



aspadvisor

Welcome to the May edition of the **aspadvisor**.

Don't Trust Everything You See on the Net

Through the age of printed press, you trusted what you read, because in order to be published, it had to be edited and fact checked by numerous people, and there were consequences for publishing incorrect facts.

Along comes the internet, sharing information from all corners of the globe and we have more information at our fingertips than ever before. However unlike books, there is no editing, proof reading and fact checking required on the content or information posted. Literally anybody can put anything on the internet and it be read by thousands, if not millions of people around the world.

Previously, misinformation was comparatively easy to spot. Personal websites are always filled with personal opinions, and are never considered to be "fact", and online message boards are often filled with people arguing over an issue, so the validity of any information found there is always questionable.

However online encyclopedia resources such as Wikipedia make it difficult to tell fact from everything else, because all information is "peer-assessed", meaning everybody can contribute, change and manipulate the articles. On one hand, this gives the articles balance, as all sides of an issue can be explained and explored. On the other

hand, information from a physicist can be given the same weight as information from a 7 year old student. When it comes to matters of quantum mechanics, the 7 year old is not likely to be the most

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Karl Stefanovic a Dalek?

The Wikipedia article on Karl Stefanovic recently had an incorrect photo. The Today Show presenter's head had been replaced by the top of a Dalek, the alien adversaries of Dr Who. Once discovered, the original image was restored. While nobody believed Karl Stefanovic was a Dalek, the episode highlighted the potential for sabotage of information.

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asp talks - Graphics Cards

Until now, playing high end computer games, editing & manipulating video and working with or enhancing images have been requisite of powerful graphics cards. Tasks that required speedy image refreshing and powerful image rendering have always been the reason that you would need a high powered graphics card in your computer. The humble office workstation made do with what came out of the box as all it was required to do was show data, perform calculations and create documents. Boy has that changed

With the introduction of the Windows Vista operating system comes Aero, a new "tool" that is said to make the user experience of the operating system that much more enjoyable. It is included with all versions of Vista (except Basic), but you can't see it unless you have a video capability powerful enough to display it. And many of Vista's exciting new features are part of the Aero package, such as the 3D Flip function and task bar thumbnails. (Even Solitaire!)



Vista's 3D Flip function

Some of the newer motherboards have integrated graphics capable of displaying Aero, but for those wishing for the functions of Aero without an expensive whole of computer replacement, upgrading your current PC with a more powerful graphics card is the way to go. We must be mindful of which card we chose as not all graphics cards have the wherewithal to show Vista and Aero in it's fullest glory, and motherboard architecture must also be noted as the current standard "slot" for graphics cards is PCIExpress, with some last generation AGP cards still floating around - and the card has got to fit into what you currently have - though that can be assessed quickly and easily by an **asp** technician.

Crikey, you could even install a "dual head" graphics card, run 2 displays (aspadvisor Volume1, Issue 2 Jan, 2007), utilise Vista, Aero and all the new tools - and watch your productivity improve considerably.

I want it - how can I get it?

A number of graphics cards are available from **asp**. Please contact us to discuss the best option for your needs. Contact **asp** to discuss **asp's** Hosted Exchange Solution.

Six Word Story

Rained, rained, rained, and never stopped.

- Howard Waldrop

asp recommends - Hosted Exchange Email

Email is now an essential business tool, requiring around-the-clock availability. To stay competitive in today's business environment, you need sophisticated messaging tools with extra features, and the know-how to make it all work.

With **asp's** Hosted Exchange as your mail server and Microsoft Office Outlook as your email program, you can do more than send and receive e-mail—you can share calendars, folders, and contacts and access information from Windows Mobile powered devices, such as phones, and PDA's. Different versions of Outlook are available for desktop, browser, and mobile access, so you're connected, whether you're in the office, travelling, or working at home. And since you connect to the same Exchange server, your inbox can stay synchronized, no matter which Outlook client you're using.

asp's Hosted Exchange is a scaleable e-mail solution designed to help your organisation:

- Access information, even when out of the office
- Get more out of an e-mail system so that employees can get more done
- Gain the peace of mind that comes from a professionally managed service, backed by **asp's** 24/7 support and myriad of redundancies

Don't Trust Everything You See on the Net

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knowledgeable, nor the posting that reliable, though it will be available to read and possibly believe until a "peer" has reassessed the information and adjusted it accordingly. Clearly, this is an exaggeration, though it is understandable the potential problems created by peer-assessed knowledge bases when looking at controversial issues such as theory of evolution, religion, politics—if anybody can contribute, change or alter the information available, it is entirely possible to intentionally remove opposing viewpoints from the article you are editing.

Wikipedia have procedures in place to "lock" articles that are changed frequently, to try to prevent the willful distribution of misinformation to the public, but nothing can ensure that all of the information is complete and correct.

World knowledge, through Wikipedia and its counterparts, is becoming fluid, shaped by public opinion and merely influenced by fact. All viewpoints are considered, no matter how irrelevant the so-called experts may believe them to be, and given equal representation. As a result, the way we do research must change—instead of turning to the internet knowledge bases for facts, we need to take the information gained as a "guide for further reading".

Vaguely Interesting

Cat on a Bus?

London Bus drivers have nicknamed a white cat Macavity (after T.S. Elliot's mystery cat) after it has started using the No 331 several mornings a week.

The feline gets onto the busy Walsall to Wolverhampton bus at the same stop in front of a row of 1950's semi-detached houses, then jumps off at the next stop 400m down the road, near a fish and chip shop.



Fellow commuters say that Macavity is the perfect passenger, sitting quietly at the front of the bus, patiently waiting for his stop—the only problem is that he never pays.

The real mystery is why the cat chooses to catch the bus, and Macavity has declined to comment.

Next month: One a Day

Partner Profile



Budget Retreads P/L (trading as Statewide Tyre Distribution) has been established over 20 years & currently conducts its operations from its Wingfield premises. The principal activities of the business are new tyre wholesaling, retread manufacture and waste tyre disposal/recycling.

Since 2001 the Company has changed its core business focus from one of manufacturing to that of a leading independent distributor of new tyres to tyre retail outlets in South Australia. Statewide Tyre Distribution currently offers a large selection of new tyre brands and is the SA Distributor of "Simex" tyres which is its major seller in South Australia. Visit www.simetyre.com.au.

Statewide Tyre Distribution is continuously assessing the market with the goal of providing the best range of new tyres to customers at a competitive price.

asp is proud to partner with **Statewide Tyres**