

Email report – meeting 09/11/2011 at Stowupland School

We had 20 members present at November's meeting, welcoming Doris Hackworthy for the first time. Apologies were received from Hazel Burl, Sheila Dobey, Nicky Heming, Angela Owen, Valerie Payton, Angela Webb and Helen Whitehead.

Agony Corner:

1) 'Portable apps'. Disappointingly, only one member had followed through and download a portable app as requested in my last email (in this case the Firefox browser) so I'll repeat here and look forward to your feedback at the next meeting.....

- It often arises that you may want to use a particular programme when visiting friends or relations but they may not have the one you want or, perhaps you are using a computer that does not allow you to download software, eg in an internet cafe or indeed on the Stowupland High School network. The way around this is to install the programme onto a stand alone memory (USB) stick. There are many 'Open Source' (free) programmes available to do this and the best comprehensive list I've been able to find is the Portable Apps Directory....
- Find it here at <http://portableapps.com/apps> and I'm sure you will find something of interest. There is almost no limit to the range of programmes you can carry around on USB. Moreover, installing onto a USB stick allows you to experiment with a new programme without installing onto your PC and thus without creating unforeseen problems which, as we've discussed before, can be difficult to overcome.
- In answer to a query, there's much, much more available than just 'photo' programmes.
- As 'homework' prior to the next meeting, I'd like you to have a go, explore the options and pick one or two to install, then at the meeting we can have a look at what's been achieved and, as we are short of agreed topics for next year, perhaps plan to go into one or more in some detail at a future meeting. (As an example, on a 2Gb USB I have installed the portable versions of the browser 'Mozilla Firefox', the photo programme 'Gimp', and the media player VLC which together occupy much less than 1Gb).

2) Also from the last meeting. Tablet computers. What are they? How useful are they? What are the options?

- We discussed the differences between the eBook readers such as the Amazon Kindle and true Tablets such as the iPad.
- Since the meeting and with Philip's help, we've been able to arrange for an enthusiastic tablet owner from Hughes in Stowmarket to come to talk to us in February.

3) 'After a computer crash and recovery, I've lost all my past emails (I have a Tiscali email address) and find that although I can now receive emails I cannot send. I also have a back-up disk which won't open, identified as an 'ima' file.

- Tiscali were taken over by TalkTalk and this may be part of the problem although your original emails *may* still be available on the TalkTalk web mail server.
- For sending. In email 'Accounts' the POP3 for receiving is obviously still working but the SMTP for sending needs re-entering. Type smtp.talktalk.net into the Outgoing mail (SMTP) server box and then click Next.... Full details thereon can be found here <http://tinyurl.com/d89pjd9Worth>
- And here is some information on 'iam' files <http://tinyurl.com/c6ulzmj>

4) 'When I bring my (Vista) computer out of hibernation, I always have to reset the screen resolution'.

- Simple answer is don't use 'hibernation'. Better to use the computer's power options.
- Go into Control pane, select 'Power Options' then 'Power Schemes' tab and set requirements in the appropriate boxes. PDF example attached.

6) 'I can no longer successfully save data to my external hard disk'

- Some discussion suggested that this may be a cable issue but more information about the fault is required.
- Will be discussed again at the next meeting.

7) 'I can't view Flash video using Internet Explorer 8 but in Firefox it's OK'

- IE 8 can be temperamental and it may just be a matter of resetting the security options.
- There are many answers to this problem on the web, and you can find one here <http://tinyurl.com/2bbjgg5>

8) 'I'm confused about the different kind of internet browsers'

- In the past MS Internet Explorer was automatically installed on any new Windows computer but since a European ruling, Microsoft now have to offer a choice.
- Popular browsers today include, Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Opera although there are many more.
- Here's the Microsoft information on this <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/what-is-the-browser-choice-update>
- And here's a review summary <http://internet-browser-review.toptenreviews.com/>

9) More questions asked about browsers..

- How do I find 'History' in Internet Explorer 8? Top left, yellow star labeled 'Favorites', click then click 'History' tab.
- How do I find 'History' in Chrome? Top right, spanner sign, click then click 'History'.
- How do I find 'Favorites' in Firefox? These are called 'Bookmarks' in Firefox. By default, now, the Bookmarks tool bar is not automatically installed. At the top of the Firefox window, click on the Firefox button, go over to the Options arrow and check Bookmarks Toolbar. Also, if you start to type the name of a favourite into the Firefox address box it should display all the options saved.
- If I copy and paste an address into the address bar, it won't work? Depending on where your source is the address may include hidden formatting. Try pasting into Notepad first (this strips out the formatting) and copy and paste again. If the original address is displayed as the links in this email are, then it is not necessary to copy and paste, just click the link once, your default browser will open and take you to the page.

10) 'I don't receive/can't find files that I know have been sent to me'

- Check that the sender has your correct address
- look into the 'spam' or 'trash' folders
- Go to your ISP web mail server and look similarly there.

There was another question this month about the difficulty of receiving, viewing and saving files in emails. Suggest that subject can become part of a future session on file/folder manipulation in general and the use of sites like 'Dropbox' for transferring large files easily.

Windows 7:

Thanks very much to **John Haseltine** who demonstrated some of the differences and improvements in Windows 7 over previous versions of Windows.

Some of the members who had brought their laptops were able to follow the instructions on their own machines whilst the rest of us (XP and Vista user) could see what's in store for us.

Using a selection of tutorials he had downloaded, he firstly took us through an 'Introduction to the Desktop', then 'Exploring the Start Menu' before going onto several other interesting topics. Immediately there was a new function in Windows 7 that nobody present had used or even seen before. At the bottom RHS corner of the desk top screen is an insignificant looking button 'Show Desk Top'. One click of that hides all open windows for an easy return to the desk top. Easy! (Same effect as in XP, 'Windows key+D')

Too many topics were covered to list here, but you can access all the videos free of charge by following this link.....

<http://www.top-windows-tutorials.com/windows-7.html> .

There's also introductory help on Microsoft at <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/help/getting-started> and a step by step guide, attached herewith for you to read.

Next Meeting:

Will be on **Wednesday 14th December**, 1.30pm at Stowupland School.

We look forward to hearing **Pam Webb** who will be leading a session on '**Poster Making**' from scratch.