

Meeting 12/06/2013

Agony Corner:

After reviewing last month's items and following yet more plaudits for Clive's Dragon Naturally Speaking presentation (Philip has since bought v12 from Amazon for £58), we move onto new items...

1) 'I've recently had a lot of problems when trying to read my emails (Desk top Windows 8, via Mozilla Firefox), I continuously get the messages 'Adobe Flash Player 11.7r700 has stopped working' and 'Shockwave Flash is busy or stopped working', Uninstalling and re installing Flash does not solve the problem'.....

- A search on the net reveals that this is a major problem at the moment with no definitive answer as yet.
- There is a direct correlation with Mozilla, see the Support Forum <http://support.mozilla.org/en-US/questions/957423> and in some case with MS Explorer <http://tinyurl.com/ohzq3qe> .
- The easiest solution seems to be to switch to the Chrome browser which appears to be trouble free.

2) 'On my Win 7 lap top, the web page links in emails are now inactive. The mouse pointer used to change to a hand but now remains as an arrow head'.....

- This can seem to happen spontaneously, but is usually due to some settings having been inadvertently changed. In Windows Live Mail, look at Tools/Options/Read and if necessary untick the box 'Read all messages in plain text'.
- Some useful observations on this topic in the 'Ask Leo' Newsletters, <http://tinyurl.com/ntx7dz6> & <http://tinyurl.com/64ozgs> .

3) 'I use Google Chrome but when I want Google Search, I get the message 'Amazon Smart Search, powered by Google'. I don't want this. When I check the settings menu it's confirmed that 'Chrome is my default browser'..

- A some time or other you've probably inadvertently agreed to accept 'Amazon Smart Search' as the default *search* engine, (not browser). Lots of companies do this but still use Google to do the actual searching.
- Go to the 3 horizontal bars at the top RHS of Chrome. Click Settings. 4th item down is 'Search' and two boxes; lhs is a dropdown menu showing your default search engine and listing all the options installed (mine has 12!) and the rhs 'Manage search engines. Click the drop down and select 'Google' then Manage which will now show Google as the default search engine, click 'Done' then exit out.

Our topic for the day: *Picasa 3*

Back in January 2011, Pam Webb gave us an interesting insight into Picasa so I felt it opportune, a couple of years on, to take another look .

I introduced the session by showing a couple of videos..

- Introducing Picasa 3, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rskC6c_5L1M . This is an early version but still completely valid, and

- What's new in Picasa 3.5, (Picasa now at version 3.9) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYO2uhrIZJ4> which concentrates on the Face recognition process.
- We then followed up with a couple of videos taken on my own machine showing how to set up face recognition in detail.
- Next was an interactive session examining the various editing functions within Picasa, which for some people is all you may need, plus making a quick slide show and collages.
- Double clicking on an image in the Library View opens that image in the Edit view with the multitude of editing features now available.
- There is (in the latest version) a link to 'Edit in Creative Kit' (previously know as Picnik) but unless you are an active Google+ user this is of very little use to you. We had a look at another derivation of Picnik, Ribbet at <http://www.ribbet.com/app/#/home/welcome> . This is an extremely easy to use online photo editor which you can use without the hassle involved with the Google+ shared galleries. Try it for yourself!

We had a little time at the end of the session, so I reminded the Group about BookBoon <http://bookboon.com/en/it-programming-ebooks> where you can find a multitude of free high quality books (in pdf) on a multitude of subjects. Just ignore the adverts which support the service!

Next Meeting:-

Wednesday 10th July, 2013, 1.30pm at Stowupland High School.

Topic for the day:-

Joyce Kay has volunteered to show us how she **monitors and controls** her own **financial matters**. Starting with a blank sheet in **Microsoft Excel** she will create a spreadsheet from scratch which could easily be adapted for anyone to use (if you wish to take a copy with you, please bring a USB stick, although I will publish it later with the email).

If there's time, we'll then have a look a little deeper into some of Excel's features.

Please note, it was agreed that we would take a break in August before restarting in September. *Please, have a think at what you would like to learn more about in the new term and/or alternatively any topic that you would like to give a talk on yourself.*