

TAURANGA SENIORNET

MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF SENIORNET CLUBS INC.

Newsletter November, 2010

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As we all know, life was so much simpler in the 'old days'. In the early years of your SeniorNet club, student's needs were more predictable. They all had a fairly clunky desktop operating on Windows 95 or 98 and running 'Works for Windows' version 4.5 – no MS Office, internet connection or emails. The type of question we are now asked is more complex.

In an item about MS Security Essentials last term I gave the following piece of advice:

*If you have either Windows Vista or Windows 7, unless you **know** you have the 64 bit version, opt for the second (32 bit) option*

A couple of weeks ago I went to install a version of that program, previously downloaded for my desktop, on to my new laptop. To my surprise I got the following error message;

"Not compatible with Windows 64 bit"

I had not even asked the question, I had just made the assumption that 64 bit Windows would only be loaded on to high-end business machines.

So how do you find out which 'variety' of Windows you are operating and why does it matter? Go to Start/Control Panel/System and find the first answer under 'System Type'. Does it matter? For the most part it doesn't, though there are a few exceptions.

64 bit (**x64**) operating systems do have some speed advantages over 32 bit systems, (obscurely known as **x86**), but so far very few programs have been written to make use of this ability. Obviously MS Security Essentials is one such program. I found one other while checking a new 'freeware' program – no doubt there are more of them on the horizon.

So it isn't a big deal yet, but it would be a good idea to find out now.

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Office & Clubrooms; 17th Avenue
Next to Historic Village

Email;

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Committee;

Chairperson - Brian McWilliam

Secretary – Irene Gabbie

Treasurer - Mike Molen

From the Chair

Hi Folks,

I am pleased to tell that we do have a new Secretary for the Club. Irene Gabbie, who recently returned with her husband and family from a long stint working overseas, has now settled and taken over the reins from Jean Holmes. We hope that Jean can at long last get the well-earned rest she so richly deserves. Our classes for the final term of 2010 are quite well filled and our affairs should be in good shape as we reach the end of the year.

We have decided on a different approach with our classes for 2011, they will centre only on Microsoft Word 2007 or later programmes. We will abandon the classes tutoring in Open Office Writer, but will honour those carry-over classes started in 2010 and terminating in 2011.

We found that installing the Open Office programme created many problems for the coaches who had to install them. They were often being called on to act as technicians and trying to install the program on equipment too old to deal with it. It was apparent too that no matter which Microsoft Operating System was used, it was not allowing Open Office to operate as efficiently as expected. We are now of the view that we can save ourselves many headaches staying with Word 2007 (or later) and have the students adapt their learning to fit their own circumstances.

Some of our older computers have either died or are past having money spent on them for repairs, so we will shortly be buying replacement machines with the more convenient and larger-sized flat screen monitors. We have our last Club Day for the year on 19th November – hope to see you there.

Brian

Microsoft Money.

Microsoft is not noted for its generosity, so it was interesting that it recently made available for free download a 'Sunset' version of its cashbook program 'MS Money'. Though it has fewer features, stripping out all of the online capabilities, this new version of MS Money doesn't require activation, meaning that users who need to install it on a new PC or who lose their product code won't be stuck without their data.

"The Microsoft Money Plus Sunset versions are replacements for expired versions of MS Money Essentials, Deluxe, Premium, and Home and Business," Microsoft said in a statement. "They allow existing customers to use MoneyPlus to continue accessing their data online, the activation step will eventually become unnecessary and unsupported," they said on the download page. "This Money Plus Sunset package is targeted at removing the online activation step."

Microsoft stopped selling Money last year, when it announced plans to discontinue the software. Whatever the intention, it seems that the program is freely available for download by anyone looking for a quality cashbook program.

As a long-time user of an ancient (1998) copy of Quicken, now incompatible with Win 7, I was keen to try it out. Offered the 'Home and Business' edition or the 'DeLuxe', I chose the former which fulfils my needs. The download was straightforward at;

<http://www.microsoft.com/money/sunset.msp>

The program is fairly simple to use and was even able to convert my old Quicken files to 'money' format, one of the options in the File menu. There is a very good 'Help' menu to get you started.

The program has the annoying feature of allocating a series of 'Categories', many of which are foreign to personal needs. If you only need is to balance your cheque book and monitor the state of your Credit Card, I suggest that you just replace them all with simple 'Income' and 'Expenses' categories.

