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Next Meeting
Wednesday 2nd November
2005
Beginners 7 PM
General 8 PM
Next Committee Meeting
7th December 2005

Newstream Articles

Deadline : 10 Days before Meeting

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Membership

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Ron's Rambling

Another month has passed and there is only one more issue of "Newstream before the end of the year.

Remember subscriptions come due in December and you must be financial to vote in the AGM which currently is planned for the first meeting in 2006 (February 1st)

All positions on the Committee will come vacant and we are looking for new blood to take their place on the Committee. I always emphasise that this is YOUR organisation, not the prerogative of those of us who have been on the Committee and members from the year dot (or at least the year comma). You should have a say in the workings of the Group which includes OPEN.

I didn't know much about Computers and/or the Group when I joined the Committee in I think my second year in the Group.

I soon became editor of the "Reset" the precursor of "Newstream" and knowing nothing of Microsoft Publisher soon found out by doing.

I have found that being involved in the administration of the Group increased my enjoyment, just sitting back and letting other people run things and make decisions which affected me did not suit me and I dare say might not suit YOU if you have had the experience of being involved in the administration of the Group and OPEN.

That's enough moralising see you at the meeting

Ron Baker



OPEN NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2005

Part of the LCG's 'Newstream'

What's Happening at OPEN

FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

Spot the Difference?

In recent years I've formed the opinion that the best way to learn a computer program is to use it. So to practise what I preach I've decided to have a go at using



Microsoft

Publisher to produce this month's newsletter.

As I don't have an artistic bone in my body you probably won't notice much difference from the previous Word-based newsletters – apart from a few borders and the new format for the timetable.

I'm open to suggestions if someone wants to contribute a cartoon or a fancy banner for the page headers. You might even have an idea for an article.

Please contact me if you have something to

PUBLIC HOLIDAY MONDAY November 7

With the influx of new members our volunteer tutors have been kept very busy over the past couple of months. So we've decided to give ourselves a long week-end off.

No classes will be held on Monday
November 7.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

This year's Christmas break-up function has been tentatively scheduled for the **Centennial Hotel** in Bathurst Street on **Wednesday December 14 at 12.30 pm.**

If you are interested in attending please put your name on the **bookings sheet** at the **OPEN clubroom** or ring the club at the number shown below.

VENUE TELEPHONE NUMBER

Mobile Phone Number is now available to all those wishing to contact OPEN during 'class hours' i.e. from 10 am to 3 pm Monday to Thursday, and from 10 am to 12 noon on Friday.

NORTHERN TASMANIAN CAMERA CLUB

The next meeting of the Camera Club will be held at the OPEN clubroom on **Saturday, November 12th** from 9am to 12 noon.

If you are interested in learning more about digital cameras and related subjects contact Kai

“EMBROIDERY GROUP”

The Friday afternoon Embroidery Group meets on the **2nd and 4th Fridays** of each month. (November 11th and 25th)

If you are interested in learning how certain computer programs interact with electronic sewing machines, please contact Eleanor Horder via the club for details of the programs that are supported etc.

“VICTOR”

A tip from the VICTOR volunteers.

Please consider potential problems if you are thinking of buying a computer from interstate. What you may save initially in dollar terms may cost you in other aspects.

Recent experience has uncovered issues such as a missing power cord, missing USB cable, corrupt software and damaged components. It is much easier to deal with a local supplier to resolve these problems.

OPEN NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2005
Part of the LCG's 'Newstream'

Launceston Computer Group
SOFTWARE LIBRARY
Dated 1st November 2005

DISK 2000 - Your Library on Disk

After several months in the production phase Disk 2000 is now available. The change from a floppy disk to a CD has enabled us to include much more in the way of games, information and utilities. Existing members can upgrade to the new CD version for just \$1.50. Ask at the club or contact Julie on

6344 5686. This disk is free of charge to all new members.

DISK COPY PRICES - CLUB MEMBERS \$1.00 per disk

Disk Prices - Box of 25 =

\$12.00 Members Only

CD Prices - Box of 10

= \$10.00

Members Only

AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARY

The Shareware Library is available in between meetings from the following person. Please telephone first to arrange a suitable time.

The library is also available at the venue - Studioworks most Wednesdays 9am to 3pm. Email: opencomputingtas@hotmail.com

LAUNCESTON

Julie Hjort

Phone 6344 5686

Flat 2,

115 Penquite Road,

Newstead **Email:**

Launceston Computer Group
Meeting
Demonstrations of Software
given for evaluation
8 PM

Email Listing

If you have provided your E-Mail address to OPEN or LCG we can use that information to send you the LCG/OPEN newsletter. **If you do not want your E-mail address listed** please advise the club and we will remove it

***** FOR SALE *****

Are you looking for a cheap 'starter' machine to begin your computing adventures? Or perhaps your older computer could do with a bit more storage in the form of an extra hard-disk drive?

OPEN has a number of basic systems available at prices ranging from \$50 to \$100. All have Windows 98SE, floppy drive and CD-ROM and (at least) 4-Gigabyte hard-disks as standard.

Contact Dennis or Judy at the club for details

MORE NEWS FROM OPEN!**New Equipment**

The upgrade of facilities at the club has continued in the past month with a new OPEN14 computer replacing its tired old namesake. The new computer is equipped with Windows XP and MS Office 2003, and has a CD-Burner installed.

Please be aware that some Office 2003 documents are not compatible with earlier versions of Office so you may need to save them in a different format to use them at home.

OPEN4 has been given a storage boost with a second hard-drive added, while an additional computer has been built up from spare parts to demonstrate several of the free programs that are available from the Internet or magazine CDs. It's called OPEN-DEMO for

Subscriptions

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions for 2006 will be due on December 1st, 2005. The committee has decided that any members who paid their subscription after September 1, 2005 will remain financial until December 2006.

