

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST. NEXT MEETING DATE – WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2014

Meeting 09/07/2014

Agony Corner:

For the benefit of those who were not at the June meeting, we reviewed some of the the topics raised at that meeting (qv June email).

1) Printing from an iPod or Android tablet.....

- An information link (<http://www.tabletpreview.com/howto/how-to-print-from-an-ipad-or-android-tablet/>) had been provided and will be followed up.

2) Sharing information between PCs/Laptops at home and away from home.....

- As we've discussed before, the simplest (and free method) to share files is to use 'Dropbox', <https://www.dropbox.com/> . Full instructions in previous email.
- For viewing and even taking control of another machine, we've demonstrated the use of 'Join.me' in the past. The free version can be accessed at <https://www.join.me/pricing>
- 'Team Viewer' is an expensive programme for businesses but *free* for personal use . See last email for full instructions plus an attached CA article on the topic - <http://www.teamviewer.com/en/download/currentversion.aspx>.

3) Malicious programmes, PuPs and the like and the need for effective 'Back-up' of your data.

- Members had reviewed the information from the National Crime agency and found it useful <http://www.getsafeonline.org/nca>
- Make sure you take regular copies of your pictures and files, backing up to an external hard disk. I use a simple back up programme for daily automatic saving to an external hard disk (Karen's Replicator in both XP and Win 8.1) then once a week copy this to another hard disk which is then detached from the PC. Attempts to send the Replicator exe installation file by email (even wrapped up in a zip file) were unsuccessful so I've prepared some links for you to get it and use it:-
- Download link: <http://tinyurl.com/l2jvn82> The first item on the list is the one you want, version 3.6.9
- A video showing how to install Karen on your PC <http://tinyurl.com/kzea4nh> (a link in this takes you to the old Karen site with version 3.6.8 – I don't know how different this is to 3.6.9)
- The follow on video, How to set up and use Karen <http://tinyurl.com/k966sy4> . Both these videos very clearly and comprehensively explain the process. Remember, it's the 'My Documents' you want to back up here, *not* the whole of your C:/ drive.
- I've used Karen Replicator successfully in XP and Win 8.1

4) More about PuPs. 'In trying to remove a PuP I used Revo Uninstaller, as recommended elsewhere, which seemed to do the job but in the process lost all my emails. The 'Restore Point' Revo was supposed to have created was not there, nor were any other restore points available. I could retrieve my 'Received' email from my mail server but unfortunately this doesn't store 'Sent' ones.'

- There is (are?) a multitude of issues here. Web searches reveal a lot of problems regarding 'restore points', unfortunately too many to go into here – Microsoft itself is not much help but it might be worth checking this out <http://tinyurl.com/q6p2g3s>
- We talked a lot about Windows Live Mail (and see below) and it's always a good idea to periodically back up your emails. First create a folder on your back up drive, 'Email Back-up say, then within that another folder named as the date, 2014-07-28, say.

- Then in WLM go to File/Export email/Email messages/Windows Live Mail then browse to to prepared folder, the Next then All. Messages can be reinstalled by following 'Import' in the File menu. The *.eml files are text files and also be read in Word or other text editor.

New items...

5) 'I have received a letter that I would like to convert to a text document so that I can edit/add to etc. I do not have any effective OCR software'.

- Scan the letter and make sure you save as pdf.
- Go to <http://www.online-convert.com/> . You will see several conversion option boxes. Choose Document Converter and your target format, docx, say
- <http://document.online-convert.com/convert-to-docx> On this page, ignore everything except the section you need – see <http://u3astowmarket.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/online-conversion-tool.pdf> and follow the procedure shown.
- Depending on your file size, the resulting document will be converted and downloaded into your default folder in a very short time.

6) 'I have a pdf on my old XP machine that I want to read on my Win 7 machine. I copied via to a USB memory stick but when I tried to open it on the Win 7 machine I got a message saying 'this file is not recognised ?'

- If the file opens ok on the XP machine and the Win 7 has Adobe Reader installed then this probably means that the file was corrupted in copying to the USB.
- The machines are connected via the home network. Suggest, from the Win 7 machine locate the pdf on the XP machine then double click and it should open.

7) 'I tried to download the EBay PowerPoint files from Dropbox which you provided for the November 2103 topic. All I got was a message from Dropbox saying the link had been disabled. Is it still there?'

- All the files I've ever posted on Dropbox are still there. I tried the supplied link and got the same message. On investigation, it seems that DropBox have had some security issues this year and have been disabling links wholesale. If you are interested, this page goes someway to explaining why <https://blog.dropbox.com/2014/05/web-vulnerability-affecting-shared-links/>
- I've created a new link and the EBay file can now be read/downloaded from <https://db.tt/rRZhCvgF>

Topic for the day:

<http://www.gcflearnfree.org/topics>

<http://www.gcflearnfree.org/computers/computerbasics>

I'd previously circulated details of the free learning site, 'gcflearnfree' and this was the basis of the session (for the third and last time!). Using the web site as a launch pad, members selected individual topics and we went through them together prompting various digressions along the way.

- *How can I apply a time/transition to a Powerpoint slide?* We looked up 'Topics' > PowerPoint > 15 Transitions <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/powerpoint2007/15> .
- We worked through each lesson together and arrived at the answer on the 4th page (there is a video in this (p1) and other lessons which, because of the speed of the school network, we couldn't use, is accessed from the page directly (but seen here via YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rom1y-w7sY>). There is also an example to download so you can work on a file whilst following the lesson.

- We were well satisfied that we'd found an answer to a member's question at the first attempt!
- *I'm interested in the 'Cloud' topic.* A good place to start is 'Google Drive', 'Topics' > Using the Cloud > Google Drive > Google Drive and Docs. Have a look around, this is a comprehensive introduction to cloud storage. Google currently offers 15Gb of free storage for all your documents and files. Here's a PC Pro comparison of Dropbox v Onedrive (Microsoft) v Google Drive <http://tinyurl.com/mj56aby>
- *I help some friends with computer issues and this learning site helps considerably.* For example for a new user of Windows 8/8.1 <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/windows8> which again we explored with interest. We also digressed from here into a general discussion about Windows 8, pros and cons, including easiest way to preserve and then transfer over your documents (and too much to document here).
- *I'm always having trouble with my email.* Looking at <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/emailbasics> it was obvious that there were many topics here of interest to all so it was decided that this should become the September topic of the day (see below).

Next meeting 10/09/2014

Prompted by today's session, the September meeting will be devoted to '**All things Email**'. We all have stories about the vagaries of email so today we'll share these experiences and try and find answers to unresolved issues.

Programme for the remainder of the year:-

October: By request we will revisit '**Home Networking**' and extend the scope of the topic discussed earlier this year.

November: Again by request, another look at **Skype** and related ways to share interactive video conversations. Those members who have lap tops with camera/mikes can bring them along to share the experience.

December: Tech Savvy Tricks and Tips. There's always something new to learn.