



Welcome to 2010 - what will technology have in store for us during the next decade? Since 2000 we have seen the emergence of Wi-Fi, Internet Mobile Phones, I-Pods, Netbooks, and the spread of Broadband to most parts of the country. There has been 4 changes of MS Operating Systems from Windows Me, Windows XP, Windows Vista through to the very latest Windows 7. Just how much further can Operating Systems be developed? We now have Touch Screens emerging, Voice Commands to open programs, large capacity Flash Drives for storing music, photos and backing up, so it can be envisaged that keyboards, mice, and CD/DVD's gradually becoming redundant over the next few years. Laptops are thinner, smaller and lighter, and with the components reducing accordingly how long before we have a fully functional hand held computer, with the desktop and laptop as antiques? Will there be an Interest Group Sign-Up sheet in May 2017 for "Getting Started with your Wrist Computer"?

FUTURE ISSUES

Over the past year since introducing Computer Appreciation it has covered a wide range of subjects, but most of the e-mails received, and from speaking to members, it is resolving problems they currently have, together with Tips and Tricks which make their computing easier and quicker. There is a vast amount of information around the Internet and a large part of it is not always easy to find, so I shall include more subject matter relating to these in future issues. With Windows 7 now appearing on newly purchased computers we shall be talking more about this new OS, but will not forget XP or Vista...how many Vista owners have gone for the upgrade to Windows 7?

TIPS AND TRICKS

Aero (V) - This is a very attractive addition to Vista, but it makes Windows run slower, because it requires more processing power to maintain this appearance. It can be turned off and consequently speed up your computer (should you find it a bit sluggish). Right click on the Desktop background and select Personalised. Select Windows Colour and Appearance and untick "Enable."

License Crawler (XP and Vista) - With this program you can find very quickly all the registration numbers etc. of the software installed on your computer. Should you re-install your Operating System in the future you will need this information. This tool searches through the Registry and lists all the numbers. This list can be saved as TXT file to a Flash Drive/External Drive etc. for use as and when required. Using your normal Search Engine just type in "License Crawler", click on Klinzmann.name and this takes you to the web page. Click on the tab License Crawler and scroll down to the Download section. Click on the Softonic (English) which will take you to the next page. Click on download and this will take you to the actual download Website. Click on download and save in your usual location.

Internet Explorer 8 (XP and Vista) - You can quickly change the zoom level by clicking on the 100% icon at bottom right corner of the status bar. Holding down the CTL key as you turn the mouse wheel allows you to increase or decrease the text size.

Desktop Folder (Vista) - Open the Control Panel and press the Backspace key which will switch you to the Desktop Folder.

UNINSTALLING NORTON SECURITY SUITE

If you are considering changing your Security program you must uninstall your current one before installing the replacement. Should you have a version of Norton installed it can be very difficult to uninstall and remove successfully as it can leave various files etc. in the Registry which can then cause problems at a later date. Norton has provided a "tool" to remove an out-of-date version, or failed installation, or just simply to change to another product. The Norton Removal Tool uninstalls all Norton 2003 and later products, Norton 360, and Norton SystemWorks 12.0 from your computer. Type in your search engine "Norton Removal Tool" and click on the respective link, which takes you to the relevant page. Click on the appropriate product. If you do not intend reinstalling Norton, ignore Step 2 and 3, and go to Step 4. Download the Norton Removal Tool and save to your Desktop. Double-Click the Norton Removal Tool and follow the on-screen instructions. Your computer may keep restarting, but this is quite normal and does this to purge some of the Registry files. It may a bit daunting at first but it is not difficult. I recently talked a member through it over the telephone, and completed it without any problems. Should you require any help with this uninstallation, please let me know. My e-mail is lakeside@timewarpuk.net

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

This is the time when we tend to make resolutions to try and fulfil in the weeks and months ahead so here are some to consider.

I will learn more about my computer.

I will learn more about the software that I use regularly.

I will learn new tricks and tips for using Windows itself. .

I will learn more about my computer's hardware so that I can create a backup on a Flash Drive or External Drive.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

If any member still requires Photo Elements 4 please let me know and I will arrange for you to have a DVD. This is an excellent Photo Editor and Organiser, and is based on Adobe Photoshop. Apart from Editing and manipulating your photographs it has a good interface; great editing and organizational tools; terrific slide-show and other photo-sharing features.