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Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th May 2010

7.30 PM Informal Workshop

Newstream Articles

Deadline : 10 Days before Meeting

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Membership

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LCG Committee 2009/10

President: Barry Symons

Vice President: Janet Headlam

Minutes Secretary: Lorraine Rist

Treasurer: Iris Meek

Ass. Treasurers: Karia Wicks

MAC Librarians: Ivan Turmine

PC Librarian: Julie Hjort

Ass. PC Librarian: Judy Hall

Newstream Editor: Ron Baker

Publicity Officer: Iris Meek

Ass. Publicity Officer: - open -

OPEN Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney

Webmaster/Content: Tom Olsen

Auditor: Ron Baker

"VICTOR" Liason: Robert Tierney

*General Committee Judy Hall, Ivan Turmine, Glenn Gilpin,
Reinhard von Samorzewski,*

OPEN Committee 2009/10

Chairperson OPEN: Robert Tierney. *Chair all meetings of OPEN and ensure that they run smoothly*

Vice Chairperson OPEN: June Hazzlewood. *Chair meeting when the Chairperson is unavailable.*

Secretary: Margaret Carrington *Handles all incoming and outgoing communications Responsible for the documentation and distribution of all meeting minutes*

Assistant Secretary: - open -. *Help the Secretary where necessary*

Treasurer: Dennis Murray. *Responsible for all monies and banking*

Assistant Treasurer: . *Help the Treasurer where necessary.*

Publicity Officer: Karia Wicks. *Responsible for all advertising*

OPEN Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney. *Responsible for the smooth running of Centre on a daily basis*

Membership Co-ordinator: Karia Wicks.

Keep Membership database up to date.

Beginners Project Co-ordinator: Eleanor Horder.

Tutor Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney. *Keep regular contact with Tutors to bring ideas and concerns to meetings*

Assistant Tutor Co-ordinators: Eleanor Horder and Janet Headlam.

Newsletter Editors Assistant: Dennis Murray. *Collates and produces the OPEN Newsletter for inclusion in LCG monthly 'Newstream'*

Technical Co-ordinators: Dennis Murray (PC's) and Joel Harbottle (Mac). *Responsible for the maintenance and repairs to all computer equipment*

Co-ordinator of "VICTOR": Robert Tieney.

Webmaster/Content: Tom Olsen. OPEN Committee: Iris Meek, Harvey Tavener, Robin Walker, Barry Symons, Laraine Rist.

LAUNCESTON Computer Group Inc

Meeting Minutes:

Date: Wednesday 7th April 2010

Meeting:

The President, Barry Symons welcomed all and opened the meeting at 7:30pm

Present:

Barry Symons, Iris Meek, Janet Headlam, Harvey Tavener, Ted Bramich, Dennis Murray, Glenn Gilpin, Ron Baker, Eleanor Horder

Apologies:

Tom Olsen, Margot & Bill Housego, Julie Hjort, Judy Hall, June & Bert Hazzlewood, Lou Horder

Minutes Of Previous Meeting :

Read & confirmed with an amendment – Ron Baker is unable to send Emails at present, however he can receive them.

Moved: Iris Meek Seconded: Glenn Gilpin

Business Arising :

Ron & Glenn will run the Sunday Market on 18th April
Community listing – Ron Baker reported that he needs to send his up to date Email address for the Community Listing.

June's donated tower – Dennis has upgraded the tower. It would be an ideal Admin Computer in the future.

Correspondence:

Letter sent to Baidu Tampa
Get well card to Judy Hall

Financial report:

Balance as at 31 st March 2010	\$
Accounts paid to end of March 2010	
LGC Petty Cash	123.80
Iris Meek Flash Drives	77.28
Corporate Express	185.08
Tas Printer Cartridges	54.15
Australia Post box rental	84.50
Telstra Big Pond	125.38
Another Computer Store rent	1000.00
Ron Baker Auditor	100.00
Office Works	46.50
LGC Petty Cash	150.30
Robert Tierney reimbursement	250.00
Total	\$1463.03
Accounts to be paid	
Rent March	\$1000.00
Tas Printer Cartridges	21.00
Carbill Computers	980.00
Corporate Express	31.90
Domain Renewal	36.00
Total	\$2032.90
Bank Balance	\$23895.49
Balance includes Victor	\$5525.29

General Business:

Iris to design a Certificate of appreciation for Rod Oliver for his demonstration of using & applying Digital Cameras on 21st April.

Dennis explained that the new tower is 64 bit whilst we require only 32 bit. The tower to be returned to Carbil for adjustment.

Rob presented a Victor analysis of expenses

Iris queried the number of signatories at the Bank

Ron Baker requests that all members requiring NEWSTREAM need to Email him with up-to-date address & keep him informed of any changes in the future.
ronbaker@intas.net.au

Meeting closed at 8.05pm and was followed by an interesting up-date on Windows 7 by Dennis. Many thanks Dennis, for an entertaining demo.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 5th March 2010 at 7:30pm

Signed..... Date..... 

