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### Solutions!

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## Licensing issue threatens Skype

Skype, the world's most successful Internet voice and chat system, is under threat of closure.

In 2005, eBay purchased Skype from entrepreneurs Niklas Zennstrom and Janus Friis – but the \$2.6Billion they paid did not include the piece of software at the very heart of Skype. This critical communications software has been licensed to eBay since the purchase but now a legal dispute – over the use of the technology licence – means that eBay might have to stop using it and, without it, Skype won't work.

Skype is used by millions of people every day for pleasure, for business and for keeping in touch with distant relatives. With almost 500 million registered users, Skype is easily the most popular application in its class so its shutdown would have a global impact. eBay are said to be working on an alternative to the licensed code but, because it is so integral to the way Skype works, such an exercise would be expensive and getting it right would take a long time.

The case is due to be heard in June 2010 but it is hoped that a solution can be worked out before then. eBay have plans to spin Skype off as a separate company but an impending law suit and the threat of closure will not exactly help those plans along. eBay have already taken quite a financial hit with Skype; the value of Skype on eBay's books has been reduced by some \$900Million, an admission that they paid far too much for it in the first place.

In the meantime, how will Skype's users react to the news? As long as Skype keeps running most users probably will remain loyal (aka another term for inertia!), though business users are likely to investigate alternative Voice Over IP facilities. If the threat of closure becomes more real, then it will be interesting to see how other software suppliers move to fill the gap.

## High phone bills? Call Tarragon!

Do you suffer from high line rental and phone call costs? Do you make national and international calls? If so, did you know that we can save you money?

Everyone is aware that Tarragon provides ADSL broadband but we also offer other telephony services: > **Line rental** > **Call billing** > **Voice over IP (VOIP)**

We can offer products individually or as a lucratively-priced package, for your office or for the home lines of you and your staff.

Our services have been shown to be highly competitive and flexible so please contact Tarragon for a chat about how we can save you - and your staff - money!



# Windows 7 master key leaked

## Microsoft confirm - but add a warning

Rumours about a leaked copy of the 'Release to Manufacturers' (RTM) version of Windows 7, complete with its activation key, have been confirmed by Microsoft. The rumours concerned a CD image (ISO) file that would be used by a PC manufacturer to install Windows 7 Ultimate on the new computers they build. The key is specific to the manufacturer and Microsoft have now provided them with a replacement; it is understood that no PCs were loaded with Windows 7 using the original key.

Microsoft warn that, although a Windows 7 computer activated using the stolen key will work properly, it will be detected when that PC connects to obtain updates from Microsoft. Thus, it is likely that the PC will be unable to download security and other enhancements.

In order to avoid such problems we strongly advise that you always obtain your PCs and software from a legitimate supplier (such as Tarragon Solutions, of course).

In Las Vegas, a gang of criminals installed a fake ATM in the foyer of the Riviera Hotel and they were smart enough to place it next to the hotel's security entrance where it was not covered by CCTV cameras. Unluckily for them, though, they hadn't reckoned on the Riviera hosting a conference of some 8,000 security professionals.

Almost immediately the conference opened, some delegates had suspicions about the ATM and inspected it more closely. They discovered that inside was a PC that had been collecting card numbers and PINs for some time (no-one at the hotel was quite sure how long it had been there!) The machine was promptly taken away by the local police but there is no word of any arrests.

### 2 Years Old!

This August 2009 edition means that another year of **Solutions!** has passed. Tempus fugit! (which means *time passes in a fug* or something similar)

We hope you've found it enjoyable and useful and we look forward to continuing to produce the newsletter for a long time to come!

### Tip of the Month - Firefox Smart Keywords

Yes, I know. But I *like* Firefox, OK, and this is a really useful tip.

If you frequently search the same website for different information you can easily set up a Smart Keyword to save you time. For instance, you may need to search the Sunday Times Wine Club site for various wines and using a Smart Keyword means you will not need to bring up the site before searching.

To create this Smart Keyword, do the following:

Visit the website and put right-click in the site's search box.

Select 'Add a Keyword for this Search'

In the dialog box that displays, provide a suitable name (e.g. *Sunday Times Wine Club*) and Keyword (e.g. *wine*)

Click *Add*

Now, to find Chilean red wines, simply type *wine Chilean red* into the Firefox browser bar and hit Enter.

Firefox has some built-in Smart Keywords you might like to try:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| dict tarragon        | - find a dictionary definition                                      |
| wiki emperor penguin | - look up a phrase on wikipedia                                     |
| google kwilkyn       | - search for a phrase in Google (you don't even need the 'google!') |

Please let us know what you think of **Solutions!** - email [solutions@tarragon.co.uk](mailto:solutions@tarragon.co.uk)