

Email report – meeting 10/01/2011

Agony Corner:

Problems printing from web pages. This was the only question today but it developed into an interesting review of the different whys and wherefores of how to get the most reliable print-out of *what you want* from a web page.

a) This is a perennial problem and what you get is rarely what you see. The content of web pages varies greatly and printing from them depends on how they are written; where a simple page like www.u3astowmarket.org.uk will print out more or less (but not exactly) as-is (try it) a complicated page like the home page of the BBC www.bbc.co.uk would definitely not (**don't try it!**).

b) To complicate matters further, different browsers (eg Internet Explorer, Chrome, and Firefox) behave differently in respect to their print options.

c) Looking at the most common, Microsoft IE, there are 3 ways to access the 'print' options -1) Press Alt+R, 2) the printer icon drop down box or 3) the 'File' menu (top LHS). Here there are 3 choices, Print, Print Preview and Page Set-up (this latter is not your printer set up menu). Always choose 'Print preview' first to get an idea of what you will get, but always check how many pages there are. If you're happy, then press 'Print'. This should bring your own printer set up pane up where you can choose settings as normal. If there is an additional option to 'view before print' it's worth checking.

d) Even after taking all these precautions, you may still not get what you want or probably will get far more than you want (adverts, pictures, links etc). Here are a few things to try..

i) Try and select the area you want then copy and paste into, say, a blank page in 'Word'. The advantage is that you will get what you want to print but the disadvantage is that you may have to remove tables and reformat etc. before it's usable.

ii) In my last email, I mentioned a small programme called MWSnap which enable you to copy and save any area you wish from what is on the screen (find it at <http://www.mirekw.com/winfreeware/mwsnap.html>)

iii) HP have a very useful programme, HP Smart Web, you can down load for free (you don't have to have an HP printer) which enables you to clip part of one or several web pages and print out just what you want. Read about it here <http://tinyurl.com/ylnpslh> . It works best with Internet Explorer and, I think, with Firefox but not with Chrome.

iv) One I've just discovered works very well and doesn't require you to download any program. Follow this link <http://www.printwhatyoulike.com/home/index3> which I think you will find interesting. If you do a lot of web page printing you should look at <http://www.printwhatyoulike.com/bookmarklet> which gives you an even quicker and simpler method and works in any web browser.

Photo Story3 for Windows

This was our topic for the day. This is a very simple slide show maker available for **free** download from Microsoft at <http://tinyurl.com/4f869> .

We initially digressed by creating our own folder in 'My Documents' and transferring pictures from USB sticks to this, either by copying and pasting or dragging and dropping. We then made an almost instant slideshow by...

- Opening the program by going to 'Start', 'All Programs' then clicking 'Photo Story 3 for Windows' on the menu.
- Importing our pictures using 'Import pictures' button from the folder we'd created or dragging and dropping straight into the frame.
- Accepting all the defaults and clicking through on the 'Next' button, saved the project with our preferred name then 'Next'.
- Clicking 'Save your story for playback on your computer'. Next
- A wma media file was created and the option to 'View your story' was offered. Clicking this opened the movie in Windows Media Player.

We then reopened the program and chose 'Edit a project' which reopened our original saved pictures. We then work through the various stages of creating the slideshow of our choice and learning about 'black borders', adding titles and texts, customising motion ('**The Ken Burns Effect**' - homework, [Google this!](#)) and transitions, adding music and how to select the best quality to play back on the computer.

By the end, everybody had created there own slide show movie. Unfortunately, not everyone remembered to copy it back to the USB stick to take home - but it will still be in the 'My documents, My Videos' folder for next time.

If you've never made your own slide show before, this programme is well worth trying. When you first start, make sure to click the 'Help' button on the bottom LHS which will take you through each step.

Next Meeting

Monday 14th February. We now have **Google Picasa** installed on the computers at Stowupland and today Pam Webb will be taking the lead in showing us the versatility of this free photo organiser programme. Once again, you might like to bring some more of your pictures to add to those you've already put in your folder.

Finally, I've added a pdf of a leaflet I received from the U3A before Christmas. It's an offer of £3.00 off the 'Older and Wiser' series of computer books, available until 31st January. Make sure to visit the website <http://www.pcwisdom.co.uk> to get a better idea of the content and if you wish to order use the free phone number and promo code provided.