



## LINKAGES – Edition 32

### Security Updates

*- Patch Your Systems!*

There has been a recent flurry of application "security updates", including several patches from Microsoft, and a new version of the Firefox browser.

Most PC users are now familiar with the online "Windows Update" process, which ensures the Windows operating system is kept up to date. However, many vulnerabilities exist in the actual applications themselves (eg. Word, Outlook, etc), so Microsoft have now extended the concept of "Windows Update" to cover these other software components; this new, extended version is called "Microsoft Update"

Microsoft Update provides the same functionality as Windows Update for users of Windows 2000 or Windows XP, but in addition provides updates for the "Office XP" suite of software, which includes Word, Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint etc.

As with the usual Windows Update process, we recommend that you fully patch one machine, reboot, check again for more patches, and when satisfied the process has fully completed, then proceed to updating the other machines in the office. This maximises the benefit of caching (i.e. the patch is downloaded "once" from the Internet as opposed to downloaded once for every computer in the office) available in the LCC Gateway's proxy cache, and thus reduces the time to update all computers in the office.

The Microsoft Update website is <http://update.microsoft.com/microsoftupdate>

Of course, if you have access to an IT support function (whether it be internal or external), please contact them for information or advice, as patch updates should be managed by them on a pro-active basis.

### Firefox Update

The Mozilla Firefox team have released the latest version of the Firefox web browser (version 1.0.6), which addresses two critical vulnerabilities and increased stability. If you use Firefox, please ensure that you install the latest version, available from your local LCC Gateway at [http://gw/files/Firefox\\_1.0.6.exe](http://gw/files/Firefox_1.0.6.exe), or from <http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/>

### "Secure" Uptime

*Secure & Stable Email service!*

The central whole-of-local-government mail server, [secure.local.wa.gov.au](mailto:secure.local.wa.gov.au), recently reached a stability milestone of 500 days of continuous operations! That means, for users of the LCC gateway and email services that they have had no service interruptions (either scheduled or unscheduled) for well in excess of a year.

Further, we have just completed the migration of this facility over to newer, faster, and more robust hardware without any noticeable service interruption. We look forward to providing councils with another 500+ days of uninterrupted service delivery!

### Broadband News

The Federal Government recently announced an additional \$50 million in funding for its Higher Bandwidth Incentive Scheme (HiBIS), designed to promote broadband in rural and regional Australia.

The Minister's media release is available at [http://www.minister.dcita.gov.au/media/media\\_releases/\\$50 million in extra hibis funds for broadband in the bus](http://www.minister.dcita.gov.au/media/media_releases/$50_million_in_extra_hibis_funds_for_broadband_in_the_bus)

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