arrived and **asp** have been testing the Telstra NextG card and the Vodafone USB 3GMobile Broadband device.

At our office, the Telstra card was connected to a 12 month old IBM Thinkpad with a Celeron Processor, while the Vodafone device was attached to a brand new Macron NW120 with a Intel Core Duo Processor, and each computer was used to log in to **asponline** to create an MYOB Invoice.

The speed of an **asponline** session relies very little on the computer being used, and far more on the speed of the internet connection. Surprisingly, the Thinkpad with the Telstra NextG card flew through the connecting process, loaded up MYOB and was responding to commands blindingly fast. By comparison, the Vodafone connection was inherently slower than the NextG with response times to commands quite varied.



asp performed the same test in the Melbourne CBD, and received the same results. So, if you're considering wireless connectivity for your notebook, the Telstra NextG Wireless Broadband Card is fast, really fast.

The NextG is available on a number of plans based on data download (similar to a broadband internet plan). And if used for connection to an **asponline** solution, email, the intranet - essentially core business requirements, the plans are viable and affordable. It must be noted that if NextG is used for major downloading, it will cost, and cost a lot.

Six Word Story

We'll be brief: Ernest Hemingway once wrote a story in just six words ("For sale: baby shoes, never worn.") and is said to have called it his best work.

So, each month our newsletter will feature a six word story, and for our first, an IT classic.....

Computer, did we bring batteries? Computer?

- Eileen Gunn

asp recommends - O2 XDA Atom

Our clients often ask us which SmartPhone we recommend. There are a number of options to choose from, including the Blackberry and the I-Mate K-JAM as two high profile examples.



asp staff have been using the O2 XDA Atom since March this year, and can highly recommend them. The Atom is a combination mobile phone and Pocket PC, that runs on the Windows Mobile operating system, so it can synchronise your email, calendar, tasks, notes and contacts with your Windows PC.

The Atom allows you to store files on the phone, and “mobile” versions of your applications, such as Office, Media Player etc, enable you to open and use your documents, photos and music on the go. It takes a mini SD card, similar to the memory card in your digital camera, so memory expansion is available to you to store more files.


The Atom also features a wireless facility for use with wireless networks, Bluetooth to connect various compatible devices and GPRS which will allow you to connect to the internet and download your email wherever you are, although using GPRS will incur charges from your mobile service provider. The Atom also includes a 2 Megapixel still/video camera, with a flash. While you may not consider that you need all of these features, it’s always handy

Sneaky Spam

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link in the email. This link takes you to a website which looks almost identical to the real site, but is unsecured. You will be asked for all of your account details which will be stored, allowing the website administrators full access to your accounts. **DO NOT DO IT.**

There are many scam emails landing in our inboxes, so it pays to be suspicious of anything to do with your bank accounts.

**Commonwealth**Bank

Dear Customer,

NetBank Security Department has been receiving complaints from our customers for unauthorised uses of the NetBank accounts. As a result we are temporarily shutting down some selected NetBank Online Accounts perceived vulnerable to this, pending till the time we carry out proper verification by the account owner. Commonwealth Bank is committed to ensure the safeguard of each customer personal information, making sure only authorised individuals have access to their Netbank accounts.

As the first step to have Your NetBank Access reactivated please reconfirm your identity by using the link provided below.

[log on](#)

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An example of a spam message designed to trick the recipient into disclosing their banking details.

Vaguely Interesting

BIOHAZARDS



Human beings measure things. It makes us feel better about all those things we can't control, though it can sometimes get out of hand – the US Department of Homeland Security's colour-coded terror alerts, for example.

But as a rule, most of the scales we use to quantify, classify, and compartmentalize the world are useful, and some are downright cool. Here is one from a group of the coolest scales.

Lab Biosafety Levels

What it measures: Biolab protocols

How it works: Each of the four levels spells out procedures based on the infectiousness of the germs present. BSL-1 covers high school lab rules like hand-washing and no eating. BSL-4, reserved for nasty airborne agents like Ebola, means air locks and X Files-grade hazard suits.

Next Month:

The Torino Impact Hazard Scale

Partner Profile

Australia needs BioFuels; as well as reducing our dependence on dwindling crude oil and gas reserves, their production and usage will create jobs, contribute to economic growth and drastically reduce transport-related Greenhouse gas emissions.



BioEthanol, a renewable fuel from SAFF BioPetrols, reduces the Greenhouse Gas emissions by up to 10% when compared with regular petrol fuels. Its improved combustion properties also reduce harmful exhaust emissions, including a reduction in carbon monoxide by up to 30%.

BioUnleaded95 and BioPremium Unleaded98 are the environmentally friendly fuels for petrol vehicles. Both BioPetrols meet all requirements for Australian Standard Petrol. SAFF also produce and distribute BioDiesel, for use with die- **SAFF** sel vehicles.