Single Membership \$10
Couples

OPEN Session Times

At Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

Standard Sessions \$4.00
Some special tutorials may incur additional charges

OPEN NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2005

Part of the LCG's 'Newstream'

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Monday	10 am –12	E-Learn & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	Basics and Beyond
Tuesday	10 am –12	PC & Mac Support for Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	E-Learn & Beginners
Wednesday		Special sessions or Meetings
		As for mornings (see rosters)
Thursday	10 am –12	E-Learn & Beginners [all day]
	1 pm – 3 pm	Mac [afternoon]
Friday	10 am –12	E-Learn & Beginners
2nd, 4th Friday	1 pm – 3 pm	Embroidery Group
2nd or 3rd Saturday	10 am –12	Camera Club

Date	Time	Topic	Details
November 2	10 am – 12	"The Mouse-Free Zone"	Using the keyboard to control programs
	1 pm onwards	OPEN Monthly Meeting	An opportunity for any members to come along and contribute ideas on how the club should operate.
November 9	9 am – 12 noon	IrfanView with Dennis Murray	How to use this free program to view all types of graphics files, perform basic image editing, create slide-shows & screen-savers, - even control your scanner!
	1 pm – 3.30	Family History On-line	Limited to 8 people
November 16	9 am – 12 noon	Easy Photo Repairs 4 Please bring your own photos.	Getting Started with Paint Shop Pro 7. How to get your photos onto the computer and basic manipulation.
	1 pm – 3.30	Paint Shop Pro 7 Advanced Class	Another tutorial to help you enhance your photographs.
November 23	9 am – 12 noon	Family History On-line	Limited to 8 people
	1 pm – 3.30	Print Artist	Design your own cards, labels, banners etc.
November 30	9 am – 12 noon	Windows Basics	The simple things that often get overlooked
	1 pm – 3.30	Animated E-Mail Magic	Create a special Christmas E-Mail

West Australian Family History Websites

Here is a great collection of site for family history research in Western Australia. After twenty years of looking I finally found one of my connections in the Perth cemetery database.

Have Fun. by Judy Hall

1. Perth / Fremantle Cemetery, Burials since ab0ut 1899

<http://www.mcb.wa.gov.au/NameSearch/GenResearch.html>

2. WA Pioneers: The WA Pioneers database, births marriages deaths 1841-1905 (pretty much the WA Vital Records held by LDS) is at:

Not complete but v good. http://www.justice.wa.gov.au/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_323_201_0_43/http:/justicecontent.extranet.justice.wa.gov.au/bdm/default.asp?structureID=96554822&ResourceID=295610339

3. Jenni Martins info, Jenni has 220,000 WA names at Leo Genealogics, sensational site worth a visit: <http://www.genealogics.org/searchform.php> On this one it gives you the option to select trees, select WA Pioneers, some modern info here**4. WA Marriages 1906-1920** <http://www.openwindows.com/marriage/search.htm>**5. Fremantle prison has the convicts sent here:** <http://www.fremantleprison.com.au/history/history.cfm> click on "convict database"**6 Perth Dead Person's Society** <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/index.html> in top right hand corner, convicts and guards by Ship (incomplete) but interesting**7. WA Genealogical Society** <http://www.wags.org.au/> Members interests etc may provide clue**8. WA War memorials** <http://www.anzac.dpc.wa.gov.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=memorial.register> A bit tedious but worth a look**9. Erica's family History project** <http://www.webace.com.au/~smidgers/index.htm> Lot's of names about 9000**Stop Spam At The Source?**

Hi Fred. Received this information this morning from "ArcaMax.com" as another way to fight spam. Check it out and let us know what you think of this idea.

http://www.bluesecurity.com/solutions/do_not_intrude.asp

Thanksfor all the help, you and your readers have saved my computer from the scrap pile more than once. ---Allen Ferrill

The idea there is that you join a service to help you automatically complain to spam sites. I think this'd be a great idea, except for one thing: Spammers don't play by the rules.

Reputable businesses don't spam in the first place; and those that do send out mails that might annoy you, but that technically aren't spam, will almost always remove you from their lists if you simply ask--- no elaborate third-party tool is needed.

Spammer sites aren't going to pay attention to "remove me" notes; and many spammers hide their originating addresses anyway so that complaint letters will either go to that Great Big Bit Bucket In The Sky--- or worse, go to some innocent person whose address was faked in the original spam email. Plus: this whole approach generates still *more* emails buzzing back and forth....

I believe the simplest, best approach to spam is simply to delete it-- silently, without any indication whatsoever that you ever got it. That way, the spammer spent money to try to reach you, but (in effect) wasted it because he got no response-- no sale, no indication that the spam was delivered, nothing.

Spamming is a low-life's business, but it *is* a business. If people never, ever responded to spam--- didn't buy anything, didn't answer back, didn't do anything at all with the spam--- spammers would eventually go out of business: They'd be spending money with no return.

Alas, enough people *do* buy stuff from spam, and do take steps that let the spammers know they've reached a live mailbox, that spamming can be hugely profitable.

Just say no: When you get a spam mail, just delete it, or set your filters to delete it, silently. Don't use the tools that generate complaint letters (it won't help), and don't use the tools that generate false "bounce" messages (because that actually *helps* the spammer make his mail distribution more cost-efficient). Instead, don't respond at all, and never, ever buy anything advertised by spam.

If everyone did that, spam mail would go away in short order.

From LangaList 24/10/2005

Tutorial ... "Dial Up, Broadband, DSL? Help!"

In our modern, fast-paced environment we have come to expect instant gratification. That also pertains to how we access the Internet. For years, the only option was a dial up connection. Believe it or not, there still are places in the United States that do not have access to other alternatives. And around most of the world dial up is the only option.

If you are fortunate enough to live and work in an area where another alternative is available by all means make the switch. If you need to have a little bit more information before shelling out the extra bucks each month, then let's take a look at some of the options that may be available in your locale. Before we do that, however, we need to explore the technology a little further and take a look at some terminology.

What is Broadband? Broadband refers collectively to technology that allows data transfer through your phone lines at a much higher rate than standard dial up.

What is DSL (Direct Subscriber Link)? DSL allows you to connect to the Internet at the same time you are using your phone without any interruption. It does this by putting digital bits that are not heard into the frequency of your phone line.

What is Bandwidth? Bandwidth is the size and speed of the connection. You need the fastest speed and reliability where the connection has a higher priority, i.e. FROM the Internet TO your home or office, while a smaller bandwidth is used in the opposite scenario FROM your home or office TO the Internet.

The bottom line is that DSL is faster, more efficient and more reliable than standard dial up. If you have ever tried downloading large files on a dial up connection, you know how long it takes. When it comes to listening to music, watching any kind of videos or playing games, it is virtually an exercise in futility on a dial up connection.

