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GREENER COMPUTING RESOURCE SHARING

Going green – it's the new black, reducing the carbon footprint, the use of non-renewable resources and looking for environmentally friendly alternatives for just about everything. When it comes to computing however, Kermit had a point: it's not easy being green.

There are no real alternatives to how we currently do things - power is required for our servers, computers, printers and network hardware, and further, all those circuit boards, components and processors are made out of elements, such as palladium, that are non-renewable. The trick then is to use what we have more efficiently.

Computers use more power when under load, so shifting that load – processing - from a number of disparate workstations to a central terminal server will reduce the amount of power used by the network as a whole. And because the terminal server is doing all the

work, the workstations do not need as much grunt, so can be smaller, less power hungry and can be used far longer before needing to be replaced.

Whilst a server uses power more efficiently than workstations, it requires more than just electricity - it needs to be kept in a cool environment. Therefore air conditioning a room just to keep the server at a constant temperature becomes a must.

Rather than having many air conditioners on all over the place keeping various servers cool, putting many servers into one climate controlled and secure space will reduce the overall power consumption, and allow the sharing of resources. A hosted server room is born.

Hosted solutions provide other environmental benefits; hosted servers do not require site visits - reducing vehicle emissions, multiple organisations can use the

SUPPORT FOR ALL

Offering phone support for all of our clients, asp receives calls from users all over Australia, and the world.

Recently, we received a call from a familiar voice requesting assistance, and naturally began the support process. We noticed a couple of odd things in the answers to the questions we asked, and realised that we weren't talking about the same system.

The user had worked for a client, though had recently moved to a new company and just dialled the same number for support as it had always worked in the past.

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Back Issues available from
apps.com.au

ASP RECOMMENDS - MS SQL SERVER 2008

First things first - SQL stands for Structured Query Language – use that at your next quiz night! As you may possibly glean from that explanation, it is a way of arranging information so that it can be searched and retrieved later. SQL (often pronounced “sequel”) can be used by programmers and data base builders to create custom applications for clients, and is often used in websites. But these applications must be installed on a server that either has SQL installed or that is linked to one that does.

Microsoft has released SQL Server 2008 a new version of the SQL Server, and it is a feature that is available on the recently released Small Business Server 2008.

Now there are those of you reading who already knew all of this, and are interested to hear what we think SQL 2008 it is like, and then there are those who are not and are snoozing peacefully – to those, WAKE UP!

A couple more mind numbing facts: SQL 2008 has improved support for PHP applications and allows programmers to develop applications with .NET integration while supporting the new Language Integrated Query (LINQ) extensions within the .NET framework.

SQL has always been notoriously expensive, which is why the Small Business Server product suite is such good value, as you

get SQL included in a package that is cheaper overall than SQL would be if it was to be purchased on its own (based on “per processor” pricing). As SQL in its standard incarnation is so exorbitantly priced, we at asp have a viable value proposition utilising the Web edition of SQL 2008.

Designed for Service Provider Licensing Partners of Microsoft such as **asp**, the Web edition of SQL 2008 allows us to provide a fully functional SQL 2008 solution at a fraction of the cost of other licensing models, thus making the hosted SQL a far more attractive option than other options available.

SIX WORD STORY

It cost too much, staying human.

- Bruce Sterling

GREENER COMPUTING

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same server environment and resources - leading to better utilisation of power and non renewable materials and hosted solutions have environmental controls - that maintain a constant temperate environment, keeping loads down on both the server and IT infrastructure and the cooling equipment itself.

There are smaller steps toward greener computing that

everybody can do. “Think before you print” is a great initiative, reducing the number of print cartridges ending up in landfill as well as the amount of paper used and there is always recycling.

All ink and toner print cartridges can be recycled through www.planetark.com.au and your equipment can also be recycled. There are a number of schemes to recycle computers for use by

the disabled or disadvantaged, only accepting working systems of certain specs, or organisations such as E-Cycle - www.ecyclerecovery.com.au will take anything electronic (PC's, printers, etc), dismantle, sort & recycle core components and materials, and provide you with a “Certificate of Recycling” as a guarantee that it will not end up in landfill.

