October 10, 2018

Address by the President of the PSWTC by internet via the Nuc. Gang Website. Delivered from the Presidents' office situated close to the nearest nuclear reactor in the area.

Dear Colleagues,

If you are reading this, I cannot tell you how happy I am that you are taking the time. Just in case you were not aware, the Nugang website has been, let us say, out of order for let's just say too long. So, even if you could not wait to read a Reactor Side Chat, you would not have been able to do so. In fact, if you wanted any information from our website you would have been out of luck.

On behalf of myself and all of us at the PSWTC, please accept our sincerest apologies for any difficulties or frustrations you suffered due to the website being inaccessible. The site was very ill and spent time in the ICU circling the drain on life support. We never once thought of pulling the plug. Instead, we placed the fate of our beloved site in the hands of the best Information Technology doctors we could find and waited for results. Slowly things got better and with love and physical therapy, things are back to normal or maybe even better than normal.

So what happened? We do not really know but think we may have been the victims of a cyber-attack. Why us? Who knows! A myth about cybercrime is that cybercriminals target the rich. Perhaps someone thought we were rich. Actually, cybercriminals do not discriminate. They are just as likely to target a vulnerable computer system whether it belongs to a home user, a small business or a Fortune 500 company. The PSWTC is not a Fortune 500 company. Another myth about cybercrime is that you can always tell when a computer has been compromised. While sometimes this is true, cybercriminals do not want you to know they have access your computer and have taken appropriate steps to hide their tracks.

If it can happen to us, it can happen to you so I am using this RSC to remind everyone to take precautions to protect your data not only at work but also at home. I would add some tips here. Install a firewall, antiviral software, back up data regularly etc.

Do not forget the City of Hope meeting is coming December 1st. I hope you are planning to attend.

Dave