

Triona's Tech Tips

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Guidry Consulting, Inc.

computer services

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1-News Flash

Triona's Tech Tips-The Blog!-Your favorite tech newsletter moves to the blogosphere with the introduction of my new blog at <http://trionas-techtips.blogspot.com>. Email subscribers will continue to receive the newsletter midmonth; articles will also appear the blog where you'll be able to comment and respond. So bring your computer questions and join me online!

Consumers Get Windows XP Service Pack 3-Automatic Updates is starting to offer Windows XP SP3 to consumers. If you're not ready to download this major update to Windows XP, be sure your updates are set to notify but not install, and deselect the Service Pack 3 box.

2-From The Tech Desk Separate Work And Play

Do you play when you're supposed to be working? Here at Guidry Consulting, a day rarely goes by when I don't manage a round of 1980s arcade games. But there are dangers in mixing work and play on your computer. Some of the things we do for fun pose risks to the security of our business data.

File sharing is of particular concern. If you use LimeWire or KaZaa to download music and video, you may be exposing files to the Internet. A terrifying [InformationWeek study](#) found everything from confidential meeting notes to internal audits and financial results available via common file-sharing networks. This is because such programs often share the entire My Documents directory by default.

How can you safely mix work and play? Ideally, use separate computers, physical or virtual. When that isn't possible, be utterly sure your security measures are updated and effective. Share only a separate directory that is different from where you store your regular files. And stay tuned to [Triona's Tech Tips](#) for the latest in computer news.

How do you have fun with your computer? Let me know at info@guidryconsulting.com. Next time I'll teach you the benefits of blogs, plus take you behind the scenes of the new Tech Tips blog in **Blogs For Beginners**.

Read and respond to this article at <http://trionas-techtips.blogspot.com>.

3-Tech Tip Of The Month Disaster Recovery

On the heels of last month's discussion of data encryption, let's talk about ways you can protect your data from the unthinkable.

Corporations often use disaster recovery services, but how can low-budget users provide disaster recovery? It's not

enough to copy your files to a disk that sits right next to your computer — what if, heaven forbid, the whole place goes? Redundant backups are those written to more than one medium, like archiving to CD as well as an external hard drive. And you'll want to keep at least one of those copies at an offsite location (such as a safety-deposit box or a friend or relative's house).

Let's say the unthinkable happens, and you're standing there holding your backup with no computer to put it on. This is why it's important for your backups to be easy to move to another computer. External hard drives and USB (aka thumb or flash) drives are great because they work almost anywhere. Same for burning to CD-R disks, but be aware not all CD drives can read CD-RW disks. If you use backup software, keep a copy of the install disk, serial number, manual and tech support phone number with your offsite backup. Also include a full list of your computer components: model and serial numbers, version of Windows or Mac OS, types of printers or other equipment. A list of your vital software programs with versions and serial numbers is good, too, and may also help your insurer.

How do you plan for disaster recovery? Let me know at info@guidryconsulting.com. Next time we'll tackle that bane of publishers and graphic designers, **Font Management**.

Read and respond to this article at <http://trionas-techtips.blogspot.com>.

4—Security Update

Windows

Microsoft Patch Tuesday is the second Tuesday of the month

- There are 4 new patches in May
- There were 8 new patches in April

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/update/bulletins/default.mspx>

<http://update.microsoft.com/microsoftupdate>

Macintosh

Don't forget the new Security Updates! Use Software Updates under the Apple menu.

Macintosh patches also available at:

<http://www.apple.com/support/downloads/>

5—Noteworthy Products

[Hybrid 1000 Power Adapter](#)—This charger from [Solio](#) powers mobile phones, music players, and GPS units.

6—Q & A

Do you have a computer question? Send it to info@guidryconsulting.com!

Q—Are file-sharing programs like LimeWire and KaZaa legal?

A—Yes, no, and somewhere in between. File sharing is not illegal per se, but the content may be copyrighted. When in doubt, purchase from a store like iTunes. Many artists are also making their material available via their own web sites.

7—Lagniappe

If you're looking for something special for your garden this spring, try my favorite plant: Geranium spp. Also known as cranesbill, this isn't your common annual geranium (pelargonium) but a perennial that delights in partly shady locations. I have "Johnson's Blue," "Alba," "Biskovo" and "Samobor" alongside my garage for a delightful summer display of blue, white, pink, and purple. www.davesgarden.com is a great place to go for gardening advice.

Next Issue: June 2008

Blogs For Beginners

Font Management

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