

Tip for August 2007  
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### **Updates**

One of my email contacts had tried to upgrade his version of Adaware which I have used in the past to eliminate spyware from the system in computers operating on Windows 98. He has Windows 98 but the new upgraded version of Adaware wouldn't let him upgrade as they have shifted the parameters to no earlier than Windows 2000. So back to the drawing board for him (and me) for a spyware program.

### **The scary world of the internet – chatrooms etc.**

My daughter and I were gazing at the latest addition to the family and thinking about her future. My daughter commented that it was a scary world out there notwithstanding the drugs that can be offered to your child. She was referring to the chatrooms where you can be at your computer and corresponding to unknown people locally and in the wider world. How could she protect her child? I told her about a girl who had been instructed, when on the internet, not to reveal her last name, whereabouts and phone number. However by innocently answering questions about her sport team and similar items, she gave her whereabouts away.

At the moment there is no adequate program that will block nasty people from communicating with the innocents of this world and I don't care who says you can. Unless you live in China where it really is the Big Brother state where the server is controlled and therefore there is no way nasty people can get on. Freedom is a very delicate matter and if you restrict some, then you really have to restrict all – which is a loss of a basic democratic right.

Perhaps in the future there will be a way, but it will mean rigorous supervision of the world wide web and there is your loss of freedom. We all know that computers have moved us into a world that is very convenient but the technology has moved too fast for the laws and the ethics of our society.

The best supervisor and the best moral guide is still you, the parent and I don't think we should give up that responsibility lightly.

### **Word problem**

On a lighter but more informative note, one of my clients suddenly found that when he highlighted a block of text, the delete key would not delete it. On closer inspection I found that when he pressed the delete key, a box came up at the very bottom of his screen asking him to confirm the deletion. I found the answer – Tools, Options, General – untick the two boxes that relate to Word Perfect. But how did those two boxes get ticked? We will probably never know.

Cheers till next time,

Deirdree