



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

### **Computer and Electronics Recycling**

Old computers and electronic equipment contains toxins and should be disposed of responsibly. There are a number of organizations that do a great job. I bring all of my clients old stuff to the Marin Computer Resource Center ([www.mcrc.org](http://www.mcrc.org)). They give away free computers to schools, libraries, non-profits and the disadvantaged. They use items for training and they are an approved California eWaste collector. Their sister organization in Berkeley is the Alameda County Computer Resource Center ([www.accrc.org](http://www.accrc.org)). I'm sure there are similar organizations in your area.

### **Managing Risk, Keeping Up With Updates**

Updating your computers has become an increasingly important and necessary part of maintaining your systems. Every month, newly identified software vulnerabilities create additional security weakness that allow new viruses and other security threats to infect your machines and possibly access confidential patient information. But it takes time to review and install all those "patches" that are released every month. You need to balance the risk of your computers being infected and/or a security breach against the cost and risk of breaking something when the operating system is updated.

I do not recommend using Microsoft's Automatic Update because some of their recommended updates are not advised and may impact your system negatively. I recommend using deployment software such as the products from Shavlik Technologies ([www.shavlik.com](http://www.shavlik.com)).

### **XP reaching end of life**

Microsoft currently says that Windows XP will cease to be available after January 31, 2008 through most distribution channels. With the extensive hardware requirements and performance issues plaguing Windows Vista and the fact that Vista Service Pack 1 is not scheduled to be released until the first quarter of next year, you may think about replacing any of your 4 year old (or older) computers this year with a Windows XP computer.

### **Phishers getting smarter**

This summer, several business executives were successfully duped by phishers pretending to be the Internal Revenue Service or the Better Business Bureau. Criminals have gotten smarter by not only using agency logos in their fake e-mails, but also including executives names and companies. While phishing tried to blast as many people as possible and try to get fish on the hook, these new 'spear-phishing' attacks are unique because they targeted specific people.

So, don't open any suspicious e-mails, even if it's from someone you know or trust. If you do open an e-mail that feels funny, **don't** click on a link to any website. And if you do click on a link, **NEVER** log into anything generated from an e-mail.

**Risky Behavior**

A survey of 1,600 corporate computer users in the US, UK, Germany and Japan by Trend Micro found that mobile computer users are more likely to send confidential information via instant messages and e-mail than desktop users.

**Thought for the month**

As your circle of knowledge and experience increases, so does the perimeter of your awareness of what you do not know.

**About us:**

We specialize in dental computing. We are experts in the ergonomics, acceptance, and infection control issues of effectively placing and using computers in the treatment rooms. If you need any help with the computers or technology in your dental office, please call us.

Charlie Kleiman

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Helping premier dentists use technology to achieve excellence.

Dental Computer Systems Integration  
492 Blackstone Dr.  
San Rafael, CA 94903-1302

(415) 491-1930 Voice  
(415) 491-1937 Fax  
(415) 531-0444 Cell / pager

Web site: [www.dcsiDental.com](http://www.dcsiDental.com)