



SNEAK PEAK AT NEW FEATURES IN OFFICE 2010

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ANTI VIRUS WARS MICROSOFT RELEASE FREE AV

Microsoft recently announced the end of their security platform software – One Care, and immediately announced its replacement, Microsoft Security Essentials. The best part was that Security Essentials would be free. This instantly put the other Anti Virus providers on the back foot – how could they compete with a free Anti Virus program?

While this is certainly not the first free Anti Virus, the Microsoft name lends the product a lot of credibility, and so the public will see it as a viable alternative, if not a better solution than those offered by the major Anti Virus companies.

Microsoft partner with several Anti Virus companies, including Symantec, McAfee, Sophos and Trend-Micro, so why would they potentially cut these partnerships and release a free Anti Virus? The answer is quite simple – for Microsoft the most important people are their users and Microsoft need to

protect their users from having their experiences affected by viruses and malware. If Windows doesn't work due to a virus, the user could blame Microsoft. It does happen, and disgruntled users are very vocal online about their grievances.

Previously Microsoft has tackled the problem by partnering with the Anti Virus companies. By providing them with inside information on how Windows works, and working with them through problems, Microsoft assists the AV companies in creating the products that will protect the end users from viruses and malware.

Microsoft's new solution is to protect the users themselves with this new product, and by making it free they guarantee a large number of users will change to it and let Microsoft care for their whole system.

This story is not that new; several years ago when Microsoft released One Care,

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ADVISOR GOES LIVE

aspadvisor is now on Twitter. You can now keep up to date with relevant business IT news between issues by following us at www.twitter.com/aspadvisor

Twitter messages, or "tweets", are 140 characters or less, so you'll get bite-sized chunks of information, and links to more information if you're interested.

If you don't have a Twitter account, you can still see what we're "tweeting" about on the newsletter page of our website www.apps.com.au

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ASP RECOMMENDS - RENEWING DOMAIN NAMES

A domain name is the part after the www in a web address, or after the @ in an email address.

Most businesses have their own domain, and most Australian businesses have .com.au domains. Australian domains are registered for 2 years, and then need to be renewed.

If you have an Australian domain name, you will likely receive a letter and/or an email to notify

you when your domain is coming up for renewal. These will most likely be sent by Melbourne IT, though there are a couple of other registry companies about.

If you do not renew your domain, anything that uses it, such as your email or your website, will stop working. The only way to rectify this is to register the lapsed domain, which can take up to 48 hours.

You may receive notifications about registering other domain names from random (dodgy) sources, and sometimes it is difficult to tell legitimate sources amongst the junk, but ignoring the wrong notification can leave you without email for 2 days.

If you receive a notification and have any doubts about its authenticity, please call us, as we can verify this for you very quickly.

SIX WORD STORY

Three to Iraq. One came back.

- Graeme Gibson

ANTI VIRUS WARS

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an all in one security, firewall and backup solution, the Anti Virus companies then released equivalent products, such as Norton 360 and McAfee Family Protection, products that possibly wouldn't have been released if not for Microsoft's One Care, so you could speculate that the other Anti Virus providers may too release a free version of their software.

So who should use Microsoft Security Essentials once it's released? Home and SOHO (Small Office Home Office) users are the real market for this product as it provides a good solution for small networks. The best solution for larger organisations is still a centrally managed Anti Virus and Anti Malware solution.

The thing to remember is you always get what you pay for, so even though the early editions of Security Essentials are proving to be very good, it doesn't have firewall or backup provisions.

And because it's free, accessing support is likely to be difficult as well.



INTERPLANETARY INTERNET

The International Space Station is testing a new networking technology that is the first step to giving astronauts (and cosmonauts, and talkonauts etc) access to the internet in space.

The Disruption Tolerant Networking (DTN) queues data that can't be sent when conditions prevent a connection, and automatically resends when conditions improve.

And no, downloading data from Earth to space does not count as uploading.

ASP TESTS - OFFICE 2010

Microsoft recently released a Technical Preview of Office 2010 by invitation only, and we were lucky enough to be picked to test it. Office 2010 is set for release mid 2010, and consists of updated versions of the familiar applications, such as Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher and Access.

Office 2010 adopts the "ribbon" user interface across all applications, with many improvements on the original ribbon that debuted with many Office 2007 apps, including a handy Minimize button.

New Outlook 2010 features include a Clean Up tool which removes the redundant parts of email messages in a message thread, allowing you to focus on only those parts of each email that are unique, and the use of multiple Exchange accounts.

Slide show presentations will become a lot more interesting, with PowerPoint 2010 including video editing tools.

