

PC SOLUTIONS

Newsletter - September 2009



Introduction

Welcome to the September 2009 Newsletter. The advances that have been made in the last 5 years in computing and technology are incredible and with so many things happening I'm sure you find it hard to keep up. This is one of the main reasons I have written the newsletter to keep you informed of PC Solutions news and to throw some light on current and emerging technologies whilst at the same time keeping it fun, informative and interesting, so I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I do writing it !

I have now made the transition to Windows 7. The install went fine with all hardware and software working first time. The first thing I noticed with Windows 7 is the speed on everyday tasks as it is a lot faster, which is a major improvement over Vista. I will be doing a full review of Windows 7 in the November newsletter and in the coming months I will be covering the new features showing you how to achieve more from Windows 7.

Talking about Windows 7 I hope that you benefited from the incredible deal I sent to you by email. Microsoft did state the deal would be on for a few weeks and only limited numbers would be available, so it was a first come first served basis. On day one copies literally flew off the virtual shelves with Amazon selling out in 9 hours. Other merchants had copies available but they also sold out within a few days, so well done if you managed to get a copy.

Microsoft's other flagship program Office is also under going a major change. Office 2010 arrives early next year with many new features. Microsoft also intend to launch the Office applications online which is a cut down version of certain Office programs available through your browser. I personally use Office 2007 especially Outlook and Excel to run my business and social life, so I will be eager to try out the new Office 2010. Hopefully I will receive my copy in the not too distant future so that I can give you a preview of Microsoft's new Office suite.

Finally I would like to thank anyone that has contributed in some way to the newsletter. I would like to receive your comments regarding the newsletter and if you have anything interesting for the October newsletter then please email it to me. Thanks for reading and enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

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Quick News

7E or not to 7E, That is the Question

The latest in the long story of Windows 7 E is that Microsoft have now proposed to the European Directive (EU) that it includes a ballot screen in Windows 7 so that the end user can select what browser they want to use from the likes of Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc, the European Directive (EU) seems to be happy with this proposal so this means that Microsoft will now be shipping the same editions of Windows 7 in Europe as the rest of the world.

Link : [Microsoft Windows 7 Proposal](#)

Bing to Power Yahoo

Microsoft have recently rebranded their live search services with the new name Bing. Although Microsoft have some major competition in this area perhaps their recent deal to power searches for Yahoo will help them fight back in a field that has been dominated for sometime now by Google.

Link : [Bing](#)

Broadband Speed Failure

Around 26% of broadband customers do not get the speed advertised by their internet service provider with only 20% getting around a quarter of the speed they expected. Virgin Media came out top on speed tests carried out recently with their up to 10Mbps package delivering around 8.1 to 8.7Mbps where as BT customers receiving the up to 8Mbps package were getting an average speed between 3.8 and 4.2Mbps. The UK comes 12th in the country with fastest broadband ranks with Japan coming in first with an average speed of a whopping 93.6 Mbps. The governments Digital Britain Report was published in June and states that the recommend speed for all homes by 2012 should be at least 2 Mbps.

Did you know ?

The world's population is around 6.7 billion but only 1.4 billion people actually use the internet.

The internet is made up of over a trillion websites, that is about 150 websites per person on earth.

If you spent just 1 minute at each website it would take you 31,000 years to view them all.

Monthly Offer

Backup

This offer includes the backup drive, the software, the installation and tuition for only £109.99, this deal will expire on September 30th 2009. This is an exclusive newsletter offer to get more of you backing up your data.

One person that took up the offer last time was Audrey from Lancing. Sadly she opted to have a backup solution after disaster happened. Audrey lost all of her photo's, music, documents and emails. This was due to the hard drives boot sector and file allocation tables being damaged so no data could be retrieved.

Audrey now has a backup solution in place and has this to say "I was very upset when I lost my files especially my photographs, I should have had a backup system put in a lot earlier. Now thanks to Andy it won't happen again, it was not too expensive and it's very easy to use. I am now confident if anything goes wrong in the future all my files are safe.". If you do not backup your data then contact me today to discuss a backup solution for your computer.

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Customer Questions

Hugh from Worthing asks :

Is there a way to password protect files in Microsoft Publisher like there is in Microsoft Word and Excel ?

This feature does not exist in Microsoft Publisher. The only way I can recommend a way around this is to zip the file and then password protect it. Zip compression built into Windows does not have a password feature so you would have to use a third party archive tool like 7-Zip.

Link : [7-Zip](#)

Mark from Worthing asks :

I am not too happy about using my bank cards online. What can I do so that I can shop online without the worry ?

This is what I recommend to all my customers that don't like using their cards online. Go to your bank or any bank you like and open an account with a minimal amount say £100 then use that account only for online transactions, this new computer account will be separate to your personal bank accounts and although nothing would happen because security is very high on internet transactions the new account you are using only has a minimum amount of money in it.

Claire from Lancing asks :

What does a strong password mean and how can I make one ?

A strong password would consist of a combination of characters like letters, numerals and punctuation symbols, one of the easiest ways I recommend to make a strong password is to use a memorable word and change certain characters to numbers. For instance instead of using the word hippopotamus for your password, exchange the i for a number one, the o's for zeros and the s for a number 5, so your password would be H1pp00p0tamu5. You just remember the word and exchange the letters for like numbers, which will give you a medium to strong password. Test your passwords strength at Microsoft's password checker website.

Link : [Microsoft Password Checker](#)

Did you know ?

210 Billion emails are sent daily worldwide, that is over 2 million a second.

3 Billion of those emails, around 35,000 a second are being sent from the UK and about 70% of them are junk.

Even Homer Simpson has an email address, email him at chunkylover53@aol.com, you never know you might even get a reply !

Monthly Websites

There are many great websites on the internet, here are some of my favourites. Do you have a favourite website ? Then email it to me for inclusion in monthly websites section of the newsletter.

Link : [Universal Currency Convertor](#) - A great website for converting currencies.

Link : [Wallpaper Calendar](#) - Create an excellent monthly calendar on your desktop wallpaper.

Link : [Microsoft Office Templates](#) - Excellent templates for all of your favourite Microsoft Office applications.