INTERNET FILTER CENSORSHIP

Following on from the February 2008 article in **aspadvisor** "Cyber-Safety may affect Internet Speed", an Australian systems administrators' professional group (SAGE-AU) has criticised Communications Minister Stephen Conroy for alleged attempts to silence a network engineer expressing his opinion about the planned government internet filtering scheme.

SAGE-AU has responded to a report in Fairfax papers that a policy advisor to Senator Conroy had contacted the Internet Industry Association's CEO Peter Coroneos for aid in controlling the views of an employee of one of its members, ISP Internode.

The public criticism suggests that ISPs would face major network redesigns, increased costs and security threats to Australian internet users.

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The Internode engineer was quoted as saying "Senator Conroy, as Mr Rudd's delegate, is running around trying to silence dissenting members of the public, and labeling people who disagree with him as supporters of child pornography".

It's also likely that no-one will have access to the list of blocked sites. In February 2000, the Electronic Frontiers Association made a Freedom of Information (FOI) application to obtain information about Internet content that had been the subject of a complaint under Internet Censorship laws that came into force in January 2000. Not only was the application denied, the Freedom of Information Act was amended to prevent this type of information being released under FOI.

November in Tech History

November 4th, 1952, was the first use of a computer to predict election results. UNIVAC predicted a landslide victory for Eisenhower after only a third of votes had been officially counted. Fearing the machine was malfunctioning, the prediction was withheld, until the manual counting proved UNIVAC correct.

15th November, 1971 Intel announced the first microprocessor. They had been approached to build a series of 12 chips for a line of calculators, but Intel decided to combine them into one chip, the Intel 4004, the first in a long line of microprocessors leading up to your PC.

The Spruce Goose, the world's largest flying boat, made it's first and only flight on November 2nd, 1947, piloted by Howard Hughes.

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VAGUELY INTERESTING LOST IN TRANSLATION

The Beijing Olympics brought to light a number of street signs badly translated to English as the Chinese government raced to correct them all before their international guests arrived. Despite the “chinglish”, English speakers could get the idea, but the two messages on the pictured road sign aren’t even close.

If you read the English part it makes perfect sense, however if you were a Welsh truck driver,

you’d be confused by the apparently random information.

The person that organised this sign did not speak Welsh, so emailed the English message to a translator. A prompt reply was received in Welsh, and was ultimately printed on this sign, without further proofing.



Unfortunately, the translator was not available that day, and the reply says “I am not in the office at the moment. Please send any work to be translated.”

ASP BYTES: PEAR WALNUT & PARMESAN SALAD

3 x Pears
Shaved Parmesan – amount to your liking (use a vegetable peeler – great way to shave)
6 – 8 x Handfuls of Rocket & Watercress or Cos & Butter or a mix of all, depending on the type of leaf flavour you want through the salad
1 x Handful of Walnuts
Good Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Half a Lemon or a whole Lime for juice
S&P – freshly ground

For entree – 200gr pan fried Prosciutto
For main – 600gr Chicken Fillet, cut into strips and seasoned well

If the skins are nice just give the Pears a wash, if not remove with a peeler. Cut them in half and deseed, then either slice or chop, depending on the texture you want and the way you would like the salad to present. Into a bowl place the leafery that you wish to use. If it is more of a peppery taste, use the Watercress and Rocket, if you wish for mild, use the Cos and the Butter. Bear in mind, the pepper-ness of the leaves does work well with the sweetness of the Pear. Drizzle a little of the olive oil just to coat the mix and squeeze some of the Lemon or Lime juice. Season well with freshly ground S&P and toss all together. Serve onto a platter, salad bowl or individual dishes, depending on how you want to use it, shave Parmesan over the top and crumble the Walnuts over it as well.

If you wish it to be more of a light entree, quickly dry pan fry 200gr of Prosciutto in a non stick pan and sprinkle over the mix for a little bit more funk.

If for a main course, BBQ 600gr of Chicken Fillet strips and place haphazardly over the salad to create a “warm salad meal deal”.

Yield: 4 servings
Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 3 minutes for Prosciutto, 10 minutes for chicken
Difficulty: Easy

Sort of a Waldorf salad sans the bad bits and with a whole heap more flavour. The combo may sound a tad strange, but it REALLY works. Couple of prerequisites are that the Pears have to be sweet and very firm and the leafery has to be fresh and crisp – otherwise it will all be a bit be dodgy and stodgy.

