

## Spring 2005 newsletter

Greetings all, we trust 2005 is coming along nicely for you. Our latest snippets of info are below; contact us if you'd like more detail, or indeed, if there's anything else we can do.

1. **Service developments**
2. **Security developments**
3. **Internal developments**
4. **Contacting us**

### Service developments

**Hosting:** Our new Copper hosting plan features 20Mb of disk space; this is for sites with minimal disk space requirements. And, all accounts can now be upsized, which means that you can get an account that suits your need for now, and if your needs change later, you can easily upgrade your account. Except the largest account of course, that cannot be upsized. And finally, we have unveiled a 10% discount on hosting plans, if they are renewed for two years. Plans can now be renewed either one or two years at a time. More details here: <http://www.blazingfibre.net/hosting.htm>

**Remote Storage:** We have launched a range of remote storage products, designed for offsite backup, data transfer, and "back-haul" hosting. Does someone in your office carry a tape home with them? Do they always remember? And did you ever wonder about the security of that tape? Solve these problems with automated, encrypted online backup. The remote storage accounts can also be used to share files among trusted parties, or indeed, to share files with the public. The accounts are 1Gb in size each, more space on demand. You can store large files on these accounts. Details here: <http://www.blazingfibre.net/storage.htm>

**Monitoring:** Our remote monitoring service is now available. Our computers can check yours, automatically, every night! This works by analysing your logfiles, which, upon installation, are sent to our analyser each night. All errors in all your logfiles will be detected by the analyser, which then flags them for our attention. We can then contact you regarding the problem. Details on this here: <http://www.blazingfibre.net/monitor.htm>

**Onsite network administration:** Our onsite support service has had a makeover too. We now do half-hourly billing, which should work to reduce our fees to you. And, we can now provide support under a service contract, which should reduce our fees, and improve the quality of your systems as well. Details on our service contracts here: <http://www.blazingfibre.net/service.htm>

### Security developments

Microsoft software continues to be the target of crackers, and more recently, organised crime. Microsoft software certainly contributes to the amount of spyware and other malicious software that is found on many "problem" PCs we clean up. In fact we've cleaned up so many we now recommend to anyone who will listen, try an alternative, equivalent program to the Microsoft product you're using. We're not ready to recommend we all dump Windows itself, although that time is too approaching – however for now, you might like to read our suggested replacements for various common packages:

application category	Microsoft title	suggested replacement
web browser	Internet Explorer	Opera
email reader	Outlook/Outlook Express	Pegasus Mail
wordprocessor, spreadsheet	Office	OpenOffice
instant messaging	Messenger	Trillian
media player	Media Player	Media Player Classic

Moving right along, here's a few important security-related links:

- <http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk/> - report-a-scam/scam support
- <http://www.banksafeonline.org.uk/> - anti-phishing scams
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/4005355.stm> - FSA warns of organised crime risk

Finally, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN, which controls the internet's domainname system (DNS) and ultimately, your domainname, has recently made a change to their policy which you as a domainname holder should be familiar with. The change means that confirmation is no longer required before a domainname is transferred from one registrar to another. This means someone can theoretically issue a transfer request for your domainname, and have it transferred to a registrar of their choice, without requiring your confirmation or consent. This is clearly bad. Our registrar has responded by creating a "lock domain" button, which we then clicked for each domain we manage. However, readers of this paragraph who do not have their domainname managed by us should ensure their own registrar has a lock button, and that they have clicked it.

## Internal developments

There's been some action at ground zero as well. Most notably, we registered ourselves as a limited company. This is to facilitate growth and simplify management of the business.

We can now accept payments in Australian Dollars. If you wish to pay in \$A, please make this clear when you place your order.

Our reseller program continues, if you recommend a new customer, we will pay you 20% commission on their first invoice. Any product, any amount! More details on this here: <http://www.blazingfibre.net/affiliates.htm>

We have created a traffic exchange, which is a page on our website which links to sites participating in the exchange. The primary purpose of the exchange is to send the search engines to new websites, however it does also provide click-through traffic, once the site is established. The exchange is here: <http://www.blazingfibre.net/exchange.htm>

Finally, and only marginally related to computers, we have created a ringtones website, from which you can get the latest ringtones, wallpapers and games, straight to your phone. We know if you've read this far, you just love all that tech stuff, and have got a 3G phone that's screaming for something cute. Which is quite likely to be found here: <http://www.gizmotones.com/>

## 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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