DSL is relatively inexpensive for what you get:

You can enjoy streaming live audio and video, watch movies online, listen to radio stations and live news and that's just for starters! If you like to play computer games, you can do that while online and still not miss any important phone calls!

Downloading data, sound or video files can be accomplished in almost the blink of an eye. What used to take a half hour or more to download will be done in minutes or in some cases even in seconds! And all of those photographs that you've taken with your digital camera to send to the grandparents? No need to wait for developing. In seconds you can send the photos!

If you are lucky enough to live in an area where DSL is available, by all means jump on the bandwagon and bring your surfing experience into the 21st century!

Glossary of computing, A, part 2

Peter Carter

F

FAQ Frequently asked questions: a list of commonly asked questions, provided so that newcomers can understand what a mailing list or newsgroup is about. Read the FAQ before you embarrass yourself
Fetch A widely used shareware Macintosh FTP client, the one with the little dog

field A part of a database record for storing one item of data

file Any file stored on the system. In Macintosh circles 'document' is the preferred term

Finder A 'window' to the Macintosh operating system, enabling files and other items to be seen (as icons) and manipulated

firewall Either a dedicated machine or software to restrict access to a network from (typically) elsewhere on the Internet. A means of protection from crackers

FireWire A means of connecting peripherals such as hard disks, video cameras, etc. Invented by Apple and also known as IEEE 1394 and iLink

flame To argue rudely and insult people in mailing lists and newsgroups.
Not nice

flash, Flash (1) A form of memory used in removable cards (Compact Flash, Memory Stick, etc) and portable 'drives'. (2) Macromedia's animation system for the Web

folder Folders may contain documents and/or sub-folders. Equivalent to 'directory' in older systems

FOLDDOC Free on-line dictionary of computing: at foldoc.doc.ic.ac.uk/foldoc/index.html

FPU floating point unit: either a co-processor or part of the CPU for maths processing

freeware Software that you may freely distribute and use without payment. Compare shareware

FTP File Transfer Protocol: in Unix, and therefore the Internet, a common way to transfer files. An FTP client program is used to transfer the files.

The usual ones on the Macintosh are Fetch or Anarchie

G

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(Continued from page 7)

GIF Graphics interchange format: a file format commonly used for graphics files on the Web. Filenames usually end with .gif. GIF uses a lossless compression method but is limited in its colour range

Giga In computing, a prefix meaning 230, 1073741824. Usually seen in GB (giga-bytes, measure of memory or disk space) or GHz (giga Hertz, a measure of CPU or bus speed)

GIGO Garbage in, barbage out. Don't expect a right answer from wrong data

GNU Gnu's not Unix: a free Unix project, pre-dating Linux (Strictly speaking, Linux is only the kernel, the rest of a Linux system comes from the GNU project)

GUI Graphical user interface: a system of windows, icons, and a mouse pointer. The Macintosh is our favourite example. Pronounced 'gooney'

H

hacker Originally, someone who made furniture with an axe. In computing terms, one who enjoys exploring programmable systems, programs enthusiastically, is good at programming quickly, or is an expert at a particular system. Often mistaken in the media for 'cracker'

helper application A program used by a Web browser to display some particular file types, e.g. the Acrobat Reader plugin to display Acrobat (PDF) documents

Home page The first page normally accessed by a Web browser host The ISP's large computer you connect to for Internet access

hotlist Also known as bookmarks. A set of URLs stored by the user in a list for easy access

HSB Hue, saturation, brightness: a colour model

HTH Hope this helps

HTML HyperText markup language: the language (a tagging system) used to prepare text for use on the Web

HTTP HyperText transfer protocol: the protocol used by Web servers and clients to transfer data

hypertext 'Non-sequential writing': text and documents that you can access in any order, usually by following one main idea. The World-Wide Web is a global hypertext system. The word was coined by Ted Nelson in 1965, and the idea of hypertext is usually attributed to Vannevar Bush

Hz In computing, a measure of CPU and bus clock speed: 1 Hz is one cycle per second. The Apple II ran at 1 KHz, recent Macintosh at 1.8 GHz. Note that processor clock speed is only a partial measure of the overall speed of a computer

I

IC integrated circuit

icon A small image representing a file, folder, device, etc

IDE 1 Integrated development environment: a programming environment such as Apple's Xcode combining editor, compiler, linker, etc. 2

Integrated drive electronics: hard disk drive interface, originally for PCs, later Macintosh

IEEE Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers: a standards body, e.g. FireWire is IEEE 1394

IM Instant messaging. On the Mac, iChat (with AOL and Jabber compatibility)

IMHO In my humble opinion

Inkwell Apple's handwriting recognition system. Requires OS 10.2 or later and a digitiser pad

install To transfer a program from distribution media (e.g. CD-ROM) to the machine's hard disk. In many cases the installer places a number of files in various locations



internet A group of connected networks, for instance, the networks of a university or business

Internet The set of interconnected networks across the world.

(Technically, the set of networks that communicate via TCP/IP.) Through the Internet we have the World-Wide Web, etc

intranet A portion of the Internet with access limited to a company or business. In effect, a private part of the Internet

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

IP Internet protocol

ISP Internet Service Provider: a company or organisation which provides access to the Internet. Users connect to the ISP's host through a modem or ADSL connection, and from there to the Internet itself. Local examples include Internode and SENet

IT Information technology

J

jargon What this glossary is about. For one set of explanations try *The New Hacker's Dictionary* from MIT Press (see yellow book), available online at www.catb.org/~esr/jargon/. If you want to understand and be understood you have no option but to learn it

Java A cross-platform programming language (derived from C++) which makes it possible for Web browsers to do animations and other interesting things. Some applications, e.g. ThinkFree Office, are written in Java

JavaScript Unrelated to Java, a scripting system for embedding code into Web pages

JPEG Joint Photographic Experts Group: a group which developed a compression scheme for graphics files. Photographs are typically stored as JPEG files, with filenames ending in .jpeg or .jpg. JPEG uses 'lossy' compression methods, thereby losing fine detail

K

kernel The core software of a Unix system

kilo A prefix meaning 1024 in computing terms. A kilobyte is therefore 1024 bytes. (Computing numbers are calculated in powers of 2, 210 in this case.)

knowbot A robot program used to search for information

From Apple Sauce October 2005

Puns etc

Two blondes walk into a building. You'd think at least one of them would have seen it.

Phone answering machine message:- "If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key."

