

Tip for July 2005
Courtesy of Wyvern Technology
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Hope you were all able to forgive me for my dyslexic typing last tip. It was in part because of the fact that I thought I had sent Bill the tip earlier but then discovered I hadn't. Poor Bill. He doesn't need any more grey hairs.

There are three important criteria in buying a house that I learned many years ago and they are Location, Location and Location.

Well, there are three similar criteria for buying a computer or any of its peripherals – printer etc. and they are Service, Service and Service.

Yes, you can get your you beaut great deals from the big competitors but none of them to my knowledge offer as good service as your local competitor. Small he/she may be but you know where they are and your computer can be there, repaired and back to you within the same day.

The other priority as far as we technicians are concerned is that they make the insides easily accessible. Most of the big names are more intent on how pretty their design looks rather than how easily their computers can be got at. I often have skinned knuckles from trying to access the RAM which is hidden under an immovable part.

And anyway the prices are usually better.

The programs, hackers and virus creators are becoming more and more complex and it is very important that you have someone you trust to load programs that will protect your computer. Again, the program is only as good as the user so when someone decides to turn off the firewall or allows a program I just because they can't be bothered checking its provenance, then you are asking for trouble.

My golden rules: protect, backup, scan

There is an excellent program for organising your pictures available, again free, from the Internet, and that is Picasa. One of my architect clients uses it to organise his photos and is more than extremely pleased with it.

An extra: If you hold down the right mouse button when you drag, then when you release the mouse button, you will be given a choice of what to do – copy or move. This cuts down on some superfluous steps and stops the shortcut happening when you drag with the left mouse button.

All my tips are available on my website as above if you want to peruse earlier tips.

Cheers,

Deirdree