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Pinon PC Support Newsletter #8 - Jan 2009

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Corporate News

Last April Pinon PC incorporated with

Enterprise Computing Systems (my husband's company). Pinon PC and its name live on but technically and financially it is a sub part of ECS.

In Dec 2008 ECS won a state contract for providing network infrastructure and support. We hope this allows us to grow with contractors and, eventually, employees.

Quick Links...

[Our Website](#)
[Web Store](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

!! ECS has a printer tech on board !!

We are in the process of recertifying her with HP but her experience allows her to start working repair jobs right away. She specialises in Laser Jet type printers, not ink jets. She will be offering repairs and maintenance services.

MORE SUPPORT OFFERED-MAC & LINUX

ECS now offers Apple, Linux and even Unix support. We offer the same hours and level of support for these systems as we always have.

XP won't disappear Jan 31, 09

Hardware companies will now be able to sell XP on new machines thru May 30, 2009. This should also allow XP to be sold as a retail product, without a new PC. Whether DELL or other manufacturers will continue to provide "downgrade" as an option on select models, remains to be seen. For the full article [click here](#).

AVG 8 vs 7

AVG has gone onto version 8. Version 7 is no longer supported or updated. Ver 8 has dropped Windows 95, 98 & ME. It has added better anti-spyware detecting and it has a much nicer installation routine. It remains free and very effective.

The PC clean up tango

This guy, <http://securitytango.com/tango.php>, really has a handle on what it takes to clean up most pcs! :-) I was highly tickled to see him enumerate the common steps that I take to knock some sense into PCs! These are great steps to take on your own before bringing me your pc - if you can that is !! I let these steps run while I am working on other computers. (Just can't help giggling.)

XP Service Pack 3 (SP3)

Here's another highly informational site, this one is about SP3 http://www.winsupersite.com/faq/xp_sp3.asp.

I have begun installing SP3 onto PCs which I know to be clean of viri/spyware and are newer machines. On new machines, SP3 does not slow down a PC very much. Any PC spec'd at or below a core-2 cpu at 2 ghz will find SP3 to be quite a performance burden.

SP3 CAN be uninstalled, but the longer you leave it in, the more possible side effects you will run into in removing it.

The Nvidia debacle

Recently I was given a write up detailing a problem with Nvidia chips

on graphics/video cards. I had observed a lot of these chips on video cards frying due to over heating. Now I see that my observations were probably part of this larger picture. My philosophy lately has been to replace Nvidia chipset video cards with Radeon chipset cards.

For the full write up passed to me by The YMCA's IT guy, Radoslav Georgiev, please see <http://pinonpc.com/nvidia.doc> .

Misc interesting links

- The Music industry, RIAA, is abandoning mass lawsuits for music pirating. But - they will be enforcing anti-piracy in another way ! [click here](#)
- Want an old version of a once popular program? Here is a web page with 193 older programs (Old Apps) to be downloaded. [click here](#)
- I too am struggling to support and use Vista, here is an online magazine, free, which has lots of helpful stuff in it. [click here](#)
- OFFICE 2007 was released without a familiar component - the ability to export office documents as PDFs. MANY people use the "Export to PDF" function in older Office versions. Here is a patch from Microsoft which will install the missing ability: [click here](#)

Thanks for reading my newsletter #8. I am trying a new format and distribution tool. I would appreciate feedback.

Sincerely,

Heather Burke

Pinon PC Support (Enterprise Computing Systems, LLC)
help@Pinonpc.com
470-2431

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