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

I went to the butchers the other day and I bet him \$50 that he couldn't reach the meat off the top shelf. He said, "No, the steaks are too high."

My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli. A strong currant pulled him in.

I went to a seafood disco last week ... and pulled a muscle.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly. They lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your

kayak and heat it

Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.

A man went to see his doctor because he had strawberries growing out of his head. The doctor said "I'll give you some cream to put on it."

'Doctor, I can't stop singing "The Green, Green Grass of Home"'. "That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome." "Is it common?" "It's not unusual."

What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fsh.

Police arrested two kids yesterday, one was drinking battery acid, and the other was eating

fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off.

Somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen. It said, 'Parking Fine.' So that was nice.

A man said to his doctor "I've hurt my arm in several places" The doctor said, "Well don't go there anymore"

Ireland's worst air disaster occurred early this morning when a small 2-seater Cessna plane crashed into a cemetery. Irish search and rescue workers have recovered 1826 bodies so far and expect that number to climb as digging continues into the night

Rant... Bearing with Microsoft Word

Normal? Never! Peter Carter Microsoft Word must be the most-used — and abused — piece of software ever. Every bureaucrat and business executive seems to use it, and assumes that everyone else uses it, in the same version. And they use it for everything, including emailing photographs! I am continually receiving Word documents from bureaucrats and other people in organisations I am a member of or deal with. Almost invariably two things are evident: they don't know how to use Word, and I need the text as plain ASCII text, without the garbage that comes along in .doc files. It's that garbage, most of it formatting code, that bloats Word files beyond what is necessary. (Mind you, that garbage can be revealing at times: machine configurations, edits and deletions (including things the writer didn't want you to see).) Let's take the first topic, not knowing how to use Word. It's because they think Word (and other word processors) are typewriters with screens instead of paper. Their paragraph formatting is with blank paragraphs, tabs and spaces. Typefaces and margins are done paragraph by paragraph. The give-away is that everything is in Normal style. That wouldn't be so bad if everyone's Normal was the same as everyone else's, but it isn't. Take text from one document and flow it into another with different margin settings, for instance, and everything goes haywire. All those tabs and extra spaces have to be stripped out before the text is usable. I sometimes have to puzzle over heading levels in some documents. One came the other day from a government department, with two levels of heading with identical typeface. The only way to distinguish them was their placement. It's because of things like this that I have for many years insisted that people send contributions for publications I edit as plain text files, not Word .doc. Any Word file that turns up — some people are slow to get the message — *imAppleSauce* October 2005 29 mediately has its text copied and pasted into BBEdit for editing. So what's the answer? Consistent use of styles. Word's default styles may suit what you're doing, but if they're based on Normal, beware. Safer to define your own, beginning with a body style. Base indented list paragraph styles on it. Similarly for headings. Begin with a title style and work down the hierarchy. That way, you retain control of your document, and everything is consistent. Anyone who has to work with the text can instantly see what the heading and list levels are. If writers follow style guides correctly their text can even be imported directly into page layout programs such as In-

Design, preserving the styles in the process. The idea is to set up templates, with all the styles defined, and enforce their use. Then there is the matter of file size. Two government instrumentalities regularly send me meeting agendas with totally unnecessary graphics: 200K+ for one page is absurd. Even without graphics, the files are bigger than you want. A 100 K Word file I received the other day became an 8 K text file. If all you need to send is text, send it as that, .txt, not as a .doc. Be considerate of the recipient. As a writing tool, Word can be too smart for its own good. Spell checking is all very well, but all the other AutoWotsit features simply get in the way. Better to write with a simple text editor (BBEdit in this case), and bother about checking and formatting later. Concentrate on the ideas, not the appearance. If your document is to be published as is, perhaps on a Web site, it's better as a PDF. The layout is as you wanted it, the file is compact, (and people can't see if you didn't use styles). Word can export to HTML, but I'd rather do the coding myself. I've seen too much rubbish from FrontPage in recent weeks to give me much confidence. Many writers, particularly where they work collaboratively, find Word's Track Changes feature useful. Even so, I find Acrobat's better, particularly with Acrobat 7 where users with Reader only can annotate files Microsoft has announced that future versions of Word will use XML (eXtended Markup Language) as the file format. That's good news, provided that they don't tamper with the standards, as they are prone to do. Others already use XML, including StarOffice, OpenOffice, and even Apple Pages. Open standards, and the ability to readily manipulate file content, are a Good Thing.

In that I don't think much of the (mis)use of Word I may not be considered normal, but that doesn't concern me. As for Normal style, use it and you've lost control.

Some others' views

Cottrell, Allin, '1999 Word processors: stupid and inefficient': www.ecn.wfu.edu/~cottrell/wp.html

Goldberg, Jeff, 2003, 'MS-Word Is Not a Document Exchange Format': www.goldmark.org/netrants/no-word/attach.pdf

Richard M Stallman, 'We Can Put an End to Word Attachments': www.gnu.org/philosophy/no-word-attachments.html

BBEdit

The programmers' text editor for the Mac: www.barebones.com/products/bbedit/index.shtml.

Tutorial .. "How To Find A Lost File or Folder"

=====

This question comes around more than any other here at TNC ("The Newbie Club")headquarters. "How do I find the file I downloaded?" You can find anything on your computer using the Find function.

Click Start

Find (or Search in XP) Files or Folders. You'll see the "Find:All Files" dialog box. (Dialog box is another name for the little window you see.)

In this box are three lines:

1. Named: 2. Containing text: 3. Look in:

In XP;

1. All or Part of the File Name: 2. A word of Phrase in the File: 3. Look in:

Just type the name of the file you are looking for in line number one. If you don't know the file's name, well, that makes things rather difficult!

In the "Look in:" line, be SURE you select the location you want to search. I recommend you choose your (C:) drive. Then, when ready, click the "Find Now" button. A lower window pane will open, and you'll see the magnifying glass animate itself.

You can try using various file extensions with this search, just to try it. In the "Named:" line, type the following:

*.txt

That's asterisk dot tee ex tee. (Read it out loud. Sounds good, doesn't it?) The asterisk is a "wild card" that means search for anything that ends with .txt. You'll find a LOT of files on your computer! You can also try...

