



# aspadvisor

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

## Hidden Cost of Data Storage

Businesses run on data. Accounts data, sales data, marketing data—and it's all being stored digitally. But as with all aspects of business, we need to ensure that our data storage is cost effective, so here are some points to consider.

### Plan your Upgrades

When the available storage space is filled, the first solution suggested is always to get another hard drive.

It sounds simple, however to add a hard drive to a server, the server will be unavailable to all users while the new drive is being installed, so there is a cost in lost productivity, notwithstanding supply and installation. The time taken to install multiple hard drives is not much more than installing one, so logical planning becomes a consideration; if more space is seen to be needed in the near future, it may be better to install multiple drives now, instead of incurring downtime and further installation costs later on.

The conundrum of falling costs comes into play here as well. Hard drive architecture has not changed a great deal in the last few years - what has changed is price and capacity. Why buy an extra drive now at today's price, when by the time you need it you could get twice the capacity for the same price? Lost productivity may still be an issue, but it might be longer before you need to do it again.

### Archive Old Data

Properly managing data will help keep costs down as well. It is estimated that 80% of all data over 90 days old is never accessed, and just takes up valuable space on the server or computer. If this information were to be archived to disk, the legal

Volume1, Issue 8

July 2007

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### Check It Out

The future is already here, so to see for yourself take a look at Microsoft's Next Idea:

[www.microsoft.com/surface/](http://www.microsoft.com/surface/)

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## asp talks - Kuitpo Forest Rally 2007

After the success of the 2006 **asp** Application Service Provider Kuitpo Forest Rally, **asp** have agreed to support the event again in 2007, which will this year be split into two events—the Kuitpo Forest Rally and the Adelaide Hills Tarmac Sprint. Held over the weekend of the 27th & 28th October, the events will take place on public roads and various trails around Willunga, Mt Compass and the Kuitpo Forest.

**asp** is proud to support Southern Districts Car Club, as it is a club that not only promotes and focuses on driver safety, it is a club that has taken action through their Junior Development Program, the only one of its kind in South Australia. From the age of 12, participants are trained to drive in various conditions and taught the dynamics of vehicle handling way before ever driving on public roads. They are also given tools to aid in determining vehicle safety and other lessons that are not readily available. An example being; having a semi-trailer on hand to experience first hand what a truck driver has to deal with in managing such a vehicle thus making the participants far more knowledgeable, considerate and aware when they do finally get on the road.

Many of these drivers go on to compete in various motorsport activities therefore keeping the racing on the track and off the road, with an example from last year's rally being 16 year old James Rodda. James and his co-driver placed 11th in a field of 21, after obtaining his Learner's Permit only the week before the rally, then campaigning passionately to the South Australian Rally Panel and CAMS to allow him to race.



## I want it - how can I get it?

All Office 2007 versions are available from **asp**. Some programs are not yet compatible with 2007; check with your program vendor. More Rally details next issue.

## aspadvisor Back Issues

Back Issues of the **aspadvisor** are now available in pdf format for download from [apps.com.au](http://apps.com.au). The contents and date of each issue is listed to help you locate relevant information quickly.

## Six Word Story

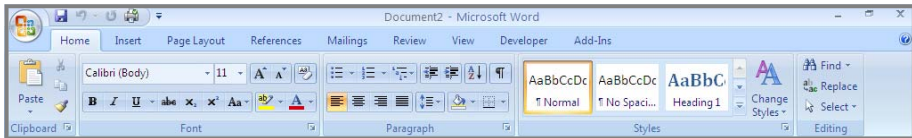
**We went solar; sun went nova.**

- Ken MacLeod

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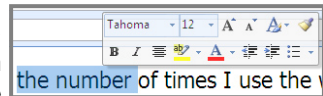
## asp recommends - Office 2007

Office 2007 was released in February 2007, at the same time as Windows Vista, to compliment the new operating system. While **asp** are still recommending Windows XP as the preferred operating system, Microsoft Office 2003 will no longer be available as of June 30 2007, and as replacements go, Office 2007 isn't bad, however it is very different.



This is the ribbon, and it replaces all your menus and toolbars. It appears in the majority of the Office 2007 programs with options specific to the program. The first thing you'll notice is that everything is in a different place, and a number of controls appear unavailable, such as table tools, however the Table Tools option will appear once you have selected a table in your document. The ribbon has been designed to make using Office products easier and more intuitive, and while the layout, to some, makes more sense than the menus from previous Office versions, familiarity with the previous versions will actually make the new version harder to use at first.

One of the useful new features is the toolbar of frequently used formatting options that appears when you select text. It disappears as you move the mouse away, and reappears as you move to click on it. And we can also finally celebrate the death of the Office Assistant - no more paperclips telling you you're typing a letter, and then "helping" by completely screwing everything up!



## Hidden Cost of Data Storage

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requirements for retaining data could be met without increasing the available disk space.

### Backups

Boy does that open up a whole other can of worms! The more data we keep on our servers, the more we need to back up, ergo larger backup devices. Faster backup solutions are required to ensure that backups are completed before the core business processes begin again. Then there's disaster recovery—if the backups need to be restored, a larger backup will take longer, meaning you are without your critical data for longer, because of the amount of non-critical data that has been backed up requiring restoration as well. Some food for thought.



## Vaguely Interesting

### Reply from **asp** to Jack Bauer, CTU



Dear Jack,

Geez mate, you should've asked earlier! We've been watching in awe as your staff and various villainous despots keep screwing you over. Let us take over the network, we'll lock everything down internally so your emotionally unstable and ethically questionable co-workers can't muck around with anything & we'll firewall you up so that the despots can't get in either. Really need you to work on your employment and staff interpersonal skills though, as you continue to hire either spies or people with the propensity for betrayal. Maybe an employment agency would be the go - or even trying to poach some of our client base (far brighter & more principled than your lot) - and you spending some quality time with your team could be worthwhile as well. Even if you just stopped shooting them it could help a lot.

The day you let **asp** take over the CTU network will be the best day you've had in a long while.



Just as a quick aside; top secret national security communications using the Bluetooth headsets on your phones – are you a complete tool? One of the least secure means of communication known to man.

Regards,

The **asp** team

## Partner Profile



With a solid hospitality background as business owners, James and Michael Tambakis founded un caffè bar in 2003. Encapsulating the contemporary European coffee experience, un caffè translates to “one coffee”. The concept behind un caffè bar is that the discerning coffee consumer needs only “one coffee bar”; one that delivers an experience that complements their lifestyle and exceeds their expectations.

Since 2003, ten un caffè bars have opened in South Australia, with six opening in Victoria during the first half of 2007.

Each un caffè bar offers food from breakfast to supper, with available options changing through the day, and a wide range of beverages, including but not limited to premium Illy coffee.

The distinct modern design of each un caffè bar creates a space which is comfortable and functional for a quick lunch or dinner with friends.

Visit [www.uncaffebar.com](http://www.uncaffebar.com) for a location near you.

**asp** is proud to partner with **un caffè bar**