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay 'them'
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down..
3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop.'
4. Enjoy the simple things.
- 5.. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.
6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person, who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.
7. Surround yourself with what you love , whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.
8. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it.. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
9. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next state; to a foreign country but NOT to where the guilt is.
10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity. AND ALWAYS REMEMBER :

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

OPEN NEWSLETTER – MAY 2010

TUTORS NEEDED

I mentioned last newsletter the need for us to keep an ear open for possible tutors for the club.

Some of the guys are working long shifts and could do with a break now and then.

Ill health and such play a big role when the club is run mostly for and by older persons.

If you know of someone recently retired or looking for some voluntary work, who has worked with computers. Have a chat to them and ask if they'd like to come along to see what we do at OPEN and they might just like the place!



VENUE TELEPHONE NUMBER

The club telephone is available during class hours. **6343 4928**



Eleanor's students have been enjoying using a program called Photo Records. This little program allows them to make up albums of their own family, pets or places.

Margaret's Picasa classes are also very popular; as are Judy and Karia's PSP Graphic classes. Dabbling in these graphic style programs has proven very popular amongst students.

TUTORS MEETING

June 16

An opportunity to meet other tutors and exchange ideas and information

We are keeping an ear and eye open for competent people to help out as tutors, as some of our present tutors need some relief. Less hours in the club would be appreciated by many.

FAMILY HISTORY ON-LINE

April 28 — 10 am to noon
May 12 - 1 pm—3 pm
May 26 - 10a m—noon

Judy Hall and her team will guide you through the processes used to research your ancestry.

Contact the club for more information
Classes are limited to 8 people.

ALL GRAPHICS

Please check the registration sheets at the club to find out if there are places available.

The dates for the next classes are :
Basic Graphics 12 May—10 am to 12 noon

LEVEL 2 & 3 GRAPHICS

With Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8

Wednesday 19 May— 1:00 pm to 3.00 pm

Designed for people who have already completed Basic Graphics classes. It involves more advanced features of the Paint Shop Pro graphics programs.

Numbers are limited to 8 people. Please check the notice-board or contact the club for details.

OPEN Session Times
 At Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton
Standard Sessions \$5.00

Monday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	Beginners & PC Support
Tuesday	10 am –12	P C Support & Beginners + Mac
	1 pm – 3 pm	As above
	7 pm–9 pm	PC Support (Night Class)
Wednesday	10 am–noon	Special sessions or Meetings
	1.pm–3 pm	As for mornings (see rosters)
	3.30–5.30	P C Support
Thursday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	General & Beginners
	3.30–5.30	Absolute Beginners
Friday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm–3 pm	Beginners

OPEN NEWSLETTER – MAY 2010

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Please register on the sheets – numbers may be limited

Date	Time	Topic	Details
April 28	10 am –noon	Family History	Use our library of resources to trace your
	1 pm–3 pm	PSP X1	Advanced Graphics
May 5	10 am–12 noon	Graphics Workshop	Reviewing Basic Graphics.
	1 pm–	OPEN Monthly Meeting	Help keep the club meaningful to all.
May 12	10 am–12 noon	Basic Graphics	A popular session to help understand Graphics
	1:00–3 pm	Family History	Study Family History On line or disk.
May 19	10 am–noon	How to use Disk 2010	Useful hints for us all.
	1 pm– 3.00	Level 2 and 3 Graphics	Advanced graphics techniques using the Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8 programs.
May 26	10 am –noon	Family History	Use our library of resources to trace your family's origins.
	1 pm 3 pm	PSP X1	More advanced Graphics Program

Some graphics classes require Tutorials which incur extra costs for printing.

OPEN NEWSLETTER – MAY 2010

TAKING NOTES

When receiving instruction some members like to take notes or draw pictures of the 'option-boxes' that appear on the screen.

Why write it down on paper when you have an electronic writing pad at your disposal?

With wide-screen monitors available these days it is possible to have your program-window open on one side of the screen (e.g. Print Artist) and having MS Word or Notepad open on the other side. When you need to write your notes just switch to Word or Notepad and type your notes in.

Unless your computer has a font called "Dennis Murray Scrawl" it's a fairly safe bet that the notes you print

out will be much neater than those you write by hand - and you can always insert additional notes at some point in the future.

With an Excel Workbook (or spreadsheet) you can 'Insert Comment' by right-clicking a cell and selecting the option. A small box similar to a Post-It note appears on the screen and you can type text into it. So if you need a memory jog when trying to work out how you did the "Honolulu Hotel's" absolute reference exercise you can use 'Insert Comment' to provide yourself with the answer.