*.exe for executable files (programs and applications) *.jpg for graphics files (photographs, etc.) *.gif for more graphics (generally non-photographs) *.zip for zipped files (compressed with a zipping program)

That should give you a feel for things. If you want to see some common file extensions, and learn a bit more about how these work on your computer, visit this page: <http://newbieclub.com/files>

Don't allow yourself to be intimidated by your computer. Poking around it can be great fun.

Search for stuff on your computer. Click the Date and Advanced tabs on the Find dialog box. A lot of this stuff is pretty basic, common sense stuff. So click around and have FUN!

From Newbie Club Insider 4/10/2005

Subject: Unclassified: Quotes

I realised I was dyslexic when I went to a toga party dressed as a goat.

Cats have nine lives.

Which makes them ideal for experimentation.

The right to bear arms is slightly less ludicrous than the right to arm bears.

My dad is Irish and my mum is Iranian, which meant that we spent most of our family holidays in Customs.

The dodo died.

Then Dodi died, Di died and Dando died... Dido must be wetting herself.

My parents are from Glasgow which means they're incredibly hard, but I was never smacked as a child ... well maybe one or two grams to get me to sleep at night.

Is it fair to say that there'd be less litter in Britain if blind people were given pointed sticks?

You have to remember all the trivia that your girlfriend tells you, because eventually you get tested.

She'll go "What's my favourite flower?" and you murmur to yourself "Darn, I wasn't listening self-raising?".

I saw that show '50 Things To Do Before You Die'.

I would have

thought the obvious one was Shout For Help!!

Got a phone call today to do a gig at a fire station.

Went along. Turned out it was a bloody hoax.

Employee of the month is a good example of how somebody can be both a winner and a loser at the same time.

A dog goes into a hardware store and says "I'd like a job please". The hardware store owner says "We don't hire dogs, why don't you go join the circus?"

The dog replies "What would the circus want with a plumber".

I like to go into the Body Shop and shout out really loud "I've already got one!"

I enjoy using the comedy technique of self-deprecation - but I'm not very good at it.

If you're being chased by a police dog, try not to go through a

tunnel, then on to a little seesaw, then jump through a hoop of fire.

They're trained for that.

Warning... Online security **Phishers with sharp weapons**

Fred Showker **M**ay be the next worst thing: It's been about two years now since I first began talking about the online crime known as Phishing.

Now, the criminals have honed their phishing tools into spears and are targeting unwary computer users with a very pointed weapon. Phishing was bad enough. Online criminals committing multiple crimes by spamming millions of users then posing as favourite ecommerce institutions to steal their customers' identities. Known as the 'spoo' most phishers set up fake Web sites that look exactly like the users trusted Web site—eBay, Pay- Pal, SouthTrust, and others—and then harvest IDs and passwords for breaching private accounts. The e-mail is fake, the links fake, the Web site fake, all intended to lure in unsuspecting users. All along, the phishing has continued to develop better ways of prying sensitive info from users. Huge networks of compromised systems (botnets) now use increasingly sophisticated techniques to probe deeper and deeper. But evidently the spam shotgun blasts weren't taking in enough suckers. Now the phishers are sharpening their spears, using fake e-mails, posing as powerful executives of the targeted organizations, demanding the employee render their IDs and passwords as well as other sensitive details that can be used in identity theft.

It's referred to as Spear Phishing. Employees, fearing losing their jobs, see the (forged) sender address and (forged) reply-to address and think it must be real — handing over their identity on a silver e-mail. According to one article (among dozens) from *eWeek* recently, MessageLabs reports that they now typically see two attacks a week. The criminals do their homework, learn the company executives' names and addresses and fire off an attack to that specific company or government agency. Upon gaining the password, the criminal is free to gather sensitive data from the users' computer, steal e-mail

address lists for spamming, and even plant spyware, zombies or Trojans on the user's machine.

UK's NHTCU, (National Hi-Tech Crime Unit) has observed compromised machines are reporting back to Internet addresses in the Far East — another development of grave concern for national security.

At least two phishers go to jail The good news is, at least the NHTCU is on the case. They snagged two virulent phishers last June who now have been sentenced to a combined 10 years in prison. Douglas Havard (US citizen) and Lee Elwood (United Kingdom) were both found guilty of conspiracy to defraud and conspiracy to launder money. According to a Paul F Roberts article, the criminals' UK-based syndicate had links to Eastern European identity-theft rackets that are believed to have raked in over £6.5 million over two years. According to NHTCU these thugs were frequenters of online communities that traded stolen credit card data — uncovered by US Secret Service (Operation Firewall) which targeted sites like Shadowcrew.com, Carderplanet. com and key members of the online carding community. Best advice? If you get a demanding e-mail from the boss, don't open it—call upstairs to the head-honcho's office and ask what's up. If they don't know, be sure to tell them.

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From Apple Sauce October 2005



Digital camera tips

Tim Newbery

Most compact digital cameras now come with a considerable range of options, which most of us will never use unless we understand their properties.

White balance

Have you ever wondered why in a picture taken inside at night without flash everything seems orange? This is because what is called the colour temperature of the light is less than that of daylight.

Colour temperature is measured in what are called kelvins. On a sunny day if you tested the light with a colour temperature meter it would be around 5200 kelvins (5200 K). This is what all general purpose films are balanced for.

If you then went into the shade it would be around 8000 K. If you were to take a reading late in the afternoon or early in the morning it would be around 3000K. The lower the colour temperature the more yellow the light and the higher the colour temperature the more blue the light.

Normal light bulbs are around 3200 K, which is why pictures taken under this light source, unless corrected, will result in whites being orange/yellow. Thus the term White Balance. By making changes for White Balance you can try to ensure that whites are really white in a picture.

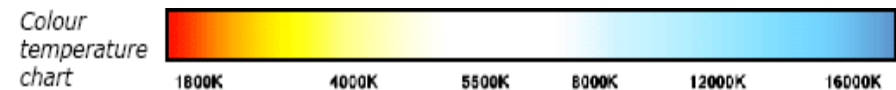
How to use these settings

Your camera will probably have one or more of the following options under the White Balance setting: auto, daylight, shadow, tungsten, fluorescent, and on some cameras a series of symbols representing perhaps light globes, fluorescent tubes, sun, cloud. Some cameras even allow you to set a specific colour temperature in kelvins.

