

## Personal Video Recorders

### Welcome

This month's new members:

Beverley Billbrough  
Margaret Eden  
Jean Gouedard  
Molly Hodgen  
William Rushworth  
John Russell

### MICROSOFT TO RELEASE SECURITY SOFTWARE

Microsoft says its new computer security program can be downloaded starting today.

Microsoft Security Essentials, as the free antivirus software is called, has been available in a beta test version since June.

The software updates daily to stay current with the latest malicious programs, which can steal passwords or turn PCs into spam servers. Microsoft says it won't make computers run slower.

Microsoft has said it isn't out to steal business from companies like McAfee and Symantec, which make popular antivirus programs with more features.

Microsoft says it hopes the [free program](#) will appeal to people who don't already run antivirus software.

**PVR** is a term that is also often known as a "Digital Video Recorder" (DVR). Rather than recording to tapes such as the now-older technology VHS, a PVR records to a computer hard drive built into a set-top box. There are several advantages with using a PVR to record your favourite shows: no tapes to rewind, the ability to pause live TV such as a Super 14 game, built-in TV guides, series recording e.g. Coronation Street each episode, no need to store tapes, skip ads, store multiple programmes on the one disc, copy to DVD (in some models), download movies on demand, record two channels while watching a third or record two channels and playback another previously recorded programme, record in high definition (where available), chase play where you can go back to a position in a programme while it continues to record and much more.

In NZ there are currently only two HD models available - Sky TV's MySkyHDi and Freeview's MyFreeview HD. Neither can be used as a DVD player so you will still need one in addition. With Freeview you buy the set outright and pay no more fees. Sky is a subscription service where you either pay a on-off fee plus installation costs or rent on a monthly basis. To view the HD channels you need to subscribe to the Movie and Sports package and pay an HD access fee.

With Sky you can only get the HD channels with MySky even if your TV is HD. With Freeview you get HD content if you use the terrestrial (aerial) service. HD is not available on their satellite service.

Sky provides On-Demand for movies so you can see them as they download or you can copy them for later playback. Once you begin to play the movie you have 24 hours to watch it as many times as you like. However, you

cannot copy it to DVD or tape and it is deleted at the end of the "hire period".

TIVO NZ are to launch TIVO at the end of this year. This will access all Freeview HD channels in widescreen and digital sound. You won't be able to use this on Sky though. One downside is that to get most benefit you need to have a broadband internet connection with Telecom, a PC and a wireless network. This allows downloading of movies via the internet and Telecom has said that they won't be charging subscribers for the data downloaded. It only works with Freeview's terrestrial service.

Do not confuse PVR's with DVD/HDD recorders. They operate in much the same way as the old VHS recorders but record to either the hard drive or a DVD. They double as a DVD player. You can copy most programmes to DVD. No models in NZ can record more than one channel but you can record one while watching a previously recorded channel or a DVD. They offer much the same as PVR's in other respects.

A fourth option is to use your computer. All you need is a USB TV tuner which costs as little as \$95. Load the software that comes with it, connect to a USB port and connect an aerial (digital & analogue channels). You can also connect the Sky decoder. The software does all that any other recorder does (usually just one channel record) and you can copy to a local or other hard-drive. Some TV's have a USB input and built-in software to lay direct from a USB drive.

### TIVO NZ

<http://tinyurl.com/yicrg3x5>

### Freeview

<http://tinyurl.com/ybrnm93>

### Sky

<http://tinyurl.com/y897kkv>

### Watch TV on Your Computer

<http://tinyurl.com/duyj7>

## iTunes

The days of going to a record shop and buying a CD is nearly over. Today people are using portable devices (MP3 players and iPods). Music and video is downloaded from the internet and stored on your computer. By far iTunes run by Apple is the biggest provider in the business.

They say:

*"iTunes is a free application for Mac's or PC's. It organizes and plays your digital music and video on your computer. It syncs all your media with your iPod, iPhone, and Apple TV. And it's a store on your computer, iPod touch, iPhone, and Apple TV that has everything you need to be entertained.*

*iTunes lets you enjoy all your music, movies, video, and TV shows on your Mac or PC. When you want to watch or listen to something, you no longer have to look through your CDs or flip through channels — just go to your computer and open iTunes. With your entire media collection in your iTunes library, you can browse everything faster, organize it all easier, and play anything whenever the mood strikes."*

You can buy music by tracks or albums. Music was once encrypted and limited in use but nowadays you are free to use anywhere if you use the iTunes plus service. Tracks cost \$1.79 and Albums start at \$17.99.

You will need the free iTunes player which is one of the best players around. They also have a range of music videos, audio books and podcasts.

Learn how this works at Apple's iTunes Store

<http://tinyurl.com/yerj63q>

You need to register and provide credit card details but you only do this once and can download at your free will.

## Slow Computer?

### Registry Cleaners

Computer errors happen no matter what kind of computer you have. Over time your computer windows Registry will be cluttered with unwanted and useless files and trash that came from various programs that you have uninstalled.

When the Windows registry becomes bloated, system errors occur, which can cause your computer to slow down or even crash. What is the Registry? In its simple form it is a library of thousands of small files that support the operating system with information on a vast range of settings etc. From a user perspective you don't need to know anything about it until you start getting errors or slowness.

To get rid of system errors efficiently, you need to find a registry cleaner. These claim they fix computer problems caused by full windows registry, viruses, malware and spyware and corrupt files. You can find many good quality registry cleaners in the market. However, be careful in choosing registry cleaner tools because some of these products do not have the ability to fix the problems thoroughly in your windows registry. Some can even make the system worse.

But which cleaner should you choose? You browse the internet to find enough information about different kinds of registry cleaners. This way, you can prevent more damage by using illegitimate registry cleaning tools. You can easily find several websites that offer reviews. All registry cleaners claim that they can scan and repair windows registry errors effectively. The only way to know the truth is from the reviews. Some cleaners are free and others must be paid for.

Be careful with the free ones as some can be quite malicious. One trusted site is Cnet who have reviews and downloads for many types. Apart from their own reviews they also have user reviews which is an excellent way to determine what cleaner to use. Also Google "Free Registry Cleaners".

**CNET**

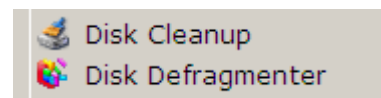
<http://tinyurl.com/cbabz5>

### Hard Disc Defragment

Fragmentation occurs when Windows cannot find enough continuous space to store a complete file. It then breaks up the file and puts it in gaps between other files. This space is often caused through files being deleted.

Windows knows where these bits are. With lots of files scattered throughout the hard drive and bits placed everywhere it takes a long time to load and save a file. A defragmentation program moves the bits of files around to form a continuous file. This is a memory intensive operation and can take several hours.

Defragmentation is quite safe if you use a proven programme. Both Windows XP and Vista come with a built-in one. In XP go to **Start|All Programs|Accessories|System Tools**. You get two options Disk Cleanup and Disk Defragmenter. Disk cleanup gets rid of temporary files, recycle bin, download files etc.



Run Disk Defragmenter following Disk Cleanup. In Vista. These programs are quite basic but work quite well. If you need something better Google "Free Disk Defragmenters" or go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/33rf3q>