

Strobe IT – Catch up!

Catch up Edition Newsletter – This is a special catch up newsletter letting your know what has been going on in the IT world along with new developments within Strobe IT from January till now.

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>

Anti-Virus for a Mac??

Helsinki, Finland – March 4, 2010: Macs are safer in today's threat landscape and their owners come across far less malicious software than the average PC owner. However — safe is not the same as secure.

Sean Sullivan, Security Advisor at F-Secure says, “Houses located in a safer neighborhood are not technically more secure from burglary. Most of today's Macs just happen to exist in a safer online environment and aren't being targeted by cyber-criminals. Criminal's return on investment is simply better in the PC world. ”

A growing number of F-Secure's customers live in households with using both PCs and Macs and they are increasingly asking us to secure their irreplaceable content and not just their computers. F-Secure Online Backup is an example of fulfilling this need. As the share of Macs increase, so too does the security threat against Mac users. There are already several trojans and backdoors ready to infect unprotected Macs.

Sullivan continues, “Macs are safer than PCs but that doesn't necessarily mean that they're more secure. Many of today's threats are browser based and Mac users are increasing vulnerable to social engineering exploits. We are concerned with protecting all of our customers, their data, their content and their reputation. This release of F-Secure Mac Protection is our first step into securing the Mac community, and that happens to include a growing number of F-Secure employees.”

As the threats of the virus world grow no one including Mac's are safe anymore, to read the full article follow the below link: -

http://www.f-secure.com/en_EMEA/about-us/pressroom/news/2010/fs_news_20100304_01_eng.html



F-Secure developments continue

We do not normally expand on our F-Secure single page. However, this newsletter deserves some extra attention. F-Secure have recently released their client 9 software which is the basis of all their desktop products, part of this new version is the replacement and addition of some of the backend engines like Hydra used to scan for viruses.

The two biggest and noticeable changes though are the re-design of the interface making F-Secure powerful yet extremely easy to use, along with the new “Real-time Network Protection” client that adds to Internet Explorer & Firefox.

Well, what does this mean? In simple terms it means that websites get a safety rating with bad sites blocked, Cloud protection against zero day attacks & web traffic scanning.

For more detailed information please visit our F-Secure mini site.
<http://www.strobe-it.co.uk/>

Robin Toy

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
- Lenovo

News & Information

Microsoft Products Secure?

Over the years Microsoft have had their applications and operating systems attacked and plagued by either virus, spyware or hacks against security loop holes, but have the times changed with Windows 7 and their latest security software?

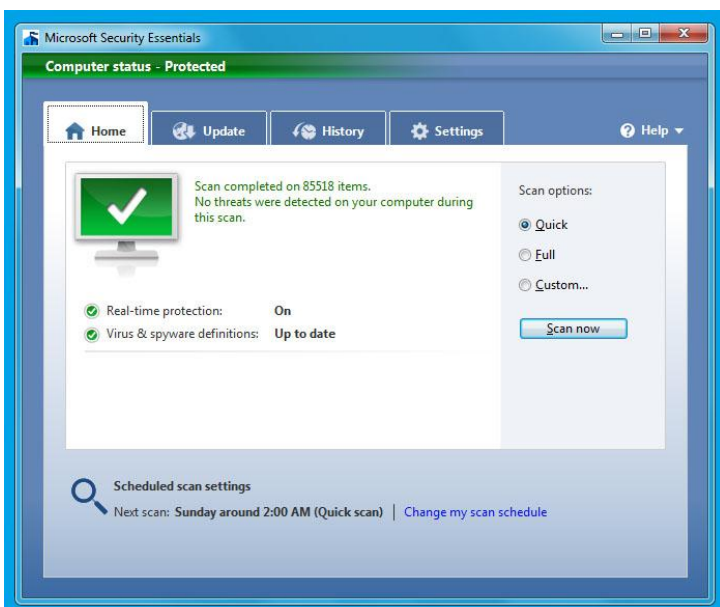
The software giant has not just stood back and watched, they had taken many steps to protect Windows XP by releasing "Microsoft Anti-Spyware" which evolved into "Windows Defender" which is designed to stop spyware & root kits. While this is not a perfect solution it's a good start as the original release of XP only had a built-in firewall, so Microsoft set off to develop an anti-virus solution for home (Live OneCare) & business (Fore Front Client Security) to complete the package.

Unfortunately Live OneCare didn't take off, but the great thing about Microsoft is that they learn from previous releases and similar products and have done the following for their security aspect of Windows 7: -

- Made a cut-down version of ISA (Internet Security Accelerator), their award winning firewall product and included this by default.
- Included an updated version of Windows Defender
- New security layer called the UAC (User Access Control) which requires additional user acceptance to perform major changes or install programs.