Selecting any of these will change the colour of

white, and so all colours, in your pictures. What the camera is doing is adding a filter to your picture depending on the setting used. Tungsten light is yellow compared with daylight so the camera adds the opposite colour, which is blue. Fluorescent tubes are green in colour and so that setting adds magenta or pink. Some cameras have more than one fluorescent setting to cater for so-called daylight fluorescent tubes as well as the normal ones. The cloudy setting adds yellow to compensate for the bluer light in shade on sunny days.

Most people will just set the camera on auto but if the colour balance is important a few seconds spent making an adjustment to the colour temperature setting will save time spent later on the computer, and ensure that if you just take your card to be printed the colours will be closer to what you are looking for. The pictures show what changes are made to whites with different settings on a sunny day. The T-shirt on the left is actually white.



From Apple Sauce October 2005

@ Where did they get my address?

The traditional way for spammers to get email addresses is from public sources like newsgroups, forums or the TO: and CC: lines of widely distributed messages.

Even some unscrupulous Internet providers have been known to 'rent' their list of customers to get some extra income, but I'd doubt that it happens much these days.

The cost of dealing with spam would be much higher than the income received from list rental.

Some companies do rent their email list to outsiders but, again, most web sites are wary of doing that now.

At Office Watch we often get lucrative offers to rent our subscriber lists – we always decline.

But there is a way for spammers to get your email address – even if you've never used it at all!

It's usually called a 'dictionary attack' which is really a high-tech form of educated guesswork.

The spammer tries many combinations of email address that are likely to be used on a high use mail system.

Let's say there's a popular ISP called dagg.com and you want to spam their millions of users.

You can find out their addresses by trying common combinations of names and initials with small messages.

For each message the dagg.com mail system will accept the message (which means the address is valid) or decline with an 'invalid mailbox' message (which means you ignore that address and move on).

The combinations you try, in a simple example, can be taking the name: "peter" and trying

peter@

and

peterA@

and

peterB@

and

peter.A@

and

peter-A@ etc.

It takes millions of combinations but with a program to do it you can churn through them without supervision.

If you have your own email domain then you've probably seen spam to addresses like postmaster@

or

manager@ etc – if you have a 'catch all' account for all mail to unallocated addresses.

If your email address is more unusual (say a rare first name or other combination) then it might not be tried in a dictionary attack.

Of course, the large email providers are wise to this and fight against dictionary attacks.

Computers that try to send many messages in such a pattern should be blocked, but the spammers try to work around that.

It's hard for computer systems to tell the difference between a dictionary attack and legitimate high-volume mailings (like email newsletters).

@ I got spam but my address isn't listed?

Often spam arrives with email addresses in TO: or CC: that are similar but not the same as your address.

You can't find your address in the message – so how did it get to you?

That's simple – your address is in the BCC line.

One of the many methods spammers use to get past filters is to populate the TO and CC lines with some addresses to make it look (to a spam filter) more like a legitimate message.

@ The BCC myth

We've mentioned this before but we still get questions about the Myth of BCC – Blind Carbon Copy.

This story alleges that spammers can grab your email address from the BCC list in a message, not just TO and CC.

This is wrong – and it's so easily checked that it's amazing that the story persists.

All you have to do is look at the header of an incoming message for a BCC list of addresses – you won't find one.

When you send a message with BCC's then that list of addresses is stripped out by the sending SMTP server (most likely at your ISP) and BCC's are sent to each person on the list.

In years long past there were faulty mail servers that passed along the

COMPUTER TIPS AND HINTS

Windows XP

Taskbar Buttons

By default, all open windows using the same application are grouped under a single icon. This saves Task Bar space.

If you want to group, or ungroup, similar taskbar buttons...

* Right click on Taskbar * Select Properties * Check or Uncheck Group similar taskbar buttons

Windows 98

Customize the Start Menu

You can right click on any item in the start menu and move it, copy it, delete it, change it's properties whatever. To move or copy an item from your desktop to the Start Menu, just drag it over the Start icon and the Start Menu will open up. Drop it wherever you want it in the start menu.

Microsoft Word

You may have a general idea how to spell a word, but who can remember all those rules - I before E except after... if you have the ability to take your best guess, Microsoft Word can help you fix the spelling error on the fly without having to enter the spell check!

* Type the word as you think it should be spelled * Use the left arrow key to focus the cursor anywhere within the word * Press the Windows Application Key (the key next to the right control key or Shift + F10 * Use the down arrow to select the correct spelling *

Press enter

The misspelled word will be replaced with the correct spelling. Press control + end to return to the end of your document and continue working!

Thunderbird

Thunderbird allows you to have a different signature for each of your email accounts. Instructions on how to create a signature file

and use it in Thunderbird are available here. If you want your signature to include graphics or html-formatted text such as colours or boldfacing, then create your signature file as an html document and save it with the ".html" file extension.

Tip for making an html-formatted signature

If you don't know how to make an html file to use for a signature, you can try the procedure described below.

1. In Thunderbird, click on the "Write" button to compose a new message.
2. Type in the text you want to use for your signature and add whatever formatting you want (font style, color, boldfacing, etc.).
3. Select the text you want in your signature (or go to "Edit -> Select All" if you want the whole message as your signature).
4. From the "Insert" menu, choose "HTML...".
5. Select the text in the window that pops up and copy the selected text ("Ctrl+C", or right mouse click and select "Copy").
6. Open your favorite text editor (such as Notepad) and paste in the text you just copied.
7. Save the file to your computer, giving it a name with the ".html" extension (such as "signature1.html").
8. In Thunderbird again, go to "Tools -> Account Settings -> ".
9. Check the "Attach this signature" option.
10. Click the "Choose..." button and attach the signature file that you just created and saved on your computer.

Internet

Close the Browser Window Quickly

Here are two keyboard shortcuts that you can use to quickly close the currently selected Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 browser window: ALT-F4 or CONTROL-W. These shortcuts can be useful if you use the keyboard to do much of your website navigation.

Digital Photography

Can you easily reset your digital camera settings to the default? Check to see if your digital camera has a reset or panic button, such as a button labeled "P". This can help you quickly change your settings to the defaults in case you accidentally configured manual focus, a long shutter speed, an aperture that is too wide, etc. Also, if

you have to configure your digital camera for a particular photograph, after that is done, a quick press of the "P" button can be quicker in getting your camera back to "normal" than fooling with several knobs and buttons.

Pocket PC

Convert Word Documents to MS Reader eBooks

You can download a tool from [Microsoft](#) that will let you convert Word documents to .lit files ([ebooks]) for use with Microsoft Reader.