A picture is worth a thousand words!

If you need to make notes on which boxes you need to tick when selecting options in a program-box why not use the 'Print Screen' function to make a picture of that box?

'Print Screen' sends an image of the screen to that magical place called the Clipboard and that image may then be pasted into another document. Depending on the keyboard you may need to hold down the Shift key while pressing Print Screen.

By pasting the image into a graphics program such as Irfanview you can crop, add text or draw arrows to explain the steps you need to take.

We now have a new urn following the breakage of the outlet tap. Thank you Margaret.

Remember too that the club tries to keep on hand some storage devices such as USB drives, C D's and DV D's for copying and backing up your lessons. These can be purchased at very good prices.



WINDOWS EXPLORER???

Sometimes when I go the Internet on a 'strange' computer I wonder if I've clicked on the Windows Explorer or some fictitious icon called 'Toolbars Explorer'!

Do any of us really need half the screen to be occupied by 6 or 7 toolbars stacked up one upon the other? In my opinion "Mr. Google" does a perfectly job of finding the things I need to find on the 'Net, so I can do without Yahoo, Ask, MySearch, ALot and various other toolbars.

Most of these find their way on to computers through users leaving boxes ticked while they are installing another program. In several instances I have found that antivirus programs and spyware detectors have declared some of these toolbars to be 'malware' i.e. nasty stuff.

Dennis Murray

"VICTOR PHONE NUMBER 0408 174 235

**CLUB NUMBER 6343 4928
(MONDAY TO FRIDAY—10 am to 3 pm)**

OPEN NEWSLETTER – MAY 2010

Notice to all members.

ASCCA is again running the annual Competitions for Digital Photography, Creative Writing and Photo Story Video.

The entry forms are tabled near the front of the club rooms and may be copied by any member who wishes to enter one of the categories.

Please read the conditions carefully as ASCCA limits the amount of words, pictures or slides.

Winners are announced at the ASCCA AGM.

All entries must be in by 4 pm
Monday 30 August 2010.

Graphics Workshops

May 5 10 – noon

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Do you ever experience the frustration of having to repeatedly click the Minimize button in several open 'windows' before you can get back to your desktop?

There are **two keyboard shortcuts** that will make life easier:

Holding down the Windows key and tapping 'D' will take you directly to the desktop, so you can do whatever you need to. Repeat the shortcut (Windows key plus 'D') and you will be returned to the original window.

To Minimize all the windows you have open hold down the Windows key and press 'M'.

A couple of tricks to avoid receiving email from tricksters.

When you create your email address have a combination of letters and numbers. It is harder for someone to randomly guess your email address.

Keep separate email addresses for business and personal mail.

Remain vigilant. Ask yourself why for example, a foreign pharmacy would be offering cheap drugs or medicines???

They just need you to reply and your hooked! I know...I've been there!

Web browsers and email are the main target of scammers and they are getting sneakier every day.

Drag anything suspect directly into your Deleted Email folder. If it is useful, it is then recoverable.

Next LCG Meeting

5th May 2010

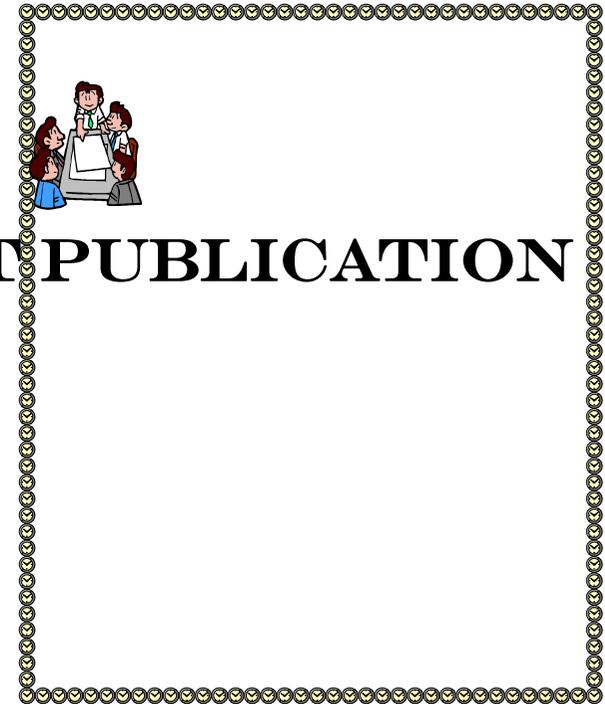
Followed by Informal Workshop

OPEN NEWSLETTER – MAY 2010

Coordinators Corner



**INFORMATION NOT RECEIVED AT PUBLICATION
DEADLINE**



Spell-checker pulps cookbook

Down in Australia, copies of ‘The Pasta Bible’ might become high priced curiosities after the book has been withdrawn and destroyed. The reason is an embarrassing typo caused by trusting a spell-checker and maybe auto-correct being too helpful. We don’t know if Microsoft Word was used in writing the book but it’s a reasonable bet. A recipe for ‘Tagliatelle with sardines and prosciutto’ suggests spicing with “freshly ground black people” – oh dear. Unless Aussies have a cannibalistic-side we assume they meant ‘black pepper’.

