

LANsultants Times

Your official source for LANsultants News

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PREVENT INAPPROPRIATE INTERNET USAGE

The Internet is a powerful tool, but it can also be misused. Did you know that Napster, AOL Instant Messenger, Yahoo Messenger, Kazaa and many other non-business utilities can be blocked on most firewalls? Additionally, content filtering modules exist to limit access to specific sites or block access to inappropriate sites. This same software can be used to monitor Internet usage. If you're concerned that your high speed Internet access is being misused LANsultants can assist you.

PA SALES TAX HOLIDAY

Pennsylvania will not be sponsoring a Sales Tax Holiday in February of 2003 as it had in 2002 and 2001.

1099s

LANsultants has received more IRS form 1099s from our clients this year than ever before. 1099s are only required for payments to self employed persons or corporations and partnerships that do not have a unique federal tax identification number. As LANsultants is a Sub-Chapter S Corporation duly registered with state and federal authorities, preparation of a 1099 by our clients for LANsultants is unnecessary. Please update your accounting records so you can avoid the cost and inconvenience of submitting a 1099 form to LANsultants and the IRS.

If you would like to be removed from our fax newsletter please fax request to 215-875-7346.

SPACE HEATERS & YOUR COMPUTER SYSTEM

Did you know that electric space heaters are the #1 cause of home fires? According to the University of Washington, one electric space heater uses as much electricity as forty fluorescent light fixtures! This enormous draw of 1,000 to 1,500 watts can dangerously overload electrical circuits.

The Chicago Fire Department recommends that:

“If you use an electric heater, be sure your wiring is adequate. Avoid overloading the circuit. Avoid using extension cords. Use an approved power strip with a built-in circuit breaker.

Never cover a heater's cord with carpeting or furniture, this could cause the cord to overheat and start a fire.

Use only safety-listed equipment. Space heaters should be labeled with U.L. or A.G.A certification.”

Almost every major American university prohibits the use of electric space heaters as part of their energy conservation and fire prevention program. Maybe your office should too?

If you must use an electric space heater, procure a low wattage UL-approved model using either oil or ceramic heating elements. These units cost a little more, but may prevent a fire and costly computer repairs (our personal recommendation is to simply wear thicker socks and turn the thermostat up). Outdoorsman have a saying, “for cold feet, wear a hat”, as most body heat is lost through your head.