

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO SECURE YOUR SYSTEM?



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KEEPING IT SECURE MUST HAVES FOR EVERY SYSTEM

The Conficker worm scare on April 1st has shown how important the security of our computers is to us. The global effect of the worm was tiny compared to the predicted chaos, however this is mostly due to Microsoft releasing a patch in October 2008, and all anti-virus software being updated to detect and eradicate the problem.

Mac users are often heard saying that Macs "can't get viruses", or variations upon the theme that Macs are "more secure" than PC's. This simply isn't true.

The majority of viruses are written by "script kiddies" – teenagers who download a few tools from the internet, and want to create as much havoc as possible, and the easiest way is to pick something a majority of people use, and attack that. Because Windows based PCs are currently the majority, they are the favourite target – if everybody switched to Macs for the perceived

security benefits, they would no longer be a minority.

Whatever you choose to use, you need to make sure it's secure. The appropriate solution for your PC Network varies depending on the size and requirements; however here are some guides to help.

Home Users require:

- a basic firewall router – not just a modem
- a good Antivirus program with regular updates (at least daily – hourly is better)
- if you use Wireless, a good password is required with at least WPA encryption
- advise all children about security and create an internet usage policy for them to follow

Medium Businesses require:

- a strong firewall system
- a strong centrally managed Antivirus program
- a strong password policy which changes at least every 60 days

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FAST WALLPAPER

Apologies to the Port supporters of our readership - last months story about computers with Port Power wallpapers being slower, and choking the closer they get to the MCG, was an early April Fool's gag.

No such study to our knowledge has ever been done. Using large images as desktop wallpapers can make your system slower to load, however have a very limited effect on how your system runs. If your wallpaper picture makes you happy, however, it is likely to make you work more effectively.

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ASP RECOMMENDS - INTERNET EXPLORER 8

Microsoft has announced it will begin deploying its Internet Explorer 8 browser to the majority of users via Automatic Update.

IE8 will hit Windows Server Update Services (WSUS) in July. Users running beta or release candidate version of IE8 should already see the browser in Automatic Updates.

Over the next three months, the steady decline of Internet Explorer 6 will accelerate to near total extinction, and web developers everywhere are rejoicing.

When developing a new website, tests must be done to ensure that it works with all of the most common browsers, or else you have a group of potential customers that can't view the web-

site. A large number of people out there are still using IE6, which doesn't support a number of tools that website developers have at their disposal to create really funky websites.

So with the demise of the old, we should see some innovative new websites over the next few months.

SIX WORD STORY

Nevertheless, he tried a third time.

- James P. Blaylock

KEEPING IT SECURE

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- if you use Wireless, a robust password is required with at least WPA encryption
 - advise all employees about physical security – i.e. locking their PC when they leave it
 - at least one staff member has onsite awareness of the network
 - servers contained in a secure dedicated room
- Large Businesses require:
- a strong firewall and proxy system
 - a strong centrally managed Antivirus program and Internet Security program
 - a strong password policy which changes at least every 14 days
 - if you use Wireless, a robust password is required with at least WPA2 encryption
 - enforce employees physical security – i.e. group policy which locks their PC when they leave it
 - implement network monitoring devices
 - servers contained in a very secure dedicated room with card or PIN operated lock
- While there are several ways to implement the above items these are the minimums.



ASP MOUNT ALMA MILE HILLCLIMB

The 18th & 19th of April saw the running of the inaugural asp Mount Alma Mile on a steep winding piece of tarmac in Inman Valley, SA. Rally cars competed against Minis and Beetles as well as a host of beautiful exotic cars, standard and improved road registered vehicles and purpose built cars. The Clerk of Course has been working from an aspcontact BlackBerry during the organisation of this event and the sister event, the asp / Cut Price Adelaide Hills Tarmac Rally to be held on 30th & 31st May 2009.

ASP TESTS - BLACKBERRY STORM

RIM's newest addition to the BlackBerry family is the Storm. With a touch screen and no physical keyboard, the release of this smartphone was highly anticipated, but what's it like to use?

BlackBerry has always primarily been an email device, so the text entry method is really important. The screen on the Storm is not your regular touch screen - selections are made by pushing the screen till it "clicks", so when you type, you get a satisfying click for each letter, however because the screen is one big button, you have to wait for the screen to come back into position before pressing the next key, which can make typing cumbersome and slow.



