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Volume 2, Issue 2

April 15, 2005

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ELECTRONIC BRAIN SOLUTIONS

# “Brain Waves”



Thanks for all of  
your support!

## It's now ok to play with "fire"!

Once upon a time in a galaxy very near, many people wanted to access the internet and the only effective way to do that was to use Internet Explorer. Over time many security flaws were found with Internet Explorer and these flaws were exploited by hackers and spy-ware creators.

The above story isn't fiction its true! Many of you have been experiencing problems getting on the internet or being redirected to other unwanted websites and Microsoft is constantly releasing software "patches" to fix holes in Internet Explorers security.

You no longer have to deal with these issues,

### Soft Protection.

If you have a connection to the internet, you probably have had to deal with ad-ware and spy-ware. These "wonderful" programs will change your homepage, collect information about you and slow down your computer and your internet connection.

That is the bad news. The good news is that Microsoft is throwing their hat into the ring to battle spy-ware. Currently they are providing spy-ware software for Windows 2000 and Windows XP, that will scan for any ad-ware or spy-ware and remove it. The program also provides "real time"

you can download Firefox, a new browser designed to replace Internet Explorer.

Firefox is touted to be faster and more secure than Internet Explorer, partially because this is a newer browser and no one has written spy-ware or "helper apps" that would infect the system.



After the installation, Firefox looks and works just like Internet Explorer. It has a very similar interface and most websites appear the same way in either browser. There are however some sites that won't work with Firefox because they have been written specifically for Internet

Explorer. These type of sites usually include banking sites or anywhere that money is transferred over the internet.

Firefox's strong features include the ability to have tabbed browsing. Instead of a new window opening up every time you want to go to a new website, they are all contained in Firefox and can be accessed via tabs on the bottom or top of the programs window! This keeps your taskbar clear and makes it easier to browse and stay organized. Another benefit of using Firefox is that the browser won't allow active-x components to automatically

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## PACKAGE DEALS!

EBS is currently working out the details on package offers for you the customer! We are happy to announce three initial package deals that are intended to keep your computer running smoothly and keep some money in your pocket!

**Package 1)** Is an all inclusive backup package. A technician will come to your location, back up your data and well will store it off site in case of an emergency! This package can setup for monthly, quarterly or whatever fits in your schedule!

**Package 2)** is a bi-monthly package where a technician will come out to your location and scan for viruses and spyware/adware. We are going to be offering more packages, please check our website for pricing and availability!

## It's now ok to play with "fire" (cont.)!

download on to your computer. Active-X controls are programs that were designed to work with Internet Explorer, they could download and install files on to your computer.



(sometimes even with our your knowledge or approval.) and in theory keep your computer up to date with the latest programs need to run multimedia files.

As you can imagine, this was eventually exploited and many malicious programs can take advantage of this "feature" in Internet Explorer. This is a large reason that Fire-

fox is gaining in popularity.

Microsoft has also indicated that they will not be upgrading Internet Explorer for any computers that are not running Windows XP with service pack 2. So anyone with Windows 98, 2000 or ME will not get updated versions of IE in the future.



However, Firefox isn't just a "one click" install. Once you have it installed, you have to install any plug-ins that you had with Internet Explorer. Plug-ins such as a Java player or anything you downloaded to play certain games online.

Usually you are prompted to download these missing plug-ins anytime you come to a website that requires them.

To download Firefox, visit our website and click on the downloads link and Firefox is listed under our top pick on the right-hand side of the screen.

For now it is best to keep Internet explorer and Firefox. It is not clear who will come out on top as the best browser, so having both helps you play it safe!

Firefox can't save the world, but it can save you some headaches!

"Firefox can't save the world, but it can save you some headaches!"

## Don't jump without a net!

Are you thinking about upgrading to Windows XP from Windows ME or 98? Don't do it...

Not yet anyway! First, run the update advisor from Microsoft. (to download this program, log on to our site and go to the downloads section) This program will scan your computer and let you know of any problems you might encounter with



your computer hardware or software. While it isn't 100% it can point out some problems that you may be able to avoid. As with any major computer change, make sure that you backup all of your computer data incase of a problem during the loading of Windows XP.

Loading Windows XP is also

not a always a cost effective measure. In some situations you may have to upgrade your RAM and your hard drive. It could cost you just as much as buying a low end computer that would run circles around your current system! You should examine how much it will cost you to upgrade vs. how much it will cost you to purchase a new machine!

## Software Review.

There are still a few people out there who are not running any type of virus scan on their computer. This is just a dangerous way to operate and it is only a matter of time before you lose all of your data on your computer.

To avoid this we recommend that people run a virus scan even

if you use a spyware program and a firewall, those alone are not enough to protect your computer.



That is the bad news, the good news is that there is a FREE virus scan out there that will protect your computer.

AVG anti-virus works just like the major anti-virus programs (Norton or McAfee) and offers

free updates to its virus definitions. AVG also provides protection for many popular e-mail programs which is where many viruses infect your computer.

To download this software, visit our websites and click on the downloads link. There is a link to the AVG anti-virus webpage to download the software!