

Radio Days – 2009-12-26

Tip of the Week – Avast Anti-Virus Free

People who use Avast Anti-Virus Free get a message to say that they need to buy or register their copy every year. This is because Avast Anti-Virus Free needs to be registered every 12 months or it will stop downloading updates. All you need to do to re-register your copy of Avast is go to the Avast website then click on the *Free Registration* link. This will walk you through the process of getting a new licence key which you then have to enter into your copy of Avast. You will need to provide a valid email address to get your new key.

An alternative is to uninstall Avast then download and install AVG Free.

Microsoft & Free – II

This is the second of three weeks where we talk about Microsoft's free offerings. This week's subject is about keeping your brand-new Christmas computer free from viruses and other nasties. All the programs in this document need to be run on a genuine version of Windows, but Microsoft has flagged some genuine copies of Windows as counterfeit (making everybody mad in the process!).

There are three programs which will help keep your computer safe:

- Windows Defender is a program which helps you stay productive by protecting your computer against pop-ups, slow performance and security threats caused by spyware and other potentially unwanted software. This is Microsoft's answer to its critics who have complained loudly that Microsoft's approach to security is inadequate.

It works on Windows XP, Vista and 7.

- Security Essentials provides real-time protection for your home PC: it guards against viruses, spyware and other malicious software. Security Essentials runs quietly in the background. This is an improved version of Windows Defender.

It works on Windows 7 only.

- Windows SteadyState is a program which is designed to make it easy for you to keep your family's computer free of viruses by restoring a known good copy of Windows each time you reboot your computer. This means that all your viruses and other changes will be deleted each time you reboot your computer. This program will be a god-send for families with young children.

It works on Windows XP, Vista and 7.

Please note that these programs are all provided by Microsoft for users of genuine versions of Windows only. They may not be the best program available now, but Microsoft is updating them frequently so I hope that they will become better as time goes on.

To see how some of these products fared in independent tests please check the AV Comparatives website.

Websites

Avast	www.avast.com
AVG Free	http://free.avg.com
Windows Defender	http://tinyurl.com/2wsok6
Security Essentials	http://tinyurl.com/yewgwqn
Windows SteadyState	http://tinyurl.com/yp5tpo
AV-Comparatives	www.av-comparatives.org