

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. This month's article will touch on viruses and Windows Update

Actually, I'm going to start with a short update on Apple Macs. The day before my last article was due Apple announced its new line of Mac Notebooks. I've had a chance to look into them and I've recently purchased a Macbook Pro. Wouldn't you know, they updated the Macbooks with the same type of screens as used on the MacAir. And they also made a few other changes. I'll report on my new Macbook Pro next month.

Now on to the subject of this article. For those of us still in the Windows world, did you see the news articles about the recent virus warnings? There were two in the last month and they've caused Microsoft to do two things different. The first thing Microsoft did was to release updates for Windows out of cycle. For the last couple of years, Microsoft was only releasing updates once a month on the second Tuesday, commonly called Patch Tuesday. For both of these virus threats, Microsoft has released updates shortly after the threats were made known. The second thing Microsoft did was to make these updates automatic after a couple of days. What I mean here is that the updates were automatically installed without regard to how the settings for Windows Updates were configured. I have mine set to only notify me of new updates. I then look at them and install at my leisure. Well, two days after both updates came out both were automatically installed and both forced a reboot. Since the reboot happened 5 minutes after the updates were installed, if you weren't at your computer you might not have saved what you were worked on before the reboot. Fortunately, I didn't lose any data but maybe someone did and that doesn't reflect good on Microsoft. I guess the lesson is to install the updates were you first notified since you have control over open work.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is [meggert@wi.rr.com](mailto:meggert@wi.rr.com), my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.