

The logo for 'aspadvisor' features the word 'asp' in a bold, red, lowercase sans-serif font, followed by 'advisor' in a grey, lowercase sans-serif font. The background of the top left corner shows a close-up of a computer keyboard with a red 'asp' key and a grey 'M' key.

aspadvisor

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

Volume 2, Issue 4

May 2008

Microsoft's Skeleton Key

Conspiracy theorists that we are, we've long suspected that Microsoft had a backdoor in its operating systems to allow them and the authorities the ability to access our computer systems.

According to the Seattle Times, Microsoft have been providing Law Enforcement Officers in 15 countries with a USB Key loaded with "forensic tools" for extracting data from computers, and many have taken this news as proof of the existence of the fabled backdoor.

It is called COFEE (Computer Online Forensic Evidence Extractor) and it is able to decrypt passwords and analyse a computer's Internet activity and data. According to those who have used it, COFEE contains 150 off-the-shelf forensic tools that are already readily available to law enforcement, bundled together and controlled by a script that allows the user to run as many of them at the same time as they like.

A Microsoft legal representative has released an email statement which assures that "COFEE does not circumvent Windows Vista BitLocker encryption or undermine any protections in Windows through secret 'backdoors' or other undocumented means."

Microsoft have advised that they would expect U.S. Law enforcement agents using COFEE to do so with "proper legal authority", which one would take to

mean a search warrant, and Australian officers would presumably be under similar directives.

Given the current climate of fear of terrorism however, and the likelihood of blackmarket copies of the key, we can never be sure—best to do the right thing.

Can I Look at Your PC?

From a source within the state parliament we have been informed that Australian Federal Police may "ask" to access your computer. It's phrased as a question, however once asked, you must comply. You have the right to ask what they are looking for, and what reason they have for needing to look, but regardless of the answers, you must provide access.

Inside this Issue:

- ♦ *asp recommends: UMPC's*
- ♦ *Windows XP SP3*
- ♦ *Broadband Tender*
- ♦ ***asprally***
- ♦ *Six Word Story*
- ♦ *asp Partner Profile - H&L*
- ♦ *Vaguely Interesting - World's Greatest Shave*

Back Issues Available from
apps.com.au

The logo for 'asp' is in a bold, red, lowercase sans-serif font.

asp

Application
Service Provider

55 Belair Road
Kingswood SA 5062
61 8 8291 5000
apps@apps.com.au
apps.com.au

asprally - 2008 Adelaide Hills Tarmac Sprint

Sunday 29th of June is the date of this years **asprally**, the Adelaide Hills Tarmac Sprint. This will be the first time in Australia that a tarmac rally will be included as a round of a State Rally Championship, and the event will also decide the South Australian Tarmac Rally Champion.

Penny's Hill Winery in McLaren Vale will again be the service park for the 70+ rally crews, who will be put to the test over 10 competitive stages.

The cars can be viewed all day at Penny's Hill Winery, located on the Willunga to McLaren Vale Road, and from the following spectator points:

Willunga Hill (Willunga Hill Lookout, Victor Harbour Road) 9:00am & 10:20am

Wickhams Hill (John Yeates Lookout, Victor Harbour Road) 9:30am & 10:50am

Hindmarsh Tiers (Greenhills Road, Victor Harbour) 12:45pm & 3:10pm

Entry to all spectator points is free, with signage to direct you from the main roads, and officials will be on hand to guide you to the best vantage points. Spectator guides are soon to be available to download from asprally.com

We hope to see you there.



Photos courtesy Skot Carter

RIP Windows XP

From 1st July 2008, Windows XP will not be available to purchase, either on its own or with new PC's. Microsoft released Vista in January 2007 to replace XP, but has continued to sell XP as many users have resisted the move to Vista. This resistance has forced Microsoft to rethink the phase out, with unconfirmed rumours that system builders may be able to provide XP until January 2009.

If you purchase Windows Vista Ultimate or Business, the licensing agreement allows you to "downgrade" to Windows XP until you're ready to use Vista.

