VISUAL NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2011

SHUTTING DOWN COMPUTERS AT NIGHT

In the early days of poorly made computer clones some IT managers would recommend leaving computers on overnight. This was simply due to the worry that they might not start up again the next day. In general, since that time, computer quality has improved to the point that this idea no longer holds water.

On the contrary there are a number of very good reasons that you should turn off your computer equipment each and every night:

1) It saves you or your company money.
   Even in sleep mode computers consume electricity and it isn't free.

2) It helps computer equipment last longer.
   Contrary to earlier opinions, turning off most equipment helps them last longer as many computer parts can become heat sensitive over time and the more they are on, the hotter they seem to get.

3) It protects you from unauthorized access.
   Many users actually go home with their computers still logged on. In this case anyone could sit down at the computer browse the web and download material that you may be held responsible for.

4) It makes you less vulnerable to Viruses.
   Internet Worms and other similar Viruses patrol the Internet looking for computers to infect. If your computer is always on, you are 3 times more likely to get infected.

5) It's better for the environment.
   If we use less electricity and replace less equipment then the environment will benefit. As we gradually transition from the economics of continuous growth to those approaching sustainability then these concerns will become more important. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle have never been more important than they are today.

CPP / QPP / EI CHANGES FOR 2012

Starting 2012, employees who have begun collecting CPP at 60 but continue to work will be required to pay CPP once again until they reach 65. At 65 they may request, via the appropriate form, to stop contributing, otherwise they may optionally continue to pay into the system until they turn 70.

If a person opts to take the early CPP payment say at $650 per month then they will receive an additional amount once they turn 65 to make up for the 5 additional years that they have contributed to the CPP/QPP systems.

It has also become mandatory that the boxes "CPP Contributory Income" and "IE Contributory Income" be filled in starting with this year's T4 forms. This will be particularly important for any individuals that have opted to take early CPP payments.

It has not been made clear as to whether existing employees between 65-70 need to file any forms to confirm that they no longer wish to contribute to the system while they still work.

If you are using Visual Payroll or any other automated payroll system you will need to confirm that these changes are adhered to in 2012. Since many systems simply allow you to turn off CPP deductions then these will need to be manually turned on for the employees in the affected 60-65 year old group.

COMPUTER RECYCLING

Just a reminder, that we do recycle older computers should you have some in need of such services. We will not make a special trip to pick them up, but will do so during a regular visit should you request us to. The occasional computer or parts are reused, where possible, and the rest are dropped off to an electronics recycling depot here in Brampton.