

## Autumn 2005 newsletter

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### Service developments

It's been a busy summer, and we have got some slick improvements, both online and in the works.

- ◆ There's a new network status page online at <http://www.blazingfibre.net/status.htm> - updated every 15 minutes, it shows test results for a number of services and protocols. If you are experiencing network difficulties, the network status page may be of assistance.
- ◆ Automatic invoicing has been implemented (for now, on hosting accounts only). 30 days before your account expires, you will now receive an invoice, instead of a reminder to renew.
- ◆ New and updated software is out, including 32-bit versions of our CSV-processing software, and a new "dredger" that performs automated, regular web searches for specific keywords. It can be used to monitor the visibility on the web of your brand or products. More on the dredger later. We will be rolling out 32-bit versions of all our important tools - this is expected to result in faster programs with more features, meaning quicker and more effective service for all our customers.

### Current promotions

We've kept this to point form, as this is a newsletter, not a sales brochure, however you might like to know ..

- ◆ **Software development:** data conversion tools from £200 - new features only £20/hour - <http://www.blazingfibre.net/software.htm>
- ◆ **Website hosting:** all accounts now include unlimited bandwidth, including existing accounts - buy a 2-year plan and get 10% off - the Copper plan is just £50/year - <http://www.blazingfibre.net/hosting.htm>
- ◆ **Website development:** just £10/half-hour - <http://www.blazingfibre.net/websites.htm>
- ◆ **Webstats:** £100/year - price reduced, quality improved - <http://www.blazingfibre.net/stats.htm>
- ◆ **Onsite support:** no call-out fees – after-hours service at no extra charge - small business/individual rates available - <http://www.blazingfibre.net/onsite.htm>

### Regulatory developments

- ◆ The big news here is that implementation of the EU's WEEE directive has been delayed, reportedly to allow business more time to prepare. Here's some links about the directive:

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/08/11/dtyi\\_confirms\\_delay/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/08/11/dtyi_confirms_delay/)  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/4183969.stm>

- ◆ The British Standards Institute has noted that compliance with PAS 56, the business continuity standard, "will be essential". More details on this here:

<http://www.techworld.com/security/news/index.cfm?NewsID=2530&email>

## Security developments

- ◆ Another survey warning of the dangers of loss of portable computers:  
[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/01/25/taxi\\_survey/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/01/25/taxi_survey/)
- ◆ How to Own a company:  
[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/02/11/companies\\_house\\_scam/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/02/11/companies_house_scam/)
- ◆ The assault on personal privacy, as noted in our August 2004 newsletter, continues unabated, with websites such as birthdayalarm.com being built with the specific purpose of collecting private information such as dates-of-birth. Last year we had this to say about these sites that entice you to give away the privacy of your family and closest friends:

"Also be aware of third-party websites amassing private information. These sites, which seem innocuous enough, request personal information belonging to the visitors' friends and associates. For example, on astrology.com, you can compute your friend's horoscope - but you must first enter their birthdate. Once this is done, there is no telling what will happen to this information, which may well have been provided without the owner's consent. Some websites, such as plaxo.com, then set about emailing the people they have been told about and request even more personal information. It's clear databases are being built. Please think twice before you give away your friend's privacy."

Not much has changed - included below are a few sample solicitations. The over-friendly, typo-ridden emails give us the creeps. Who is to say some of these sites aren't run by organised crime syndicates, collecting information specifically with the purpose of abusing it? Not only can you not trust the person you think you are giving it to, not only may the information be intercepted in transit, not only might it be stolen en-masse by a disgruntled employee or a cracker, but most likely, the company will be bought by another company, whom of course you cannot trust because you don't know who they are yet. And what if one big company buys ten smaller companies, and aggregates their data? Once you've sent the data out you have no control over it, for the rest of time, and it may be duplicated many times.

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Click on the link below and please enter your birthday for me. I am creating a birthday list of all my friends and family.

<http://www.BirthdayAlarm.com/xxxx...>

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I am updating my address book and it would be very helpful if you could click on the link below and enter your contact details for me:

<http://www.bebo.com/xxxx...>

## Tip-of-the-newsletter

by Dr C. P. Yu

This is a new section, we hope you enjoy. If you have a query you'd like to see as tip-of-the-newsletter, send it in! Contact details at end ..

### **Tip #1: keyboard shortcuts**

I find it a lot easier to use my computers if I don't need to move my hand from the keyboard to the mouse, and back, every time I want to do something that would usually require a mouse. For example, clicking the Back button, or scrolling down the page, in a web browser. Or saving a document. Or rebooting the computer ...

Many tasks can be done with the keyboard as well. The Start Menu, for example, can be navigated with the arrow keys - press Enter to select! Press the Windows button to pop the Start Menu up. The spacebar scrolls the page in most web browsers; Control-S saves the current document in many programs.

Keyboard shortcuts can be learned by reading the documentation, however, they can also be picked up simply by pressing and holding the Alt key, and examining the drop-down menu at the top of your application. The underlined letters are the shortcut keys. To use them, hold the Alt key and press the letter - Alt-F for the File menu, usually. Other shortcuts are then visible, listed down the right-hand side of the menus that drop down.

## Contacting us

We'd love to hear your suggestions and comments. Our contact details are as follows:

- web: <http://www.blazingfibre.net/>
- email: [support@blazingfibre.net](mailto:support@blazingfibre.net)
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- snailmail: blazingfibre.net / PO Box 2855 / London W1A 6LW
- GPG key: <http://www.blazingfibre.net/fibre.key>