First, ensure your computer has Microsoft Word 2000 or XP and that it's not running. Then visit Microsoft's website and click on the link under Download. Once you've installed the add-in, the MS Reader icon will show up on the toolbar in Word, next to the Printer icon. Your new tool is ready for use:

1. Save the document first.
2. Click the MS Reader icon.
3. Edit the Title, Author, and Filename fields if necessary.
4. Under Formatting Options, check "Convert to Microsoft Reader Formatting."
5. Check "Reformat Table Of Contents" if you have a table of contents.
6. If you want to save the .lit file to your Pocket PC, go to "Send to Microsoft Reader Library on box" and check the "Reading device using synchronized files" box. The file will be saved to (Device Name)\My Documents\My Library on your desktop PC, and will be synchronized to the My Library folder under My Documents on your Pocket PC.
7. To save the .lit file to your desktop computer instead of to the Pocket PC, check "This Computer." The file will be saved to "My Documents/My Library."
8. To add a cover to your .lit file, click "Customize Covers", and select the [graphic] you want to use, or browse to the folder containing the graphics. When you're done, click "OK".

Macintosh

Give Classic More Memory

If you run several Classic applications at the same time, you may wish to give Classic (not the individual application) more memory. Go to System Preferences. Select "Classic." Make sure you are not in the Memory/Versions tab. Now Option/click the "Memory/Versions" tab. This reveals a new button, Adjust Memory, in the lower right corner. Click the "Adjust Memory" button and a new dialog appears allowing you to boost Classic memory. - *Mouse Droppings, Corvallis OR*

How do I hide the hard drives on the desktop?

1. In the Finder select Finder -> Preferences...
 2. In the Finder Preferences window check the uncheck the box that says "Show disks on the Desktop"
 3. Close the window
 4. Finished
- The disks are no longer displayed on the desktop.

From SeniorLink Sentinel October 2005

@ Warning: Phishing spreads

Not a nice way to start the week but there's some new types of phishing that are worth keeping an eye on.

Phishing is the practice of sending emails that trick you into clicking on a link and entering your personal details onto a bogus web site.

The email and site look very much like the company being emulated.

Usually the phishing is aimed directly at banks, and most of us will have received messages purporting to come from a range of banks.

Most commonly they are US banks but financial institutions all over the world are targeted.

Paypal suffers from phishing attempts more than most.

The messages often ask you to confirm your account details, saying that money is waiting for you or use some other ruse to encourage you to act.

Fortunately for consumers, many of these messages use either standard expressions about the need to "verify your account details" etc, or use poorly written English and so many of them can be detected.

In recent times the phishers have spread their traps beyond banks and are now trying other places where, if you give them access, they can get your credit card or other details.

Amazon

Amazon is the target of phishing with some very sincere messages.

Some general spam promoting various products are formatted to look like they are from Amazon but when you click on the link you go to some other online store.

Yahoo

Be it Yahoo Photos, Yahoo Games or some other part of the Yahoo group you might get a message pretending to come from there.

Soccer World Cup

Soccer fans might be tempted by emails saying that they've won tickets to the 2006 or 2010 World Cups.

FIFA has a [specific warning](#) about such messages.

eBay

Like Paypal, eBay is a popular phishing target.

MSN

Is fairly typical, messages that warn you about 'automatic verification procedures'.

This is by no means an exhaustive list - new scams are appearing all the time. You need to keep an eye out for scams beyond just banks and financial institutions.

INTERNATIONAL THINKING ?Question:

What is the truest definition of Globalization?

?Answer: Princess Diana's death.

?Question: How come?

?Answer: An English princess ? with an Egyptian boyfriend ? crashes in a French tunnel, ? driving a German car ? with a Dutch engine, ? driven by a Belgian who was drunk ? on Scottish whisky, (check the bottle before you change the spelling) ? followed closely by Italian Paparazzi, ? on Japanese motorcycles; ? treated by an American doctor, ? using Brazilian medicines. ? This is sent to you by an American, ? using Bill Gate's technology, ? and you're probably reading this on your computer, ? that use Taiwanese chips, ? and a Korean monitor, ? assembled by Bangladeshi workers ? in a Singapore plant, ? transported by Indian lorry-drivers, ? hijacked by Indonesians, ? unloaded by Sicilian longshoremen, ? and trucked to you by Mexican illegals..... ? That, my friends, is Globalization

Article "How To Buy A Desktop PC" From Joe Robson <http://newbieclub.com> It's easy to make a mistake when buying a new computer. Many people end up spending a ton of money on something expensive that they'll never use to its full potential, while others buy something so small that they have to do expensive upgrading in a matter of months. There's few things more disappointing than finding out your 6 month old computer can't do what you want it to do, or that you don't really need that \$400 graphics card to run Microsoft Word. Don't just buy blindly. Hopefully this article will help you ask the right questions and get the right hardware for your needs in return.

Power Supply: Often overlooked as a component, your power supply is an important part of your computer as it powers all the internal components. The power supply you need, will largely be determined by the components in your PC - in particular CPU type, graphics card and number of internal devices.

For Pentium 4 and all AMD CPUs, a minimum 300W power supply is recommended. If you want to run one of the new ATI X8xx or GeForce 6xxx series 3D graphics cards, don't even try anything weaker than a 400W power supply.

Never overlook the significance of a power supply – an underpowered system will be prone not only to unreliable operation, but also to component damage.

CPU: On the entry level side of things you have a choice between AMD's Sempron CPUs and Intel's Celeron D. These CPUs are not for the hardcore gamer - they're for the average user who only want to run office applications and use the Internet.

For the hardcore user/gamer there's the Pentium 4 and the AMD Athlon 64 CPUs.

There's little to choose between the two big guns in the CPU business. The slowest Pentium 4 CPU readily available at present is the 3Ghz version, while AMD's equivalent, the Athlon 64 3000+ will likewise satisfy most users' demand for processing power.

Go faster than that and the increase in cost becomes quite significant, and you'll have to weigh that up against your budget and your demands

Motherboard: The most important thing to keep in mind when picking a motherboard is to get one that's fairly future proof.

For Pentium 4 that means a motherboard that supports socket 775 CPUs, and for AMD a motherboard that supports socket 939 CPUs. Also, make sure your motherboard has enough expansion slots (most commonly PCI slots) to support all additional cards you may want to use in future - including sound cards, TV cards, wireless network cards, etc.

