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NerdViews Memorial Day 2009

Questions? Contact Professional Nerds™ at 1.877.I.T.NERDS
(1-877-486-3737)

OK, so it's a bit past Memorial Day, altho BEFORE Monday holidays, Memorial Day was always May 30th. As you'll discover below, things have been VERY busy at Professional Nerds!

1. [Professional Nerds adds a new Web Services team](#)
2. [MiFi Personal Hotspot](#)
3. [Inexpensive Flat Screen Displays](#)
4. [Free Security Software](#)
5. [Best Value Security Software](#)

1) Professional Nerds adds a new Web Services team

Professional Nerds is growing and has added a complete website/web services team—Leslie Turner (website design and placement), Dawn Koyzis (Internet Communications), Aaron Bigelow (graphic designer), and Gene Krzywicki (digital photography and video). Now Professional Nerds can get your business online as well as your computer(s).

We can

- Update existing sites with new 21st Century technologies (such as Adobe Flash)
- Create cost-effective, yet attractive, sites
- Allow you to easily maintain and update your site
- Cost-effectively optimize your web presence for better search engine ranking

E-mail or call toll free (877.486.3737) today to start your firm on the way to more business.

2) MiFi Personal Hotspot

I had to be the first kid on the block to get a new Verizon Wireless MiFi when it was released on May 17. For some time, laptop users have been able to

LINKS

[Acer Aspire One 10.1" Netbook \\$300-\\$330](#)

[Verizon Wireless MiFi](#)

[Energy cost of a CRT versus an LCD Flat Screen](#)
[More Energy cost Information](#)

[AT&T free McAfee](#)

[Comcast free McAfee](#)

[Comcast for Business free McAfee](#)

[CA Internet Security Suite Plus 2009, \\$80 for 5 PCs](#)

[Open Office - Free Open Source Office software package including Write, Calc, Impress, Base and Draw](#)

[Tuxpaint - Free Open Source drawing software package for kids](#)

get "cellular modems" so they can get internet anywhere. Usually these require special software on the laptop. The MiFi is a "mobile hotspot" with an uplink to Verizon's cellular network that allows up to 5 WiFi (standard wireless internet) devices to share its hotspot without using any special software -- just the same wireless software your laptop uses. This means you don't have to hunt for a free WiFi hotspot to hold a meeting -- your hotspot goes with you.

I did some testing last weekend while driving up to northern Wisconsin. We had 4 laptops in the minivan, and 3 of them (everyone except the driver) were continuously connected to the internet while the vehicle was moving -- yes, the MiFi does automatic tower to tower transfer for its data connection. When we arrived at our destination ("roaming" area for Verizon), all 4 laptops could continuously be online via the MiFi. Yes, the cellular connection is slower than DSL/cable, but as the slowest "device" is the PBK (person behind the keyboard), you don't really notice this unless all are downloading files or viewing YouTube videos.

When I took the MiFi to a BNI business breakfast meeting last Thursday, I switched on the MiFi, and was later asked by two members what the passcode was -- their WiFi Smartphones had automatically detected the "Professional Nerds MiFi" hotspot!

Verizon has two plans based on data usage: 250MB for \$40/mo, and 5,000MB for \$60/mo. With 4 users, after 2 days we'd used 200MB of transfer, so I went online to Verizon Wireless and was able to instantly upgrade to the higher capacity plan. By the way, the Novatel 2200 MiFi won't be limited to Verizon; check with your own carrier for availability and cost.

3) Inexpensive Flat Screen Displays

Flat screen displays have gotten incredibly inexpensive. These days you can get a 17-19" flat screen display for less than \$100, and larger displays such as 22-24" widescreens are \$200 or less. So, if you still have an older CRT, or a smaller flat-screen, you can get a larger screen inexpensively. Even if you don't need the higher resolution, a larger screen with the older 1024x768 resolution makes everything (text, icons, etc) appear larger, making it easier for older

eyes to read!

The power savings alone for the flat screen display will pay for itself if you replace a CRT. This is the reason corporate America switched. The bean counters demanded it!

4) Best Value Security Software

If you can't get free security software from Comcast or AT&T, a great choice is Computer Associates' CA Internet Security Suite Plus 2009. Cost is \$80; it covers up to 5 PCs, can be set for auto-renewal via credit card, and includes advanced features such as Anti-Spam for Outlook, Outlook Express, and Windows Live Mail users.

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