

the newsletter of Tarragon Solutions

Tarragon Solutions

Head Office

First Floor
Victor House
Barnet Road
London Colney
AL2 1BJ

Accounts

Accounts Dept
Tarragon Solutions Ltd
PO Box 528
Huntingdon
PE29 9AQ

Phone:

0800 0199 925

Fax:

0845 1305 807

E-mail:

info@tarragon.co.uk

Web:

www.tarragon.co.uk

Solutions!

Editor:

Steve Booth

Email:

solutions@
tarragon.co.uk

Last Orders for a PC with Windows XP!

In June, Microsoft announced an October 22nd 2010 deadline for PC manufacturers who wished to include Windows XP pre-installed on new PCs. Dell have now stated that, to prepare for this cut-off, they will cease to take orders for pre-installed Windows XP later this month (September).

This does not mean you cannot have Windows XP on a new PC, should you so desire; you can still take advantage of the Windows 7 "downgrade licence" to install XP - but you will have to request a copy of the older operating system (offered as part of the downgrade licence) and arrange the downgrade yourself.

Dell say that ceasing to offer Windows XP as a pre-loaded option now ensures that all orders will have worked through the system before October 22nd. Support for Windows XP drivers will continue to be available until December 2012, Dell also stated.

Other PC suppliers are expected to follow suit and announce order deadlines shortly

Selling on unused software? It may become illegal!

You have a legitimate, licensed copy of, say, Photoshop that you no longer need. It's OK to sell it on eBay to recoup some of its cost, right? Well, maybe not any more...

We all know that books, CDs, DVDs and software are subject to copyright law and it is not permitted to simply copy the work without authority from the copyright holder. However, it's also been a long-established right, when you have grown tired of a book, CD or DVD that you may give it away or sell it. Similarly, selling legitimately licensed but no longer required copies of software has been regarded as a reasonable thing to do, provided the licence isn't specific to use by a particular company or on a designated computer. A recent US federal appeals court judgement, however, threatens to turn this around and make the practice illegal.

In a case brought by Autodesk against an eBay seller, the original ruling was in favour of the seller. However, Autodesk, backed by the Software & Information Industry Association, appealed and the appeals court decided that Autodesk had the right to insert and enforce licence clauses limiting *transfer* as well as copying. Since the ruling is a general statement that copyright owners may prohibit resale of works by licence clause then the same could, in theory, apply to books, CDs, DVDs... The fact that the Autodesk was supported in the action by The Motion Picture Association of America gives some idea as to the way this might go.

It is certain the ruling will be challenged and we must hope the challenge succeeds as, although the action is in the USA, it will surely affect us on this side of the pond, too.

LED – the lighting revolution that's starting to turn cool

Not many years ago all we used were 'conventional' electric light bulbs – incandescent light created by passing an electric current through a filament so it glows white hot. A few fluorescent tubes in the kitchen and garage, perhaps, but mostly incandescent.

Then came the 'low energy' revolution as we became aware of the cost to the earth of leaving your 60w bedroom light on for more than a few minutes and suddenly everyone was cajoling us to use efficient CFLs (compact fluorescent lights). Yes, they are cheaper to run and don't get so hot but they take an age to warm up to full power and they have turned out to be not so green after all due to mercury content.

Meanwhile, LEDs (light emitting diodes) were starting to escape from their breeding ground of electronic equipment and find uses in the real world. Originally, LEDs were capable of producing only strongly coloured light – red, green and blue – which made them ideal as indicators but not much use for general lighting. Gradually, however, ways were found to create white LEDs; firstly the cold bluey-white that transformed the Christmas light market and, latterly, warmer whites that finally make LEDs acceptable in the living room.

Thanks to government incentives in the USA, manufacturers have been working hard to produce practical and affordable domestic LED light bulbs and the first results are starting to appear. You can now buy (in the US) a standard-fitting LED bulb that produces the same light output as a 40w incandescent bulb. The LED bulb requires less power even than an equivalent CFL and has an estimated life of 50,000-100,000 hours.

60w equivalent LEDs are expected before too long and the prices, currently quite high even taking into account the power savings, are likely to fall rapidly once production starts in earnest. LEDs are truly much greener than either incandescent or CFL lights and they have the added advantage over CFLs of being at full power immediately.

From a business viewpoint, some large organizations have already invested in fitting out new offices with LED lighting. Whilst the initial cost is significantly higher, the lower energy use and less frequent replacement cost means the investment will be paying back within 2 to 5 years

Tip of the Month - beware PDFs - again!

A couple of months ago [Solutions!](#) reported a serious flaw in Adobe Acrobat and Reader that could cause control of your PC to be handed over to an attacker. Adobe fixed that problem very quickly and issued an update but now a new flaw has been reported in the latest versions of Adobe Reader and Acrobat.

This vulnerability again allows an attacker to take complete control of a PC by exploiting the weakness with a specially tailored PDF file. Adobe are working to close the vulnerability and expect updates to be available early in October but, meanwhile, there is no workaround.

The best defence, as always, is:

- Ensure your anti-virus software is kept up to date with the latest malware signatures
- Do not open email attachments or download files unless you are **certain** of their pedigree

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