If you do wish to analyse your income and expenditure, you will require a fuller range of categories to suit your circumstances. I still suggest that you delete most of those suggested and replace with your own.

This is an excellent program and I recommend it to anyone who wants to take charge of their finances.

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12 Days of Helpdesk

On the first day of Christmas, a user gave to me
A problem with I.T.

On the second day of Christmas, a user gave to me
Two VendaCards and a problem with I.T.

On the third day of Christmas, a user gave to me
Three dead disks,
Two venda cards, and a problem with I.T.

On the fourth day of Christmas, a user gave to me
Four virused files, three dead disks,
Two VendaCards, and a problem with I.T.

On the fifth day of Christmas, a user gave to me
Five Token Rings
Four virused files, three dead disks,
Two VendaCards, and a problem with I.T.

On the sixth day of Christmas, a user gave to me
Six servers crashing,
Five Token Rings
Four virused files, three dead disks,
Two VendaCards, and a problem with I.T.

On the seventh day of Christmas, a user gave to me
Seven files missing, six servers crashing,
Five Token Rings
Four virused files, three dead disks,
Two VendaCards, and a problem with I.T.

On the eighth day of Christmas, a user gave to me
Eight phones a-ringing,
Seven files missing, six servers crashing,
Five Token Rings
Four virused files, three dead disks,
Two VendaCards, and a problem with I.T.

On the ninth day of Christmas, a user gave to me
Nine printers jamming, eight phones a-ringing,
Seven files missing, six servers crashing,
Five Token Rings
Four virused files, three dead disks,
Two VendaCards, and a problem with I.T.

On the tenth day of Christmas, a user gave to me
Ten ribbons fading,
Nine printers jamming, eight phones a-ringing,
Seven files missing, six servers crashing,
Five Token Rings
Four virused files, three dead disks,
Two VendaCards, and a problem with I.T.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, a user gave to me
Eleven system errors, ten ribbons fading,
Nine printers jamming, eight phones a-ringing,
Seven files missing, six servers crashing,
Five Token Rings
Four virused files, three dead disks,
Two VendaCards, and a problem with I.T.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, a user gave to me
Twelve e-mail problems,
Eleven system errors, ten ribbons fading,
Nine printers jamming, eight phones a-ringing,
Seven files missing, six servers crashing,
Five Token Rings
Four virused files, three dead disks,
Two VendaCards, and a problem with I.T.

Let's Get Technical

Yes, I know I am repeating myself but it is a vastly different computing world than it was 15 years ago. Here at SeniorNet the teaching needs were simple – safely turn on and off the computer, locate your files, use of the mouse, navigate the standard menus. Much of our effort was directed towards reducing jargon and technicality and to explain the processes in everyday words.

Today many of our students own laptops of incredible capacity. Through the wonders of wireless, Wi-Fi, they are connected to the Internet anywhere in their home and can even connect when they take their computer to the coffee shop down the road. And therein lies the need to get a little technical.

Just consider this, your Wireless Router can have a range of over 50 metres, so if you are in contact, can someone else be? And if someone else is on your network, can they access your data, your user names and passwords? It's a bit of a worry but there are (relatively) simple steps you can take to protect yourself.

So now to get technical! Each brand of router has its own 'address' and can be accessed through your browser (e.g. Internet Explorer). In the case of the Thomson router favoured by Xtra, type **192.168.1.254** into the address bar of the browser. There you will be able to view the settings screen of the router. No, you are not on the internet, just accessing your router.

There are three items to change to ensure the security of your computer:

1. Check that the name of your network (SSID – Service Set Identifier) is not being broadcast.
2. Change the name, (probably from "Thomson") to something you understand like CharlieHome!
3. Change the password (PSK – Pre Shared Key) which could have been given to you with the router or is possibly blank.

How to do this? First you must access the router settings as outlined above. You will need to Logon to make changes. You should have information on your password (if there is one) in your documentation. Possibly under 'Channel & SSID' you will have the chance to deselect "Broadcast SSID". This will make your network invisible to the potential intruder. In this same section you can also change the name of your SSID. Make sure you confirm the 'Apply Changes' button.

You possibly need to access the 'Security' screen to change the PSK, and so effectively, password access to your network. Once you have done these three things you have a fairly secure connection.

