

Rich's Ramblings for August 2007

Ok, I have been a bit remiss in writing about what I have been doing lately, so her goes..

I have been pretty busy with the new Toshiba laptop and Vista Ultimate. I am getting used to the security warnings that pop up constantly with Vista. It is for your own good and I think, well worth the aggravation. With so many Trojans lurking on the web, I think that the unskilled users will be rewarded if they don't automatically click yes to the security prompt before reading which program requires administrative privileges. Of course I still have [SunBelt's counter spy](#) as my intrusion firewall (in and out) network access alarm and Grisoft's AVG as my anti-virus. Both are working overtime with all the drive-by web sites, emails with bad attachments and generally nefarious people out there.. A Good time to remember!

BACKUP BACKUP BACKUP!!!!!!

New subject: Volunteering for Capital PC User Group at the Montgomery County fair.

I talked a good friend of mine (Bill Spillane) into working a 4 hour shift at the CPCUG "Internet Café" which was set-up at the Montgomery County Fair the week of 10-18 August 2007. It was a real easy shift on Monday the 13th starting at 10am to 2PM. My buddy and I had a good time as it was "children's" day at the fair. Lots of kids and many of them jumped at the availability to access to the internet via the 6 Dell computers which our President Dennis Courtney installed in the café.

I was amazed and pleased at how the kids just logged onto their [Facebook](#) and [Myspace](#) accounts as well as Yahoo Messenger and Google. But the one thing I was disappointed with, was that many of them did not log off their userid's after they were thru and departed. They seem to be pretty proficient at finding stuff and logging on but they were severely negligent in logging off. I had to log them off in several cases. I had to uninstall all the garbage that they had installed on the computers but that was pretty easy..

I think that education for these kids must include the security problems of not logging off when they use a community computer. I really hate to see what their home computers look like. Something tells me that many of them are part of the compromised computers that are proliferating on the web as bot-nets. (A Bot-Net computer is a compromised computer hooked up to the internet that was installed by a drive-by download from a nefarious web site or the installation of a "free" software program from gaming or music sites, it then is able to be controlled by a "Bot-Net Herder" which directs the bot to send out spam or participate in a Denial Of Service operation)

The kids know what they want and how to get there but evidently are not aware of any of the security concerns especially when using public computers. I ended up rebooting many of the computers when the children quit. I guess the education process for children using computers is lacking in the security area..

Rich Schinnell is a long time member of [Capital PC User Group](#) having spent his time in the barrel "so to speak" as an officer and volunteer. He is retired from the USN and Vitro Corporation for a while. He has a small computer consulting business for particular clients who depend on him to keep their office computers and networks working properly. He runs the latest software on his computers but still writes quick and dirty programs in the Basic programming language. Microsoft's GWBasic still works great in a command window under MS Vista ultimate. He can be reached at schinnel@cpcug.org or by phone at (301) 949-9292.

Here are sites referenced in this ramblings.

<http://www.sunbelt-software.com/>

<http://www.cpcug.org>

<http://www.schinnell.org>

<http://www.myspace.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/>