With all this out of the box Windows 7 is much securer than previous versions but not totally immune meaning you still need a good anti-virus package on top but is this about to change? Microsoft has released a free anti-virus package called "Security Essentials" which is a revamped & updated version of the old Live OneCare, as you can tell this is a massive move and does beg questions to the future of security software within the home market.

SCREENSHOT OF Security Essentials



Strobe IT & Windows 7

Back in June 2009 we informed you all in one of our articles that we shall be moving our business laptops to Windows 7 (Partner Pre Release) so we could get hands on the finished product along with providing demos on request.

With this move completed all we can do is sing Microsoft's praises because they have kept everything the release candidate had along with lots more without cause system performance issues.

Personally since we have moved to Windows 7 we have been able to improve our mobile office abilities, have improved performance meaning we can provide faster and better support to our end customers.

In fact Windows 7 has so many additional features based around helping you manage your work we shall be creating a guide that you can download from our site which will describe in full.

Steve Welsh

Strobe IT has Cabin Fever!

(No laptop, No internet make Strobe IT go crazy!!!!)

Over the last few winter months of 2009 we found that our growth in tools, stock and other bits we found that we were running out of room in our houses to work so we decided to invest in a cabin office so we could spread our wings equipment.

At the end of 2009 we had a few cold late nights and long weekends but we have a nice new office for all our hard work.

Even though we now have a fixed office we still have not invested in a land line for the simple fact that we are still mobile and spend most of our time on the road helping you, if we weren't I'm sure cabin fever would set in.

Below is a picture of the front of our cabin displaying our "Buy with Confidence" sticker in the window.

SCREENSHOT OF Strobe IT's Cabin



New Partners for 2010

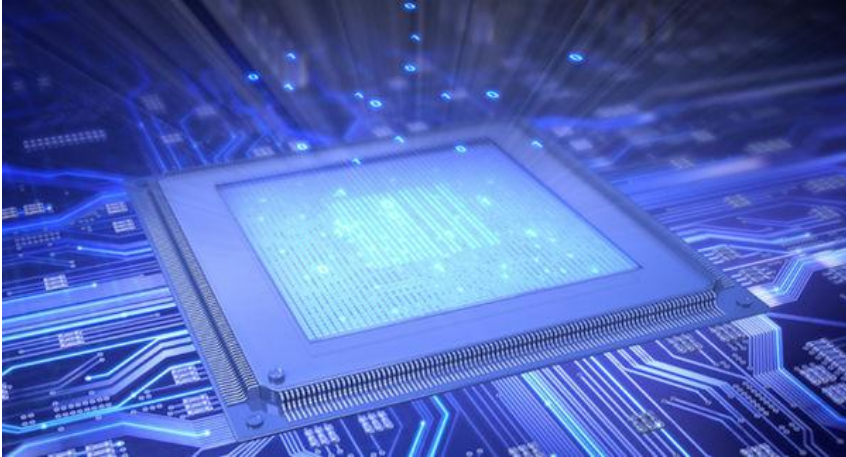
As with the nature of our business, there are many software and hardware vendors about and getting support for these products is vital to supporting our customers; so we are proud to announce that we are now partners with: -

- Canon
- Kroll Ontrack

Canon is a digital media specialist dealing with devices from cameras to printers.

Kroll Ontrack is the world leader in data recovery services, data recovery software and data management solutions

Steve Welsh



Windows 7 32-bit or 64-bit?

32-bit or 64-bit? The terms 32-bit and 64-bit refer to the way a computer's processor (also called a CPU), handles information. The 64-bit version of Windows handles large amounts of random access memory (RAM) along with 64-bit address registers allowing more data per CPU cycle to be processed.

Now we have all the technical stuff out of the way, what does this mean to you as the end user?

You can address much more than 4GB of memory

This is ideal for avid gamers, CAD, video editors and heavy multi-taskers. However, any 32 bit software you use will still be restricted to 4GB memory

16 bit applications will no longer run.

Although this is unlikely to be a problem, if you use very old software (from the Windows 3.1 days!) then it will not work under a 64 bit OS.

Existing 32 bit drivers no longer work.

If you have older or poorly supported hardware you may find that it can no longer be used.

Unsigned kernel-mode drivers no longer work.

The inability to run unsigned kernel mode drivers will cause problems for old hardware.

Running some 32 bit applications on a 64 bit OS could actually be slower.

The additional overheads in running 32 bit software in 64 bit mode could cause a slight degradation in performance.

