

3rd Sector COMmuniCaTions

From those friendly people at **DOT-COMmuniCaTions**
 please contact: **01422-845003** or email: **talk2us@dot-communications.co.uk**



3rd Sector COMmuniCaTions is a regular column offering I.T. advice & support specifically for not-for-profit organisations. If you have an IT-related problem that might also benefit others, please send an email to the address shown below, & we'll do our best to answer.

Q. We've recently become aware that another organisation is copying the content of our website for their own use. We're not happy about this. Is there anything we can do?

A. Sometimes a company can infringe another organisation's rights without realising it. If you discover someone is using your content without permission, you should act quickly to ask them to remove it. It can be worth initially looking for contact details on the offending site and send a polite message asking for the material to be removed. If there are no contact details available, try emailing [webmaster@ website_address](mailto:webmaster@website_address).

Since copyright laws vary from place to place, it is always best to seek professional legal advice from a qualified lawyer before proceeding, however here are some steps you might want to try:

Use a Whois service (type whois into a search engine) to find out the website owner's name and telephone number and contact them directly. Enter the domain name in the search box and the contact information should appear towards the bottom of the page.

Contact the web hosting company used by the site and inform them of their customer's abuse. This information is also available through a Whois search.

Send a formal 'Cease and Desist' letter notifying the offending party that they must remove the stolen content from their site. Some sample letters can be found on the web.

File a notice of Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) infringement with search engines such as Google and others to have the offending site removed from their search results.

If you need proof of infringement, you can use the Internet Archive to show that the content appeared on your site at an earlier date than it appeared on the offending site.

Be aware, if you use RSS, which stands for 'Really Simple Syndication', that this is a means of sharing site content and could include material you wanted to retain the copyright on. When you offer your own content in an RSS feed, be aware that it becomes difficult to know who is using the feed, how they are using it and how many are using it. If you want to control its use, you need to clearly list your conditions of use, otherwise you will be in a weaker position if you later want to object to how they use your content.

Q. How safe is using public WiFi?

A. . No doubt, public Wi-Fi access is great. Many people use it when they are on the go and the convenience of it is second to none. However, using any Wi-Fi access point, whether it is from a trusted retailer or not, can be a risk.

I recently came across this excellent description of a public WiFi on the Cnet forum — "Sending messages over Wi-Fi is kind of like sending messages by smoke signal. You're connected through an open access point, anybody who can see the smoke can read your message."

And it is so true. While you can protect your stored information on your computer by having all the right security utilities (firewall, antivirus, etc...), what's being transmitted/broadcasted over the airwaves can be captured (unless that transmitted data is encrypted). The information reads like an open book. So a good rule of thumb is to never transmit personal data across a Wi-Fi network, except when absolutely necessary, don't transmit anything that you wouldn't write on a postcard and send out for the world to see.

Which Windows Operating System are you using?

Microsoft Windows corporate vice president Tammi Reller has recently revealed that 74% of business computers are still running Windows XP. She also said that the average age of their PC's is now 4.4 years old, which is the highest number that Microsoft has seen in over a decade. A separate independent poll revealed that 57% of organisations have stated that they are not yet ready to update to Windows 7 this year.

How to Safely Dispose of your Old PC

Want some advice on how you can safely dispose of your old PCs?—go to <http://www.dot-communications.org.uk/modx/index.php?id=248>.

Tech Guys support service — Value for money?

The BBC Watchdog programme has recently done a story on Currys/Dixons/PC World's commercial technical support service, the Tech Guys.

To read about some customers experiences, visit: http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/watchdog/2010/10/tech_guys.html

FREE Calderdale.COMmuniCaTions Newsletter

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To register go to: <http://tinyurl.com/yczm3m6>

DOT-COMmuniCaTions' is Calderdale's **ONLY** dedicated not-for-profit provider of computer support services & solutions to local community, voluntary & faith sector organisations & not-for-profit social enterprises.

For more information & a free consultation,
 please contact: **01422-845003** or email: **talk2us@dot-communications.co.uk**