



One Call PC Solutions

IT Consulting, Maintenance and Repair



January 19, 2009

Bits and Bytes...

Issue # 41

Office:
(817) 210-6177

128 N. Main St
Mansfield, TX 76063

support@1cps.com
www.1cps.com

See our [website](#)
for past issues of
Bits and Bytes
and Technology
Today.

Don't miss Clint's review of the Windows 7 Beta on Technology Today at: <http://1cps.com/newsletter.htm>

Find your favorite HDTV...

Now may not seem like the best time to drop any extra cash on a new TV, but with the HDTV switch just around the corner and manufacturers desperate to unload the warehouses full of TVs they didn't sell at Christmas, now may be a better time than any. There are a few things to consider before buying that new TV though. Ensure your HDTV happiness by keeping the following specs in mind: Contrast - the salesman will sell it like a numbers game, but the numbers they throw out are mainly of the "dynamic ratio" variety and completely meaningless. To test it like a pro take a dark scene, and cup your hands around a black area of the screen, blocking out all the ambient light from your view. What it's look like? Is it really black? Next, how does it flow from dark to light? Is it a smooth gradation or a harsh step up? You want really deep, dark blacks and bright whites, but you want a nice even gradation between the two. Next, Angle of View - Stand in the center of the TV. Then move off to the right or left. How quickly do the colors start to turn unnatural or seriously lose saturation? If colors shift or fade quickly, you will have problems. You want the widest viewing angle possible—that is to say, you want the picture to look as good as far off to the side as possible. Finally, and most importantly, does it look good to you? This thing is going to live in your house and you have to look at it every day. Does the picture look clear to you? Is it bright enough? Ultimately your budget may make most of the decision for you but with a few quick checks you can find the best TV you can afford.

Bulletproof Backup...

One thing we all fall short on is our commitment to backup. Sure we all mean to do it, it's just that, well, we're all human. We forget, we lose things, we get busy. Many of us have external hard drives that backup our data every night which is a great start but what if it all gets stolen, or the building burns down, or a lightning strike wipes out both the PC and the backup drive? The only way to truly ensure your data's safety is to keep the backup somewhere else. In today's world of 10Mbps and higher internet connections, your DSL line may just be the perfect way to ship your backups to someplace safe. Internet based backup companies such as www.backblaze.com take your files, encrypt them on your computer, send them via a secure tunnel (think bank website), and store them encrypted at a large data center that is lovingly cared for by an army of geeks. Backblaze takes the hassle out of online backup by backing up only the data you need and ignoring unnecessary files like operating system files, applications, and temporary files. That way you don't have to get specific about what you want to back up or exclude (though you can if you want)—it just backs up *everything* and excludes the unnecessary stuff. Backblaze stores an unlimited amount of files for \$5/month.

Win Anti-Virus 2009...

Beware of the now infamous WinAntiVirus 2009, and WinAntiVirus 2006, and AntiVirus 2009, well, you get the idea. Most variants include a logo of a shield in the familiar 4 colors of Windows or AVG. At a glance they look very authentic and official. It is very important to read carefully and make sure anything you click on is actually coming from your official anti-virus software. Keeping your anti-virus program up-to-date and avoiding free screen savers, cursors, and games will help minimize your risk for this and all virus infections.

Final Byte...

"If automobiles had followed the same development cycle as the computer, a Rolls-Royce would today cost \$100, get a million miles per gallon, and explode once a year, killing everyone inside"

~Robert Cringely

To remove yourself from the newsletter list, click [here](#).