32-bit Backward compatible

Not all 32-bit applications will run within a 64-bit environment

Processor History

As some of us are aware we are currently on the fence of changing to 64-bit processing. Lots of people are scared of this fact, but what you should remember is that we started at 4-bit processors around 1971.

Looking at how Processors (CPUs) have developed you might be surprised at how fast we have developed.

1974 – 8-bit processors mainstream

1976 – First 16-bit processors released

1979 – 16-bit processors mainstream

1984 – First 32-bit processor released

1986 – 1988 – 32-bit processors mainstream

Now – 64-bit processors fighting to take control of the CPU world.

For a complete history for CPU's check out some of these sites: -

[Everything2](#)

[Geeks.com](#)

[PCMech](#)

[Wikipedia](#)

Microsoft Stops Support

What does it mean if my version of Windows is no longer supported?

An unsupported version of Windows will no longer receive software updates from Windows Update. These include security updates that can help protect your PC from harmful viruses, spyware, and other malicious software, which can steal your personal information. Windows Update also installs the latest software updates to improve the reliability of Windows—new drivers for your hardware and more.

Support end dates

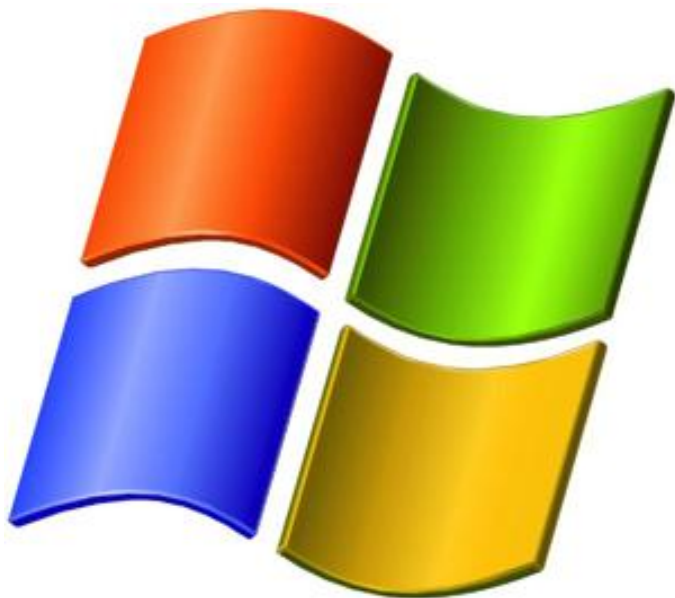
Here are the dates when support will end for PCs running Windows XP and Windows Vista without the latest service packs:

- Support for Windows Vista without any service packs ended on April 13, 2010. To continue support, make sure you've installed Windows Vista SP2.
- Support for Windows XP with Service Pack 2 (SP2) will end on July 13, 2010. To continue support, make sure you've installed Windows XP Service Pack 3 (SP3).

The above article is direct from Microsoft's Website and can be viewed [here](#)

Currently there is no support end date for Microsoft Windows XP with Service Pack (SP3), but it is rumoured to be around April 2014 as Microsoft we still keep this in extended support only supplying necessary security fixes.

For more details on not supported Microsoft products or their product support lifecycle please click this link to visit Microsoft's dedicated [pages](#).



Strobe IT Imperium (SIT-Imp)

With the increasing need to protect you, staff, students or clients from the harms of the internet, Strobe IT has the answer!

Over the last few months Strobe IT has looked across the market to see what solutions are available, most of which are either priced too high or do not come with a complete set of features.

Because of this we have looked to the Open Source world to try and find another way, after much searching we could not find the perfect solution so we combined all the required elements together making our own product "Strobe IT Imperium" nicknamed SIT-Imp or even Imp for short.

So what is SIT-Imp? Well, SIT-Imp is a server running software that gives you one of more of the following: -

- Network Firewall
- Web Content Filtering
- Spam Email Filtering
- Internet Proxy / Cache
- Email Server
- Gateway Virus Protection

SIT-Imp is designed to be modular so you can have it perform one or many tasks depending on your business needs.

For more information or a trial please contact Strobe IT.

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Future Support Improvements

ONGOING TRAINING

Both Steve & Robin have taken further steps to continue to expand on our qualifications with us undertaking more Microsoft & F-Secure Certifications.

Recently we have both passed exams to become PAT Test certified; we have done this after discovering .most of our customers didn't realise or have never got their IT equipment tested.

INVESTMENT IN TOOLS

As Strobe IT now offers PAT testing we have invested in the relevant hardware and software to perform the required tasks and produce reports / certificates.

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.