

Granite Broadband Newsletter

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Most people have heard about tablets and tablet computing by now. What exactly is a tablet and how is it different from a traditional laptop or desktop computer? In definition, a tablet is any slate device measuring between 7" and 15" that runs an operating system, such as Windows, or Mac OS X. A tablet device differs from a traditional laptop in the respect that it is mostly controlled through either a pen/stylus device or via touch screen controls (few have keyboards). A tablet

The Tablet: An Evolution of the Laptop

device is considerably lighter and more portable, and most have built-in WiFi capabilities for true portability.

There are many factors to consider when choosing a tablet vs. a laptop. Tablets are designed for simple personal services such as email and web browsing, and most do not have full desktop capabilities. Most tablets also do not have a built-in camera or multiple inputs/outputs like your traditional laptop or desktop has.

The most popular name in the tablet world right now is Apple with their flagship product, the iPad.

The iPad is a standard by which other tablets are measured against.

There are other companies that are looking to make a dent in the iPad market share in 2011. Microsoft is readying to debut the Windows tablet operating system for tablet devices from HP and Dell next month at the Consumer Electronics Show. Google is also already in the market with their Android OS which powers the Galaxy Samsung S tablet.

The tablet is the next step in the future of personal computing as we move to a more mobile environment.

Federal Trade Commission Calls for Do-Not-Track Policy

Do you ever wonder why the ad banners you see on websites are so relevant to you? Perhaps, you recently had a baby and the ads that you see on websites you visit are about infant and childcare products. Or, perhaps you are in the market for a new car and you notice ads online are directed towards car sales.

This is not just irony, it's because the websites you go to, the words you type, and personal profile information, is all being collected by either the websites you visit or a 3rd party.

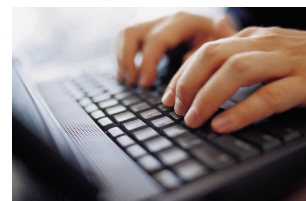
The information collected is most commonly used for advertising,

but many internet users feel it is an invasion of privacy.

The Federal Trade Commission has called for a do-not-track policy to give consumers and internet users privacy while on the net if they so chose. The Federal Trade Commission does not have the authority to do this on their own, so a do-not-track policy will require legislation. The goal is to create a do-not-track list similar to the do-not-call list many consumers have opted for to prevent telemarketing calls.

In the mean time, there are things you can do to help protect yourself from internet tracking. Here are a few tips to follow.

- 1.) If you visit a site that requires you to login with a username and password, always click "do not save" or "do not store" information. When you leave the site make sure to sign out.
- 2.) Setup a personalized password on your computer, cell phone, and/or PDA.
- 3.) Never give out personal information if you do not have to. Keep in mind some websites require this, such as a bank.





FEATURED WEBSITE OF THE MONTH:

www.mint.com

“The best free way to
manage your money.”

It's that time of year again—time to file your taxes. When you file your taxes electronically, you are submitting a lot of personal information about yourself, so it is completely understandable to be concerned. But, did you know it is actually safer to e-file than it is to file by mail?

When you e-file

the data transmitted is encrypted making it difficult to capture, but when you file by mail, although very uncommon, you risk your taxes getting lost in the mail.

Furthermore, when you file by mail a human will input your information into a computer, this increases the chance of mistakes or human error.

But, perhaps the most convenient part about filing your taxes electronically, is that you receive confirmation emails from the IRS. You will receive an email notifying you that your taxes have been received and accepted as well as an email notifying you when you will receive your tax refund.

Tech-Resolution Ideas for 2011

Computer technology increases to get better and better each year, but with any electronic device, computers require maintenance, repair, and replacement. The technicians at Granite Broadband have seen their fair share of all of these. As a New Year's gift to you from our technicians, here are a few great tips for you to help ensure your computer has a happy and long-lasting life.

1.) **Avoid turning your system on and off unnecessarily.** You consume less energy leaving the computer on and in a power saving mode than by turning your computer off. This can also expand the life of your hard-drive as it does not have to work as hard.

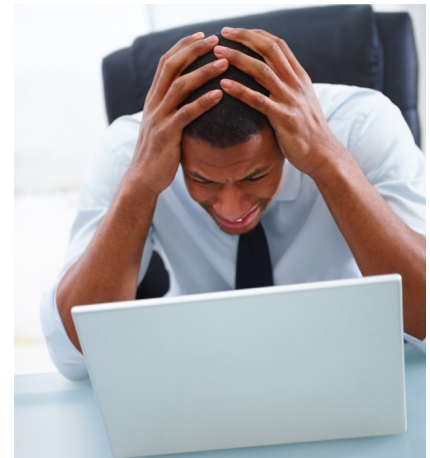
2.) **Back up your computer!** Make sure you do regular backups on your important data. It is a tough world out there, computers can crash at anytime and if you do not have a recent back up this can be

devastating. We recommend backing up your computer every few months.

3.) **Make sure your anti-virus and anti-spyware is up to date.** How do you do this? Take the time to update the program(s) when they alert you to run updates. Generally most anti-spyware and anti-virus programs have an update manager program. We recommend to click on this program from time to time to make sure it is updated.

4.) **Make sure you do your operating system updates.** This will keep your operating system functioning properly.

5.) **Avoid downloading and installing programs from internet sites you do not trust.** It is common for these programs to have spyware in them and/or other potentially harmful things you do not want on your computer.



6.) **Ventilate your computer properly.** You do not want the fan in the back of your computer to be obstructed in anyway as that will cause dust to get into your system components.

7.) **Avoid eating or drinking over or near your machine.** Liquid damage, if bad enough, will ruin your computer.

**Have a Safe & Happy
New Year's from
Everyone at
Granite Broadband!**