New Word 2010 features include new text effects and dramatically improved picture editing capabilities and Excel 2010 will include improved conditional formatting tools.

Microsoft Word 2010 Mobile and Microsoft Excel 2010 Mobile, will appear for Windows Mobile in the near future.

5 different packages will be available, compared to 8 in 2003 & 2007. "Small Business Edition" will be called "Home and Business", and a "Professional Plus" version will include OneNote and SharePoint Workspace on top of the standard "Professional" offering.

July in Tech History

July 22, 1962 was the launch of NASA's Mariner 1 space probe. Four minutes later it was destroyed to stop it from crashing into a populated area. It turns out that the radio guidance system failed, so it switched to the backup guidance computer, whose guidance program was missing a hyphen (-), causing the rocket to veer off course.

The first commercial Digital High Definition (HD) TV broadcast was made on June 23, 1996 in North Carolina.

At 9:34pm on July 13, 1977, the power went out on the whole of New York City, and was not fully restored for another 25 hours. It is estimated that the blackout cost US\$1 Billion in lost revenue, stolen merchandise and damage to public and private property. Imagine a similar incident today, anywhere in the world.

I want it - how can I get it?

Domain names can be registered with MelbourneIT, or any number of domain registrars around the world. Office 2010 will be available mid 2010.

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PO Box 10213 ADELAIDE BC SA 5000, Australia

Phone: 08 8291 5000 Fax: 08 8291 5050

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VAGUELY INTERESTING INTERNET FAIL

In the days following the death of Michael Jackson, one thing we learned was that the internet is not infallible.

Firstly, Google News started showing "We're sorry" messages to users searching for news about the singer's death. Google have since admitted that the spike in searches was mistaken for an automated attack. The LA Times website crashed soon after it broke the news of Jackson's death, and Twitter servers crashed under the load of 66,000 messages or "tweets" being posted in 60 minutes, as

thousands of people expressed their thoughts.

Richard Wilkins got caught up in a hoax on the Today show, reporting that Jeff Goldblum had fallen to his death in New Zealand on the same morning that the deaths of both Farrah Fawcett & Michael Jackson were announced. The information had been posted on Twitter as a bad joke, and Jeff Goldblum has since appeared on television, denying that he is dead.

And finally, a Bolivian news program aired footage of the final

moments of Air France Flight AF 447 which crashed off the coast of Brazil. Or at least, they thought they did. The wide-screen footage obtained from a hoax blog post on the internet showed the plane crash from many angles inside the plane, and included shots from the ground, because it was actually from the TV show "Lost".

And if you're wondering about the inspiration for the grammatically bankrupt title, check out www.failblog.org, which features pictures and videos of anything that just turned out wrong.

ASP BYTES: HEARTY MINESTRONE

4lt Beef Stock
1 lt Water
750gr Beef Stewing steak – chopped to 1 cm cubes
500gr Ripe Tomatoes – cored & roughly chopped
500gr Pumpkin peeled & chopped
2 Brown Onions, 2 Carrots,
1 Turnip, 1 Parsnip & 1 Swede – peeled & chopped
2 Leek Sticks & 2 Celery Sticks – cleaned & chopped
2 cloves Garlic – peeled & chopped fine-ish
4 Tablespoons Tomato Paste
1 Teaspoon Ground Oregano
S&P to taste
Splashes of Olive Oil
75gr Butter
500gr Spiral Pasta (or anything small and spoon-able - adjust cooking times accordingly)
Shaved Parmesan
1 Loaf of Pane di Casa Bread
8lt Pot

Firstly; there are no beans in this recipe – I never could work out why you'd stuff up a perfectly good soup with beans. Anyhoo, a great winter meal – and favourite of my kids – little do they know that they're eating veges – so here goes.

Heat the pot and brown off the Beef in 3 lots using a third of the Butter and splash of Olive Oil for each lot. Once done, place the Beef to the side in a bowl. Leave the cooked meat residue in the bottom of the pot, splash in some more Olive Oil and start cooking off the Onions & Garlic, then the Turnip, Parsnip & Swede and finally the Pumpkin, Carrots, Leek & Celery. Once nicely sweated off, pour in the Beef, Stock & Water and add the Tomatoes, Tomato Paste and Oregano. Bring to a gentle

boil then simmer for 30 – 45 minutes - occasionally skimming the "scum" off the top.

Season to taste with S&P add the pasta and stir whilst waiting for it to become al dente. Serve into bowls with a liberal sprinkle amount of Parmesan over the top and a thick slice of bread on the side and slurp away.

Yield: 6 to 7 litres
Prep Time: 30 minutes
Cook Time: 1 hour
Difficulty: Easy