If you're a gamer, also make sure that your motherboard supports either an AGP 8x (obsolete soon), but preferably a PCI-Express 16x slot for a 3D graphics card.

3D Graphics Card: While most motherboards these days feature an onboard graphics card that is suitable for the casual user, these aren't adequate for gamers. With the old AGP 8x architecture almost obsolete, the way to go is a PCI-Express graphics card if you have a motherboard that supports it. For casual gamers who want to play a bit of Sims and Harry Potter, nVidia's GeForce 6600 and ATI's X700 series of cards will do the trick. For the hardcore gamer who wants to play cutting edge games like Doom 3 and Battlefield 2 at rocking frame rates, don't get anything smaller than a GeForce 6600GT or ATI X800 with 256MB of GDDR3 memory on the card. 128MB is also acceptable if you don't want to play at resolutions higher than 1152x864. Before buying a graphics card, make sure that a) your motherboard has the appropriate slot for it and b) that your power supply is strong enough to support it. **RAM:** RAM is fast memory used by your computer to execute tasks. When your computer runs out of RAM, it starts swapping data to the much slower hard drive, which slows down your entire system.

With RAM being so cheap these days I'd recommend you get at least 512MB. If you're going to run Windows XP, don't get less than 256MB or you'll slow even the fastest CPU powered computer to a crawl. For hardcore gamers, less than 1GB simply isn't an option anymore. **Hard drive:** The smallest hard drive you can buy at the time of writing is 80GB.

That's more than the average home/office user will ever fill, while it's not nearly enough for music/video collectors or avid gamers. At the moment the first big price jump in hard drives comes between 200GB and 250GB, so 200GB would be a great option if you need some serious space. Be sure to make comparisons if you need more space - for example, two 200GB drives are much cheaper than one 400GB, even though you get the same amount of space. On the other hand again, two 80GB drives are more expensive than one 160GB drive. It's also worth getting a SATA hard drive if your motherboard supports it. It's much faster than IDE drives, which are still abundantly available.

Optical Drives: Fortunately CD-ROM drives have quietly vanished off the market, so you can now get more versatile DVD-ROM and CD-ReWriter drives very cheaply. If you want to be able to write DVDs, naturally go for a DVD-RW drive, and make sure the drive you get supports double-layer writing so you can use the new 8.5GB double layer DVD discs in it, which is a whole lot of backup storage. So, that's just a quick rundown of the things to keep in mind when buying a new computer. Fortunately it's almost impossible to buy a slow computer these days - only gamers and other users of high-demand software need to pay special attention to what they get.

Article from Joe Robson who owns The Newbie Club, widely recognized as the best and most Newbie-Friendly site on the Web. Free membership and tutorials at <http://newbieclub.com>

Article "Newbie Guide to Buying a Lap Top" From Joe Robson <http://newbieclub.com> (Please be aware that this article requires a bit more than the normal basic Newbie knowledge of terminology, so if a particular techie-word confuses you, just type it into the search bar at <http://google.com>

for an explanation. Here we go Have you priced a laptop computer lately? Buying a new laptop is a big investment; and just how big of an investment you want to make is entirely up to you. Look in your Sunday newspaper flyers to see countless models on sale each week. In the early days, selections were made by looking at the specifications and the general appearance. However that's not the sole criteria any longer. Everyday more and more people are now stepping inside the mobile world, and with so many models of laptops now available, how can you be sure about the choice you make? Below are several factors you should consider: CPU (Central Processing Unit), Video Card, hard disk, noise, battery life and RAM (Random Access Memory).

CPU is the main component which determines the performance of your computer and also the heating and the battery life. There is a trade-off between the CPU performance and the battery-life and power consumption (heating). If you want a laptop which would replace a desktop and if you are not planning to travel with it a lot then there are several different offers with desktop CPUs integrated in the laptop main board (such as a P4). If you are fond of mobility and are going to use your new laptop for your business purposes or school, then you should consider buying a laptop with more suitable CPUs. AMD Athlon can be a solution:

Athlon processors are designed for users who are looking for economical solutions, both purchase and usage. Older models of Athlon are no where near Intel Pentium products from the point of performance, and yet new models like 2800+ are potent enough to compete with P4 2.8 GHz. There is one more model of CPU that many of the customers prefer and that is Centrino.

Centrino is the latest attempt by Intel to balance the trade off between the performance and mobility issues. With the 2 MB second level cache, the

Pentium CPU is modified for the laptop which eases the burden of the CPU and implicitly pulls down the levels of heating and power consumption. **RAM** and the graphic card are also two important factors for the quality of the laptop.

There are two kinds of RAM on the market: SD RAM and DD RAM. In any case, there is no trade off, no comparison: DD RAM is better, and yet, you still have to be careful about the clock specification of the RAM. If you buy a RAM with 3.0 MHz clock speed, you will see the performance improvement it supplies to the whole system.

Another thing to consider is that some computers have 512 MB RAM with two slots (256 x 2) which is not very good for the new laptop you are going to buy. Overall, if you want a good laptop, you should consider one equipped with a 3.0 MHz, 512 MB, DD RAM. There are various video cards on the market today. The first thing you should check is the "ON-Board" specification in the video card. These cards are integrated into the main board and generally use your main RAM as for the video memory. If you are going to use your laptop for general purposes, not for gaming or 3-D design which would require 3D hardware acceleration, these laptops with onboard video card are for you. However, if you are a dedicated games player, you would be disappointed with the screen delays and freezes. The last technical detail is the hard disk. While buying a hard disk there is a detail which is much more important than the capacity: RPM - Rotation Per Minute. This determines how fast the data transfer rate is to the CPU to be processed, so this specification also plays a huge role while dealing with multimedia stuff. So if you're in the market for a new laptop computer, one suggestion is to consider buying a Centrino laptop with an onboard video card with a big RAM if you are planning to use it for school or business purposes and also randomly for movies and music.

Nevertheless, Pentium computers with AGP or PCI Express video off-board video cards would give you the performance of a desktop if you don't mind the weight, noise and the heating of the laptop. With so many decisions to make, take your time; do your homework and invest wisely. Article from Joe Robson who owns The Newbie Club, widely recognized

as the best and most Newbie-Friendly site on the Web. Free membership and tutorials at <http://newbieclub.com>