I want it - how can I get it?

A number of UMPC's are now available from **asp** and we can advise which might best suit your requirements.

Six Word Story

I win lottery. Sun goes nova.

- Steven Meretzky



asp recommends - UMPCs

It's a Hand-held. It's a Tablet. It's a Notebook. The Fujitsu LifeBook U1010 exhibits versatility with its multi-functional design. Handle it like a hand-held when you're on the move, twist the screen and it becomes a Tablet PC with pen input or use it like a notebook with a Qwerty keyboard. The LifeBook U1010 equates maximum functionality, anywhere, anytime.

The U1010 contains an Intel processor, a 3.0 megapixel integrated camera, a 5.6 inch super fine WSVGA display to offer the best clarity and impact with a battery life lasting up to 6 hours. Advanced security comes in the form of a BIOS lock and fingerprint sensor to prevent intrusion by unauthorised parties.



Communications are handled by Bluetooth V2.0, LAN, Wireless LAN and embedded 3.5G WAN allowing connectivity from virtually anywhere.

Windows XP Service Pack 3 (SP3)

Windows XP Service Pack 3 (SP3) is now available for download and install via Windows Update and the Microsoft Download Center. Windows XP SP3 includes all previously released updates for the operating system, in addition to a small number of new updates. Windows XP SP3 will not significantly change the Windows XP experience.

Installation media and documentation on disc for Windows XP SP3 may sometimes refer to Windows XP SP2. Windows XP SP2 installation guide instructions apply to Windows XP SP3.

Out to Tender—Broadband Network Upgrade

Both sides of the political fence were promising upgrades to the national Broadband network as part of their election campaigns, and it now looks like the government are about to implement the plan—as soon as they have one.

The Australian Government Tender System, Austender, released a Request For Tender last month for “proposals for the roll-out and operation of a new open access, high-speed, fibre-based broadband network” with “minimum speeds of 12 megabits per second” (higher than the average ADSL2 speed) to “98 percent of Australian homes and businesses”. \$4.7 billion has been set aside for the project, and the government is promising to consider “necessary regulatory changes” to facilitate the roll-out of the new network.

It has been suggested that the tender is just for show, with the winning contractor already chosen - \$4.7 billion is an odd amount to set aside for a project when you're not sure how much it's going to cost.

Vaguely Interesting World's Greatest Shave 2008

Shane's 2nd Annual Quiz Night was a huge event, and Shane lost a whole years worth of hair, plus the moustache and goatee. Andrew's brother Burt, our Quizmaster for the night, paid a high price to give Andrew the Troll doll look, which wilted a little later in the night so he resembled a My Little Pony.



The quiz was great fun for all, with some impromptu dancing and role playing during the music round. The Dutch migrants couldn't identify the Dutch flag on the Flag question sheet, and the kids table was stumped by the TV round, because they'd never seen Hey Dad or ALF.

In the end it was a very close competition, with the Nilsen Electric table winning the night by half a point. But the real winners were the Leukaemia Foundation, who received over \$3,500 through the generosity of those that attended and the businesses and individuals who donated prizes, services and time to the cause.



With all who attended promising to bring more next year, it may be advisable to book now!

Partner Profile

H&L group of companies was originally formed in South Australia in 1985 based on a real need by the hospitality industry for a fully integrated product that could manage Stock Control and Point of Sale management. H&L are one of the fastest growing Point of Sale solution providers in the hospitality industry, and have proven capability in excess of 2,300 sites worldwide with more than 1000 independent and corporate clients.



One of the key differences in H&L's product development is that they specialise in an industry that they understand, with all of the key people carrying a wealth of hospitality experience, having worked and consulted to that industry for many years. H&L has a policy of continual development and enhancements, to ensure the product meets the changing requirements of their customers.

H&L has offices in every capital city throughout Australia, Auckland in New Zealand and Vancouver in Canada. All provide the right software and hardware systems and more importantly, provide support 24 hours a day, every day.

asp are proud to partner 