The multimedia abilities of the Storm rival the iPhone, but the interface isn't as flashy. The speaker is loud and clear, and almost doesn't need a hands-free kit for the car. The battery will give you one and a half to two days of heavy use out of each charge, and unlike the iPhone, it can be removed and changed if you want to carry a spare battery.

Existing BlackBerry users are likely to be disappointed by the Storm, because typing is more difficult, and therefore slower than on other models such as the Bold.

For those tossing up between the iPhone and the Storm, the more professional Storm will give easier and more reliable access to email for the business person, with the option for some fun on the side.

April in Tech History

On April 1st, 1826, Samuel Morey received a patent for the first internal combustion engine. The joke was that he couldn't convince anybody that it was a good idea, and died nearly 20 years before a use was found for it.

7th April is the Internet's birthday. In 1969, the first document was published detailing the workings of ARPANET, and requesting comments from the researchers at ARPA, an organisation created to ensure that the US was never surprised by the technological advancements of USSR, after the unexpected launch of Sputnik.

Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich filed the first lawsuit against Napster on April 14th 2000. Napster allowed internet users to share music files, including copyright protected music files, and was shut down by court order in 2001.

I want it - how can I get it?

Internet Explorer 8 is available for download from www.microsoft.com. BlackBerry Storm is only available from Vodafone dealers.

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VAGUELY INTERESTING

OBAMA BRINGS TECHNOLOGY TO THE UK

US President Barak Obama's trip to the UK for the G-20 summit has given him the opportunity to meet new people - namely the Prime Minister and the Queen.

Being a tech savvy President, he put some thought into the gifts he brought along, but international gift giving can be tricky, as Obama soon found out.

To Prime Minister Gordon Brown he presented a selection of Hollywood films on DVD. The British Press canning him for the lack of class in choosing the gift was the least of his problems. Because

DVD's are region coded, they won't work outside of the region in which they were purchased, so the Region 1 (US) coded DVDs wouldn't work in the European Region 2 DVD Players.

So you can imagine, after that debacle, that Obama may have been a little nervous about his next gift - he'd bought the Queen an iPod.

This particular iPod was pre loaded with photos and video of her trip to Virginia in 2007, giving it a personal touch, along with 40 Broadway Tunes.



The Queen accepted the gift graciously, as you would expect the Queen to do, and presented the President with a framed photograph of herself and Prince Phillip, never mentioning that she already had a 6GB iPod Mini she bought in 2005 at the suggestion of Prince Andrew.

ASP BYTES: SEAFOOD SALAD

Seafood Ingredients:

100g raw clean prawn tails
50g baby squid
50g black mussel meat
100g white fish (whatever)

Salad Ingredients:

1xBaby Cos Lettuce, 1xHandful Baby Spinach, 2xRoma tomato, ¼xCucumber ("half" peeled & sliced), ¼ xCapsicum (cut to "strips"), ½xRed Onion (finely sliced), ½Bunch Coriander Leaves (torn), ½xBundle Mint Leaves (rough chopped), ½xAvocado (sliced)

Marinade Ingredients:

1 Red Chilli (finely chopped), ¼ cup Coriander Leaves (rough chopped), 1xteaspoon Crushed Garlic, Fish sauce (several splashes), Juice from half a Lemon.

Mix marinade ingredients and pour over peeled Prawns and other seafood (Fish portioned and lightly score the Squid so it curls). Marinate the seafood for at least 1 hour.

Prepare salad ingredients, mix together and arrange on a platter.

Heat a little oil on a BBQ, when the plate is hot, toss on the seafood and fry until cooked al-denté - during the cooking process, pour the remaining marinade over the mix.

Place cooked seafood on top of prepared salad. Squeeze more Lemon juice over the salad, and season with ground S&P to taste.

Serve immediately and garnish with sprigs of coriander.

Recipe notes:

Chilli can be with or without seeds, depending on the required hotness (with seeds is hotter).

Yield: 2 - 3 servings

Prep Time: 30 minutes

Cook Time: 5-10 minutes

Difficulty: Easy

