

Please note, due to the School Holidays there will be no meeting in August. Next meeting 11th September.

Meeting 10/07/2013

Agony Corner:

Updating a couple of last month's problems...

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'.....

- One solution offered was to change the browser to 'Chrome'....
- This has been done and solved the problem.

2) More on e-Books...

- It's now possible to borrow books to read on your tablet from Suffolk Libraries. You don't have to drive there, but you do have to download OverDrive Media Console. The app is available for nearly every platform and device out there (iOS, Android, Windows Phone, BlackBerry, Nook, Kobo, Sony Reader, Mac, and Windows but not, unfortunately, Kindle in the UK). Find it here <http://omc.overdrive.com/>
- Once installed go to Suffolk Libraries at <http://tinyurl.com/m76gazy> . To log on you'll need your library card number and PIN (if you've mislaid this, Stowmarket Library will provide).
- As opposed to the free books available on other sites, this enables you to borrow best seller novels as well as reference books.
- You can use your library card to borrow ebooks, put them on hold, and create wish lists.
- If you subscribe to Amazon Prime, you can borrow books for your Kindle from here as well as download 'LoveFilm' videos. (Prime - free delivery, Kindle books and Love Film, £79.00 pa)

3) 'I have problems with text size on my PC'..

- We've discussed this several times at previous meetings.
- Here's an article which, if you follow the instructions, should give you a permanent increase in text size without having to make adjustments as you go along. http://ask-leo.com/how_can_i_make_the_text_on_my_screen_larger.html
- Feed back... works as described (except in Google emails for some reason. 'Ctrl +' will enlarge Gmail pages, 'Ctr -' to reverse).

4) Dragon Naturally Speaking (DNS)

- Following Clive's inspirational presentation, 4 more members have now purchased DNS. We are all in various stages of the learning process and, perhaps, could make a collective report back at a future meeting.

5) 'On two (!) of my machines I get a message 'Do you want to keep running this script or not?'. What does it mean and how do I stop it?'

- This is quite common, particularly when running the Microsoft Internet Explorer browser.
- There are a few reasons why you are getting this script error. The first is that the author of the webpage has simply made some sort of programming error and this is typically the most common reason.
- The next reason is that you are possibly running a pop-up killer of some kind which closes the pop-up too quickly which causes the script of the website to fail and thus giving you the error because it didn't complete.

- The third reason is that you have some sort of spyware or adware infection that tries to launch something such as a popup but causes script errors.
- You can tell Internet Explorer to ignore these errors when they occur and not show you an alert about them. Here is the procedure:
- Open Internet Explorer, In the top menu, Click on Tools and then Internet Options.
- Click on the Advanced Tab, Find where it says "Disable Script Debugging" and tick the box beside it.
- Now, Find where it says "Display a notification about every script error" and untick the box beside it.
- *As always, the simpler route would be to try 'Chrome' instead.*

6) 'I've encountered a similar problem (to the above) recently when uploading my photos to PhotoBox, warning me my computer is running too slowly to complete the task'

- This is more likely to be a glitch on the PhotoBox system rather than your PC.
- Suggest you take a screen shot (PrintScreen button) of the error message when it next happens, contact PhotoBox Help attaching screen shot and they should be able to solve the problem.

7) 'In Spybot Search & Destroy', was is a 'Level 5' threat'?

- I've searched on the web and it seems that many people are asking this question but a definitive answer is hard to find.
- Some say 'Medium' whilst others say 'High'. One answer said the scale was 1-10 (low to high threat) but without much conviction!
- Interestingly, when I run SpyBot at home there are no references to numerical threat levels.

8) 'Each time I boot up my Widows 7 desk top machine I get this error message *'This action cannot be completed because the other programme is busy.Choose " Switch To" to activate the busy program and correct the problem'*. Various options are given but nothing really solves the problem.'

- This question prompted a lot of discussion as most people had experienced it in one form or another.
- It is possible that the message is being caused because something in the system is running automatically at system startup and this should be investigated.
- Research on the web also shows that it is a common problem which may be solved with something as simple as 'Empty the recycle bin'!
- Here is Microsoft Windows Community Forum link, <http://tinyurl.com/7fvxdzg> and the solution may be buried in there.

Our topic for the day:

Many thanks to **Joyce Kay** who showed us how she **monitors and controls** her own **financial matters**. Starting with a blank sheet in **Microsoft Excel** she created a spreadsheet from scratch which could easily be adapted for anyone to use.

Joyce used four interlinked spreadsheets. With the help of guidance notes printed on the page and working though each in turn she showed how easy it is to set up simple home budgetary control.

For ease of reference/use and with her permission I've combined these into one spreadsheet. (Members received Excel file with original email).

As it's easier to operate this way she is now adapting her 2014 budget planning accordingly.

Following on from Joyce's presentation, we had time to look at a few more simple functions in Excel. First, conditional formatting, where numbers in a column can show in red if higher than a reference figure or green if lower. If you wish to know more about how to achieve this, please let me know.

Next we looked at a useful way copying data across or down an infinite number of cells without typing it in individually. I've posted an illustration on YouTube <http://youtu.be/CxlujN5eedI> . (Make sure to view in large viewer or full screen - it may start blurry but clears after a few seconds).

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 11th September, 2013, 1.30pm at Stowupland High School.

Topic for the day:

By special request, we will have a 'Back to Basics' session today. I will update this topic, last covered in January 2012, and try to deal with some common questions that arise.

Please remember to bring a USB stick with you so you can take away copies of anything you might feel useful (although I will publish it later with the email).