Meeting 12/02/2014

Agony Corner:

We had a quick review of last month's problems which were answered on the day or in the follow up email (q.v.), and then moved on to new issues...

1) 'Last meeting 'Avast' was recommended. At first use I accepted a quick scan but this went on for an hour! Also it reported many password protected files...'

- At first use, even a quick scan can take some time.
- Password protected files.. there's information about this on the Avast forum page http://forum.avast.com/index.php?topic=97743.0

2) 'Some times when I'm shutting down my PC I get the message "End programme siteranktray.exe" which stops the machine from closing until I click 'end now'. What is it?

- Any programme that is still running when you shut down may prompt this kind of message.
- If it's not one you recognise, it's best to check it out.
- Searching Google shows that this is a Windows programme (not normally considered a threat) running in the background and powering 'Site Ranker', a programme to enable you to do just that.
- Getting the error suggest it may have been corrupted or attacked by a virus.
- If you don't want it and did not knowingly install it you may be able to remove it via Control Panel/ Add remove programmes.
- Also, it's best to run an antimalware programme such as Malware Bytes to check for possible infection.

3) From several meetings ago ..'Can I download and save radio programmes from BBC programme iPlayer Radio?'

- It's possible to stream and listen to BBC radio programmes for up to a week after broadcast but, at the moment, it's not possible to download and save most shows (there is software available on the net to enable you to do this but, due to copyright issues, some may not be not strictly legal.) A popular programme for recording/editing is is 'Audacity' http://audacity.sourceforge.net/ but it's not easy to use and, again, due to DRM issues probably wouldn't work with BBC iPlayer.
- There are, however, many 'podcasts' which the BBC has made available that can be down loaded and saved. This article gives a fuller explanation of what's possible now and what may be coming up this year .... http://iplayerhelp.external.bbc.co.uk/help/downloading/radio_again

4) 'I'm planning to by a tablet but would like it to be comparable with/read files on my XP PC.

- This is not a problem and there are several ways that you can either read the files or even operate your PC from a tablet.
- Splashtop: http://www.splashtop.com/personal Remote access. Asus (Android) for example provide software to install on your PC, setting it up for access from your tablet. No doubt, other tablet makers do the same.
- Join.me: Simple system to allow on PC to access and control another, similarly to allow you to control your PC from the tablet. https://join.me/ .. we have demonstrated amongst the group at a previous meeting.
- Team Viewer: This is an expensive programme for businesses but free for personal use. Install the app on your tablet, set up an account and then install the appropriate version on your PC. Provided

it's switched on you can then access and control your PC from anywhere
http://www.teamviewer.com/en/download/currentversion.aspx

- ES File Explorer: This is an enhanced version of the Android File Manager, which if the tablet and the PC are on the same network (LAN), enables you to read and copy files from the PC to the tablet. On the tablet, just go to the Google Apps store http://tinyurl.com/pvrmzdx

5) 'After Windows update when logging on I get a message "User Profile Service Failed the Logon. User Profile cannot be loaded". It cost me £30.00 to get this fixed at Stow Computers!'

- This does seem to be a common problem in Vista or Win 7 in , often caused by a Windows update, which isn't easily fixed.
- I've found a few possible reasons and solutions but it's too complicated to go into here although you might want to read this, http://tinyurl.com/n5flbej
- One suggestion offered is to check the Advanced Security Settings for the C:\Users\Default folder and ensure you check the box "Replace all child object permission with inheritable permissions from this object".

Topic for the day: Many thanks to Marian for talking again about **'Photo Manipulation using Photoshop Elements'**. This proved to be a very informative, interesting and entertaining interactive session.

Everyone was able to load up the same picture and work along with Marian as she demonstrated a number of techniques. She left me with a step by step summary which I've copied and attached herewith so you can experiment at home.

- We used Photoshop Elements at the school; the current version 12 launched last year at about £75.00, currently £44.99 on Amazon.
- There are plenty of free photo manipulation alternatives......
- Picasa 3: We have looked at this in the recent past. Not as comprehensive as Elements but plenty of useful basic enhancement tools http://picasa.en.softonic.com/ and much, much more
- Pixlr Editor: Easy to use online editor. Very similar in use to Elements and even includes 'layers', very unusual for a free programmes http://pixlr.com/editor/.
- Gimp: Quite difficult to learn but considered by many to be the best free alternative to Photoshop itself, http://www.gimp.org/
- Irfanview: One of my favourites, this programme can open almost any picture format and many audio ones as well. I use it as my default picture viewer as well as for renaming, resizing and cropping. Nowhere near as many editing features as Photoshop/Elements and doesn't support 'layers' but it does provided enough image adjustment tools to cover all the basic needs including an excellent 'Auto Colour Correction' tool. Plus, if you have a folder full of pictures you can create a self extracting slide show in less than a minute with just a few clicks of the mouse http://www.irfanview.com/

Next Meeting

Will be on **Wednesday 12th March,** 1.30pm at Stowupland School.

Topic for the day: Following a suggestion from one of our members we will be discussing '**The Pending Demise of Windows XP** - what should we be concerned about and what are the alternatives?' Many of our members are still on XP and would wish to continue with it, others have graduated onto Windows 7 and some have already taken a chance on Windows 8.1

We'll look together at these issues and if possible, compare notes about our experiences. I know that several of you take the **C**omputer **A**ctive magazine so you will know that they've been running a series of

articles on this topic over the last few issues. I would be most helpful if you could look back on these so that we will have a basic core of knowledge to work on.

Additionally, I've been informed that one of our members has been trying to help another set up **Skype** on his laptop so that he can visually communicate with his family in Australia so we've decide to do this as an exercise at the meeting. I know that more than one member of the group uses Skype on their laptop so if you'd like to bring them along to the meeting we can set up the new account and (hopefully) communicate around the room.

Peter