Some popular types of wireless router are listed below along with their addresses:

- Belkin 192.168.2.1
- D-Link 192.168.0.1
- Thomson 192.168.1.254

Depending on your variety of Windows, it is possible to locate the IP Address via the 'Network' section in Control Panel. It can be found too through the vendor's website.

I do recognise that this might be rather daunting to some of our members. Believe me though, it is worth the effort to secure your network.

Perhaps I should now offer you a simpler alternative. Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) should have an interest in your security. Invest your time in a call to the 'Help Desk', where I am confident you can be safely talked through the processes outlined above. If you have read and gained even a limited understanding of what is involved, the process should prove quite straightforward.

Now you are fully set up, remember that you now have a fully viable network. When your family or friends come calling you can, using your discretion of course, invite them to share your internet connection. You just need to supply them with (or enter yourself) your user name and password. Are you a two-computer family? You can now link them both to the internet and even grant them permission to use each other's files. Now that's exciting!

More happy and safe surfing

A Tribute to Grandmas (and Grandpops)

The computer swallowed grandma.

Yes, honestly it's true!

*She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.*

*It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.*

*I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.*

*In desperation, I asked Google
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online.'*

*So, if inside your 'In-box,'
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy,' 'Paste' or 'Scan' her
And send her back to me*

**Everyone here at SeniorNet
Wishes all of You
A Happy and Healthy
Festive Season**



Over 50's Expo

SeniorNet, in conjunction with Grownups, manned a stand at the recent Over 50's Expo held at the QE2 Youth Centre. Although the first day, Friday was very quiet, we did have some interest shown in SeniorNet. The next day, Saturday, had large numbers visiting, both morning and afternoon. Those members manning the stand were kept very busy explaining and encouraging visitors to join SeniorNet. It was therefore a little disappointing that we did not have more registrations the following Tuesday. However, some of those showing interest indicated that they would leave it until next year to undertake courses.

Digital Photography.

The Digital Photography course continues to remain popular, with classes running each term. The aim of the course is to encourage members to be able to find the features in their cameras and to use them to take better photos.

Family History

We are currently running our first Family History class for about three years. If you are interested in recording your family tree the programme that we use is Personal Ancestry File 5.2. (PAF) It is easy to use and is a good way of recording your family tree. With more people today being interested in their ancestry, this is an opportunity to pass on your family details to other family members.

Subscriptions

While everyone is full of Christmas Cheer, it is an appropriate time to remind members that next year's subscriptions fall due on 1st January. The annual subscription is **\$45.00** single, **\$75.00** double. Subscriptions may be paid by mail or in person at the club using the attached form. Perhaps the easiest way of all is by direct credit to the club's bank account;

Westpac a/c no. 03-1548-0002612-00

The Tauranga SeniorNet Club Inc;

Christmas Club Day

At the Learning Centre, 17th Avenue

Next to Historic Village

1.30 pm. - Friday 19th November

Projector Presentation;

Christmas Projects


Bring a Plate for a

Social Mix and Mingl^e

All Members

are Welcome

Portable Document File (PDF)

The icon of Adobe Acrobat Reader  is just about universal on every computer sold, but what is the purpose of this program? For most there is little 'need to know', as a simple double click on a PDF file will open it.

The fact is, most published documents are in PDF format. Forms from Government Departments, manuals for programs and for appliances, newsletters etc. are all prepared in a conventional word processor prior to being converted to PDF, as was this newsletter.

The purpose of the format is to preserve the original presentation. Because every computer has different programs (Open Office, Word 2000, Word 2007) and a different series of fonts, the only way to ensure that all viewers see the document in the same way is to use this universal file format.

More about PDF in the next issue.

Ken

TAURANGA SENIORNET CLUB INC



SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

**Our subscriptions are now due for the year
1st January 2011 to the 31st December 2011**

Subscription is \$45.00 for one member and \$75 for a couple

Subscriptions can be made at any time and forwarded to;

**The Secretary
Tauranga SeniorNet Club Inc
PO Box 15382
TAURANGA.**

**Or paid online into Westpac
Account No. 031548 0002612 00
(Please indicate the name (or names) on your deposit)**

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Name.....

Address

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Please find enclosed my/our cheque/cash for our subscription

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