

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

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. I would like to wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year. I'm sure most of us made resolutions on January 1st, will here are some you may want to add. I found this in the February 3, 2004 issue of PC Magazine.

1. Back up your data.
2. Keep your operating system up to date with all the necessary security patches.
3. Keep your antivirus software up to date.
4. Know what applications are running on your computer so you can avoid spyware.
5. Run antispam software.
6. Don't publish your main e-mail address in a public location. Use a disposable e-mail address or one you don't rely on.
7. Be careful when opening or responding to e-mails. No legitimate company asks for credit card information via e-mail. Don't give your credit card information to a Web site you click to from an e-mail; instead go directly to the company's Web site.
8. Get to know the alternatives to Microsoft software. You may not want to move to a Mac or open-source, but you should know what is going on.
9. Be careful what information you give out in chat rooms and in social-networking sites such as Friendster and Match.com. Remember, this information can easily become public.
10. Back up your data.

Please let me know if you'd like more information on any of these resolutions.

And now for a bit of news. You may or may not know that Microsoft had planned on stopping support for Windows 98 on January 16, 2004 and Windows ME on December 31, 2004. But due to the number of computers with these operating systems still in use they will continue support until June 30, 2006. In a recent survey it was found that 80% of businesses still have computers running Windows 98 and that Windows 98 makes up 20% of the computers in these businesses. That's pretty good for an operating system that will be six years old this year.

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