

Sept 2017 - Newsletter
Seiretto Ltd
<https://www.seiretto.co.uk/>

Good Afternoon!

In this newsletter:

- Software updates can cause havoc, or even lock you out
- Your domain has expired! Not what you want to hear.
- How to take control of the DNS for your .GOV.UK domain
- Do not forget to backup - but what about the unwanted historic data?
- Password masking - replacing characters with asterisks - yes or no?

Software updates can cause havoc, or even lock you out

When you update a computer (phone, laptop or server) operating system you never REALLY KNOW if the update is going to cause issues or not until its all installed, applications are tested, and end users have used the system for several days.

Occasionally it can go critically wrong with the system failing to restart, or just hanging. Not a real problem for a phone or laptop (you can carry on normal life) but for a server this can and often does affect many website owners as websites are offline.

What happens when its your front door lock! Last month an update locked out hundreds of home owners:
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2017/08/11/lockstate_bricks_smart_locks_with_dumb_firmware_upgrade/

The future could see not just your front door lock failing to respond but your car, home lights, heating, communications, etc...

Your domain has expired! Not what you want to hear.

For marketing giant Marketo it happened just a few weeks ago:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2017/07/26/marketo_forgot_to_renew_domain/

Your domain is important, it is your main presence online for your business or department. Do not let your domains expire. If they expire your website and mail goes offline, or worse still you could lose the domain. Check your renewals now, need to know how? Contact us, reply now.

Keep your website online, ensure your domains do not expire.

How to take control of the DNS for your .GOV.UK domain

Taking control of your own DNS records (A, AAA, TXT, SRV, MX, CNAME records) will mean you can arrange your own website and mail hosting as required and when you require.

Our DNS control panel allows you to edit any part of your DNS as and when you need to do so, day or night. Many council clients use only our DNS hosting, others make use of our full hosting services including email and web hosting. Clients give many reasons for using our hosting service which include: cost, support, and ease of use. Each DNS control panel enables you to take control of your own domain and make DNS additions/amendments as and when required. Also, an important reasons given is for the support given whilst making DNS changes too.

Full details of our DNS hosting here:

<http://www.seiretto.com/domains/dns-management-no-cost-.gov.uk.php>

Many councils and government departments use our DNS hosting, see some of the gov.uk domains we host here:
<http://govhost.uk/>

Do not forget to backup - but what about the unwanted historic data?

We often recommend you backup often, and here is how:
<http://www.seiretto.com/newsletters/backups.php>

However, have you ever considered in the long term how many files/folders/data you have in backups? The type of media used may mean it is almost impossible to remove that data; many of the ssd write the data back to different locations when a disc becomes worn, so making removal practicably impossible.

Under new regulations companies must remove all data they hold on individuals:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2017/08/14/gdpr_companies_warned_of_hidden_costs_of_right_to_be_forgotten/

be sure to read the comments too as they contain some wise suggestions:

https://forums.theregister.co.uk/forum/1/2017/08/14/gdpr_companies_warned_of_hidden_costs_of_right_to_be_forgotten/

Password masking - replacing characters with asterisks - yes or no?

We use password masking on our login forms and in our client area (password change and control panel reveal sections). In most cases it does not cause issue, however, as has been raised the method might be on its way out:

<https://yro.slashdot.org/story/17/07/18/2019240/ask-slashdot-is-password-masking-on-its-way-out>

Personally I am divided on this issue, as I perceive the risk is not so much from shoulder-surfing or from the more readily available cctv every where (which are increasing in definition all the time), and/or mobile phones pointing in all directions (anyone of which can be covertly recording while appearing to be on a call).

Please let us know what you think? Password fields: to mask or not?

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Thank you for reading!

Please let us know if you have any queries? Just reply now....

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<http://www.seiretto.com/newsletters/>

Seiretto Sales.