



aspadvisor

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

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Email & Internet Rights & Reality

Use of Internet and email in the workplace is commonplace though the associated privacy issues may come as a surprise.

Email and internet use has enabled a level of communication freedom that has never before existed, with it, has granted employers the ability to access and assess the electronic activities of an employee; both are possibly not fully aware of their rights and obligations.

Many employees believe they have a right to privacy with regards to personal email and internet usage. Employers believe that they have the right to curb lost productivity due to the use of personal internet and email in the workplace and to prevent the possible distribution of confidential business information, be it haphazard or with malicious intent.

Use or Abuse?

Toyota dismissed 2 employees in September 2000 for the sending of pornographic images via email, and the storage of offensive images on PC hard drives and floppy disks.

Sending of such images alone was considered reasonable grounds for dismissal, however the employees should have been aware of the equal opportunity policies in place at the workplace, and must have seen electronic 'pop-up' messages that reminded employees of Toyota's policy with regard to internet and email usage. The policy warned employees internet mail messages were not private, and Toyota had the facility to retrieve deleted mail and transmissions may be monitored.

Currently it seems to be the onus of the employer as it is deemed that intercepting, monitoring and storing copies of employee emails without consent may be considered illegal under the Telecommunications (Interception) Act of 1972, though if employees distribute offensive material, companies have been held responsible as reasonable steps had not been taken to prevent or intervene in the distribution. The definition of "reasonable steps" is still open to interpretation.

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asp tests - Windows Vista

The new Windows has been long awaited. So much so that **asp** have been testing pre-release versions for three years. Vista was released on January 30, and is now available to all users under 5 different options.

Vista Home Basic is the equivalent of XP Home, and will suit users who need internet & email and not much more. Vista Home Premium is also aimed at the home user, with an emphasis on using digital media through the Media Center interface. Vista Business is the XP Professional replacement, suitable for use on business PC's, and Vista Ultimate combines the entertainment aspects of Home Premium with the networking and security functions of Business.

Being a new release, Vista has improved looks and functionality. Along with the streamlined Start Menu with search field, and the new look round Start Button, Vista offers taskbar thumbnails to preview minimized windows, and an improved function for flipping through your open windows that is like flipping through papers on your desk

With a new Windows release, it has become common practice to wait six months or so before rushing out to buy it, in the hopes that the bugs in the system will all be worked out by that time. Vista, however, has been through a number of testing phases, and has already worked out a number of its kinks, with each pre-release version being better than its predecessor. Of course, it won't be perfect, but Windows XP is still being updated monthly, 4 years after its original release. No matter how good Vista is now, it will continue to improve over time.



I want it - how can I get it?

The Canon Ixus 65 digital camera and Windows Vista are available from **asp** - please contact us if you need more information. Windows XP will continue to be available from **asp** until it is phased out by Microsoft.

Six Word Story

It's behind you! Hurry before it.....

- Rockne S. O'Bannon

asp recommends - Canon Digital Ixus 65

High quality images, simple to use and packed with features, the Ixus 65 is considered the best compact camera around \$400. It features a 3x optical zoom, and weighs only 162g. The 3" LCD screen makes it quite easy to shoot and view photos & movies. In review mode, the camera will rotate portrait and landscape photos to display the right way relative to whichever way you may hold the camera.



The simple "point & shoot" modes are supplemented by options for ISO, exposure, white balance etc for when you're feeling more creative. Ixus 65 uses the DIGIC II Processor, which Canon use in their Professional camera range to deliver quick start times and precise colour rendering, while minimising power consumption to extend battery life.

Video mode offers numerous shooting options, including a colour accent feature, allowing you to shoot in black & white, with only objects of a selected hue appearing in colour.



Using the supplied software, you can perform photo enhancements and even create panoramic views from multiple landscape shots with the "Photo Stitch" option.

The Ixus 65 combines the simplicity of a snapshot camera with the features and image quality sought by the photographic enthusiast.

Email & Internet Rights & Reality

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It should be noted that hearings relating to unfair dismissal on the grounds of misuse of company internet & email facilities are each judged on the merits of the particular case.

The solution is to develop your own Email & Internet Usage Policy, which conveys clearly the company's rules for personal and work related use, the penalties for misuse of the system, and how the company will monitor adherence to the rules. A common clause in these policies refers to the employer's ability to access information, but advises this will only be acted upon when there is cause to suspect a breach of policy. When distributed and communicated to employees, the policy clearly outlines acceptable use, and becomes an intrinsic part of the terms of employment.

For further information, please go to:

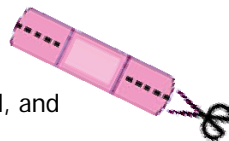
<http://www.privacy.gov.au/internet/email/>

Vaguely Interesting

Japanese Game Shows can be useful. One show, now in its ninth season, challenges contestants to top one another with *urawaza*, or "secret tricks," a concept that became popular in the '80s with gamers swapping tips for beating *Super Mario Brothers*. The *urawaza* might sound unbelievable, but have all been proven in front of a live audience.

Problem: Band Aids always fall off my finger

Urawaza: Cut a slit in each end of the band aid, and crisscross the strips over one another



How it works: Prevents moisture getting under the sticky surface and loosening the bandage.

Problem: My kid always loses the 100m dash.

Urawaza: Put a rubber band around his ankle and loop it over his big toe in a figure eight.



How it works: When you run, the arch of your foot expands and contracts with every stride. The rubber band augments this movement, making you run faster.

Next month: A few more handy Urawaza tips

Partner Profile

Orthopaedics SA specialises in the diagnosis, surgical treatment and non-surgical management of orthopaedic and musculo-skeletal conditions in adults and children.

Formed in 1998, Orthopaedics SA has continued to grow to meet the needs of patients, referring doctors and the communities of metropolitan and country South Australia.

Their mission is to deliver premium orthopaedic care, utilising the latest research and technological advancements, to achieve optimal outcomes, resumption of function and a safe return to regular daily activities for patients of all ages. Orthopaedics SA is proud to cater for the individual at every one of life's stages.

Orthopaedics SA has four main consulting locations; North Adelaide, Ashford, Bedford Park and Henley Beach. For the convenience of patients and referring doctors, their specialists also consult at a number of additional sites throughout the metropolitan area and South Australian country centres.

asp is proud to partner with Orthopaedics SA.

