Meeting Notes 13th April 2016

We had 10 members (and 6 apologies) for our meeting on 13th April 2016.

Agony Corner:

Outstanding items from the last meeting......

1) 'Recently (after a Windows 10 update) I found that I couldn't edit some Excel files on a USB stick which had previously been OK'.

- The problem still exists; none of the ideas put forward at the last meeting seem to have helped.
- Suggest to bring the offending USB stick to next meeting so the files can be examined on other machines.

2) 'I purchased an OTG (On The Go) USB cable for my Hudl 2 but the tablet won't recognise it'.

- An OTG extension cable plugs into the Micro USB charging point and terminates in a full size USB female connector. A host OTG cable lets your Android device connect to most USB Flash Drives, Mouse & Keyboards.
- This has been solved by using an app such as 'USB OTG Helper' app available from the Google Play Store as described at the last meeting, or 'Stickmount' as demonstrated at this meeting

3) 'I have bought a USB, VHS>DVD converter kit but I can't get it to work'

- All attempts so far have failed to solve this including updating all drivers using 'SnailDriver' (See below).
- Hopefully before the next meeting another way round the problem will be tried using an old model DVD/HDD player/recorder together with VHS player and TV.

New items...

4) Snail Driver

- Unlike many free offerings this programme, recently featured in Computer Active, not only identifies out of date drivers but automatically updates them.
- Go to http://snailsuite.com . To get it, click the big blue Download button, then save and run the installer. There are no unwanted extras to opt out of.

5) 'I use a very old version of the accounting programme, 'Intuit Quicken' and I've been advised that it will no longer be supported and thus vulnerable to malware attack. What are my options?' This led to a lively discussion and several ideas were mooted....

- Operation of the programme does not depend on access to the internet so could be run as a stand-alone on a redundant laptop, say.
- You could upgrade to the latest version but that may not be as straightforward as it seem as a) file formats are not necessarily the same, b) depending on how old yours is, you may have to work through several versions. Here is an interesting article on this published in the Guardian last year, http://tinyurl.com/jg4cqb5 , and c) it costs!
- Your programme could be run in a VM, virtual machine. This is also mentioned in the article.
- To safeguard your present and historical data files you could keep them on a USB stick accessing them only as required from the programme on the PC.

- In all probability, if all your security programmes are up to date, the risk is fairly low.
- But don't forget that without Intuit support, if your programme goes completely kaput, you may be left with many years' worth of unusable data.

6) 'I've had to stop using Chrome because the Malware Bytes Anti Exploit won't allow it to run. Investigations lead me to believe that it is the 'Trustee Rapport' banking protection programme is causing the problem. Which do I ditch?'

- Several members use Trustee Rapport, on the advice of their bank, which runs without problem. However, many forums on the internet give it a bad press.
- Suggest disabling TR from launching at start up using CCleaner. This will prevent it running in the background and causing the conflict. It can then be activated just on the sites required.

Topic for the Day:

'Windows 10' – your latest questions and answers.

Brought back again, this topic resulted in much discussion with comments and observations from both those who had already upgraded and those who had yet to do so.

However, many thanks to **Dave Potter** who took the lead, first by circulating a list of salient points and then working through them on his own lap top. There's far too much to cover here so please have a read through his notes attached herewith (*to email for the computer group members*) as PDF, 'Customising Windows 10 to improve privacy and security'. The videos mentioned are http://tinyurl.com/grwfacd (shown at the meeting) and http://tinyurl.com/z4fptjf , a much longer and more detailed one on the same subject.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday 11th May – 1.30 pm at Bacton Village Hall

Topic for the day: **'Computer Safety Update'** - Essential security programmes you need in addition to your anti virus software.

Note for your diary - June meeting. In response to popular demand we will have yet another look at the pros and cons of Windows 10 (reminder, free upgrade from Windows 7/8/8.1 officially end 29th July).