

Radio Days – 2008-12-20

Tip of the Week — Save Money Online!

One of the advantages of having the internet is that you can use it to save money. You can check prices online if you are planning to buy something expensive. This can, however, lead you into an expensive trap, so please be careful. One of my favourite war stories is about a client who bought a computer in Ballarat because it saved a few dollars. After two months the hard disc died, so they took the computer to Ballarat for warranty repairs. The store told them that it would take a week to replace the hard disc, so they went home content.

A staff member, taking a two-week holiday, lent them her computer, expecting it back on her return.

A week later they went to Ballarat to collect the computer. There had been a delay so the repair would take another week. This was no problem as they had the staff member's computer on loan. She returned and wanted her computer back, so they returned to Ballarat to collect their computer and again found another week's delay. For the next three months they had no computer so their accounting was in chaos. They could have avoided this if they had bought their computer in Maryborough. The repair, done locally, would have taken about an hour. Penny wise, pound foolish.

What Can I Do Online?

There are the usual suspects: send and receive emails and surf the internet. This, however, is just the tip of the internet iceberg. Emailing jokes and photos is an excellent way of keeping in touch with friends (although Facebook seems to be taking over from email) and Skype is a good way of having free long-distance phone calls.

Other options include ordering pizza over the internet. Googling *pizza + bendigo* showed nine pizza delivery shops in Bendigo. This means that you can even eat at any time without having to talk to a real live person: just the thing for dedicated computer nerds! You can also find places with Google maps and get directions. I checked the directions from home to my daughter's home and found that, instead of continuing on the freeway, I should exit, make a U-turn then return to the freeway and continue as before. This is an interesting way to travel so use Google directions with care.

A more useful way to travel, in my view, is to find a map of the destination and use it for the last few kilometres after using a street directory for the main parts. For other more advanced souls, a GPS navigation system is to be preferred. I have my doubts about them because I live near a street that is marked on all the maps but does not exist on the ground and all GPSs insist on taking it. I keep on wondering just how many other errors exist in maps to lead me astray.

Christmas

This is the last show this year, so I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Jake and I will be back on Saturday 10 January 2009.

Websites

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| Google | www.google.com |
| Google Maps | maps.google.com |
| Skype | www.skype.com |