



ASKBILLFIRST

Tech Stuff in a
Non-Tech Sort of Way ISSUE #2
September 30, 2008

In this issue

[My Blog](#)

What the heck is a blog?

Update

[Google's Chrome](#)

Google Chrome - New
Internet Browser

[PC Security](#)

Level 1

[Windows Tip](#)

Keyboard Shortcuts

I keep a blog. What's a blog? Technically it short for weblog , an on-line web-zine or diary (usually with the option for reader comments) made accessible through the World Wide Web. You can find mine at

<http://askbillfirst.wordpress.com/> . On this blog, you'll find my thoughts on technology, tips, warnings, and other things that pertain to you and how you use your computer. At the bottom of each entry, there is a comments link (if there are no comments, it will say no comments) where you can leave comments or ask follow-up questions. I'll be updating it several times a week so you should look in on it regularly. I'll have how-to videos and instructional audio programs posted there as well. At the bottom of the column on the left, there's a way to sign up to have new entries delivered directly to your e-mail, or just bookmark it and check in on it every now-and-again. On the right, you'll find links to websites and programs that I run across that I feel might benefit you. Check it out - <http://askbillfirst.wordpress.com>.

Well, after playing with Google Chrome, I'm not going to recommend it, yet. It's still way to raw and new to use regularly. You can read more about my decision on my blog but in a nutshell, there are still many websites that won't run well under Chrome and many add-ons that the other browsers have the Chrome doesn't. I highly recommend Firefox, which has been out much longer, and even though the latest version is still in beta, I've been using it for a while and it's pretty stable. Again, you can read more about Firefox on my blog as well.

There are many parts to pc security. Because

your computers are such an important part of your job, I'll discuss the various parts over several newsletters.

To begin, did you know that there are over 11,000 new releases of malware in the wild each month? You **must** have an anti-virus program and a software firewall on your computer. The anti-virus program must be up-to-date and set to receive updates regularly. Most malware (viruses, trojan-horses, botnets) are not delivered in email, but by websites by clicking on links or by downloading and installing "helper" programs (fun toolbars, and such).

When you bought your computer, chances are it came with a trial period anti-virus program. If you didn't purchase the program after expiration, your pc is not protected from malware. There are a couple of free anti-virus programs that are very good. Avast (<http://www.avast.com/eng/download-avast-home.html>) and AVG (<http://free.avg.com/ww.download?prd=afe>). Since you really can't run 2 anti-virus programs on the same computer, you will need to uninstall whatever is installed first before installing another but make sure you have something installed.

Software firewalls are another matter. When you are connected to the internet, and a lot of people are connected 24/7, your computer is continually being scanned for open doors. If the scanner finds any, it will slip some software onto your computer without your knowledge. That software can be used for several things, such as making your computer a robot to send out malware to others, or it may be a keylogger that records your keystrokes (passwords and all) and sends them back to the author. A firewall ensures that no doors are open to scanners. Most of the anti-virus programs that you purchase (Nortons, Symantec, TrendMicro) have firewalls built into the software so you are protected with anti-virus and firewall. If you use one of the free

anti-virus programs, you'll need to also install a firewall. Again, there are a couple of free ones that work well. Zone Alarm (http://www.zonealarm.com/store/content/catalog/products/zonealarm_free_firewall.jsp) and Comodo (http://www.personalfirewall.comodo.com/download_firewall.html).

So, to begin to securitize your computer, start here.

I gave you a couple of keyboard shortcuts last month. This month, I'll let you in on a couple more that I use quite a bit.

ALT+TAB: Let's say that I have several programs open. I'm working in my word processor and want to look something up on the internet, and then review something that was sent to my email. Instead of clicking on the different programs on the taskbar, I'll press and hold down the "alt" key while I press on the "tab" key. Everytime I press the "tab" key while the "alt" key is held down, the box highlights a different open program. When I get to the program I want, I release the keys and it opens the program. When I want to go back to my word processor, I repeat the process, choosing my word processor. If I just want to toggle between two programs, I'll just press "alt+tab" and release each time I want to go back and forth.

Windows Key+L: There are times when you'll want to lock your computer screen when you step away from your computer. When you use the "Windows Key+L" combination, your screen locks and in order to get back to your programs, you'll need to enter a password. You can setup a password for your user by going to the Control Panel, choosing User Accounts in XP, pick your account, select "Create a Password" and set the password. If you don't set a password, it will still "lock" the computer but will only take a mouse click to restore the open programs. Still, if you need to walk away from your computer and don't

want others to see your screen, use "Windows Key+L". You should try it with different programs open to see how it affects the program.

If you like this newsletter, please pass it on to others and encourage them to e-mail me and request their own copies.

If you'd like to unsubscribe, please e-mail me with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

275 N. Thora St.

Orange, CA

92869

Phone: 714-757-0976

<http://askbillfirst.wordpress.com>

To Unsubscribe, send an e-mail to billj@askbillfirst.com with "Unsubscribe" as the subject.