

Medical Office Systems, LLC

August 2015 – Yeah it's a bit late, but I was on vacation!

Miscellaneous Topics

Topic #1: Mac Keyboards

If you may recall, I began my Mac experiment with a Windows keyboard. It worked just fine with the Mac, except it was hard to remember that the [Ctrl], [Fn], [Windows], and [Alt] keys mean different things in the Mac world. I looked up the key translation from Windows to Mac, and that was OK, but I still struggled a bit.

Clearly, a better solution had to be found. I found it in the MacAlly "BTKEYPRO" BlueTooth keyboard. This wonderful piece of engineering allows you to use it on up to five different devices (but not all at once). For example, I set it to connect with my Mac Mini, but also with my PC, my cellphone and my Android tablet.

Bulletin: Yes, you can use a real, live keyboard on your cellphone. The BTKEYPRO has five buttons across the top that you program for each device you wish to attach, and you can label them for quick connect. It also comes with a plastic prop stand so you can prop up your cellphone or tablet for easy viewing while you type. The keyboard has a nice "soft-touch" feel, runs on 2 "AA" batteries, and includes a detachable USB cable if your PC does not have BlueTooth. The one I selected is a full-size model, but smaller ones are also available.

Topic #2: "Hacking Team" & Flash Player

Oh boy, here we go again. This one is priceless, except not in a good way. An Italian commercial hacking company named "Hacking Team" was hacked. Hacking Team supplies custom viruses, exploits and malware to... foreign governments, intelligence agencies, other companies, and pretty much anyone who will cough up enough cash to interest them. Anyway, the Hacking Team company was hacked: all their little secrets are no longer secret, and now they are out of business. Before you start cheering that being "hacked back" is good, read on.

It seems Hacking Team found three massive and exploitable security holes in Adobe Flash Player, and those who received that information started using the knowledge immediately. Adobe Flash in some form is only used on about 95% of the world's websites (think YouTube, Facebook, etc.) and computers, so not a big deal... Right. Adobe had to respond by issuing three security patches in three days. Really bad. If you have an iPad, you are safe, Flash does not run on iPads. If you don't have an iPad, go to the Adobe website and get the latest Flash Player updates. Soon. www.adobe.com

Topic #3: Security and Anti-Virus

Many of you know the **dirty little secret** about Anti-Virus: none of them catches 100% of all viruses. In fact, the best of the best only catch about 95% of viruses, leaving a big gap. 5% does not sound like much, but all you need to get is one virus that can ruin all of your precious data or freeze your PC. **Avoid the notion that because you have anti-virus software that you are invincible: you are not.** Always surf carefully, and be aware of what you are doing in relation to opening attachments, or clicking on links while surfing. And of course never click on pop-ups – if you get one that won't go away, shut your PC or laptop down by just holding the power button until it goes off. If you have to dodge a pesky pop-up, it is the sure-fire way to do so.

-John Becker

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