



Strobe IT – 1 year old!

HAPPY NEW YEAR – We would like to wish all of our clients and customers a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. The 1st January also see the official birthday of Strobe IT completing our 1st year. From this day last year, we officially took over support of Maintenance Clients IT Systems. So rather than patting ourselves on the back for reaching this milestone, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support.

2010 – Windows 7 & Office 2010 – This year will see some significant change. As of April, virtually all support for Windows XP will be dropped by Microsoft. No more major Service Packs. The drive is there to move everyone to Windows 7. It was widely perceived that Vista did not cut the mustard. However, the question is really ‘Did it?’ And why is Windows 7 going to be any better?

It also sees Microsoft release the next stage in the Office range of packages. Microsoft Works, will be replaced by Office 2010 Starter Edition and the full blown products all with an expected release date of June 2010.

Many thanks

Steve & Robin

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F-Secure News

F-Secure Online Back-up

Never lose your important files again. F-Secure® Online Backup™ is an easy-to-use and fully automated backup & restore solution. All your important files are stored securely online, with no limit on the amount of data. The intuitive web portal enables safe and easy access to your backed-up pictures, documents and other digital content anywhere over the Internet.



"A good way to back up with the minimum of inconvenience. The web interface is good for sharing files with friends" – Computeractive – Oct 2009

WHAT IS RANSOMWARE?

DatCrypt – the latest version

We haven't seen Ransomware for a while, so a recent scheme that mixed elements of modern rogueware pushing and old-school ransomware attempts was rather interesting. Ransomware is generally a Trojan virus which searches for mostly Microsoft files: Word, Excel etc. and informs you that they have been corrupted.

DatCrypt has popped up recently and basically causes a problem with your file and then points you to a solution which you pay for to retrieve back your damaged file. As most people would have a panic attack at the thought of losing their files, they are quick to grab their money and pay up. Without even knowing that you have been held to ransom over your files. If you have a back-up of your files, another reason why this is so important, you can simply replace the corrupted files.

For more information on this please visit the F-Secure Blog:
<http://www.f-secure.com/weblog/archives/00001850.html>

Free vs. Paid Anti-Virus – Which is better?

Rather than just saying; 'Paid, of course', it would be better for someone to quantify this.

Most of the companies offering free Anti-Virus products also have a commercial one. So what are the key differences?

- Price – It does not take a genius to work out that one is free (always nice) and the other you are generally going to pay £30.00+ for.
- Free Anti-virus software generally offer protection against Viruses but, are not always as complete in protecting against Malware, Spyware.
- Zero Day attacks – This is an expression when a virus is first released. Obviously A/V companies need to identify and create an 'Anti' to combat this. However, professional paid products have a piece of software which actively monitors certain behavioural traits associated to a virus and will pick it up. Free A/V does not contain this protection
- Limited configurable interface – With the requirements of commercial software sometimes you need to 'tell' your A/V that a piece of software is safe to run and should not be blocked from contacting the internet. Free software does not offer this option.
- Licence – Most free software is deliberately not licenced for commercial use. If you are using within a business environment you are breaching the agreement.
- Support and Help – For free products this does not exist. For paid you would get e-mail and telephone support.

So, generally, the old adage, you get what you pay for does ring true. You can use free anti-virus and you will get some protection but, do not be surprised if you PC suddenly starts running slower and you have issues with file corruption or identify theft. You are given a much higher level of protection with a paid product and have greater adaptability. However, to quote the UK Technical Manager of F-Secure, Leslie Forbes, 'the first line of anti-virus defence is you. If you download unknown files, visit dubious websites, you put yourself in the danger-zone, you are putting yourself at risk. I wouldn't do it, so why should you.'



New Year, new ideas!

Well, a new year has dawned but our support has not changed! If anything we are looking at giving our website a revamp along with increasing the number of workshops and useful guides to help you.

As part of this New Year we shall be looking at what services we offer and looking at what else we could do to either improve or expand them.

It's still early days and well...

No point giving away all our ideas else you will have nothing else to read about throughout the year, so watch this space!

Local Company – Global Partners

With a view to broadening the availability of IT hardware and software, Strobe IT have linked up with 2 of the largest distributors in the world. Thus providing you with the complete choice of products and manufacturers at competitive prices.

- Microsoft
- Dell
- F-Secure
- Draytek
- Netgear



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Future Support Improvements

ONGOING TRAINING

Both Steve & Robin have taken further steps to continue to expand on our qualifications and knowledge so we can provide the required personalized service you require.

Strobe IT – Delivering IT Support to Devon, Somerset & Cornwall

We currently have clients in: Tiverton, Cullompton, Wellington, Taunton, Cadeleigh, Rackenford, Templeton, South Molton, Barnstaple, Exeter, Dulverton & Newquay.

Mission Statement

If it is not broke, don't fix it. Strobe IT will try, wherever possible, to utilise the untapped resources in your own systems. Strobe IT is not after global domination (yet!) so when we support our local customers and clients, we stand by our products and our work. We are careful about what products we discuss with our customers to manage the quality/reliability vs cost considerations.

For more information please visit our website: www.strobe-it.co.uk or email/call us.