(Perhaps it could lead to a 21st Century version of ‘Soylent Green’ with the famous line changed to “Tagliatelle is people!”)

It shows up two ways in which Word features, normally very useful, can bite back.

Spell-check is really useful, especially since Word added the red squiggly line to highlight words that Word’s dictionary doesn’t recognize. The downside is that misspelled word which spells another word won’t get a red squiggle. Pepper/People, now/know, bit/bite and many others.

It’s all too easy to scan a document looking for the red squiggles – we all do it in haste. Of course we really need to properly proof read the document by actually reading it.

The other problem is more subtle – we wondered how ‘pepper’ became ‘people’ in the first place? Maybe auto-correct changed the word and the author didn’t notice? Auto-correct looks for

common spelling errors and automatically changes the word – try typing ‘cxan’ is changed to ‘can’ as soon as you press space or fullstop/period. The ‘cx’ combination is a common mistake because the keyboard letters are next to each other.

Similarly ‘poepel’ is changed to ‘people’ by Word’s auto-correct. ‘Pepper’ and ‘people’ share the same first two letters while the third letters ‘p’ and ‘o’ are next to each other on the keyboard. Who knows what happened between brain, keyboard and Word as the fateful recipe was typed.

That leads to the other danger when proof-reading – seeing what should be on the page not what’s actually typed there. At Office-Watch.com we know that danger all too well <sigh>.

Office 2010 download trap

With the news that Office 2010 has been released to manufacture, the software pirates were quickly out with downloads that you should not touch.

Office-Watch.com checked a few of the ‘Office 2010 RTM’ downloads and found most of them were just renamed beta versions of Office 2010. At best you get the ‘pre-RTM’ version.

Even if a download is the real deal there’s always the risk of the download being infected with some virus or worm. You didn’t think people made the download available out of the goodness of their hearts?

Be patient, Office 2010 will be available soon enough. The current beta version will work until October 2010. It’s a good bet that Microsoft will have a free trial download of Office 2010.

Your 'Deleted Items' Safety Net

There's a feeling around for some people that they need to keep their Outlook 'clean' or 'uncluttered' with messages removed from the Inbox immediately and even the deleted items folder kept empty.

While this sounds like a good idea, it's really not necessary with modern software. There are good reasons to keep emails and you can make things more difficult for yourself by deleting emails prematurely.

Outlook has an option to clear out the Deleted Items folder when you exit the program Tools | Options General | 'Empty the Deleted Items folder upon exiting'.

We suggest you turn this OFF. It may seem a 'tidy' option but it really removes messages before you have a chance to recover them.

Deleted Items is your 'safety net', you get a second chance to read a message you may have accidentally removed. That's easy to do when you're removing spam and other unwanted messages, occasionally other messages get deleted by mistake.

If you clear the Deleted Items folder when you exit Outlook you're denying yourself that safety net. Instead of bothering people to resend 'lost' messages, just look in your Deleted Items.

The alternative is to let the Auto-Archive feature do its work or

our choice, manually remove old messages from Deleted Items every few months. Switch to Deleted Items and sort by date order and select the older items you want to delete (ie leaving the more recent deleted items untouched). Do this by selecting the youngest message you want to delete (maybe a month or two old) and select to the oldest item by holding down Shift then press the End button.

How many messages is too many? That's up to you really, in Peter's mail account he waits until there's about 10,000 Deleted Items then removes the older 5,000 – that represents about 2-3 months of email traffic.

There should be no noticeable performance difference simply based on the size of your Deleted Items folder.

The same applies, and more, to the Junk E-mail folder. Anti-spam filters are not perfect and occasionally genuine messages get automatically shunted to the Junk folder. Many times we've heard from people frustrated by a message they've been waiting for but hasn't arrived and they blame the sender. In fact they've had the message all along, sitting in the Junk E-mail folder. So while it might be tempting to delete 'spam' immediately, it's more prudent to leave the messages for a time - just in case.

(From Office for mere Mortals 11.06)

WINDOWS 7 & VISTA GOD MODE

Pity about the name but 'God mode' is a handy trick for Windows 7 and Vista. In fact you don't need 'God' at all.

Again, this isn't MS Office but it's too good to ignore ...

Given how sensitive some religious people can be, it's little wonder Microsoft doesn't want to talk about the Windows 7 and Vista 'God Mode'. A pity about the name (it certainly wasn't an official decision rather an unauthorized extra, so blaming Microsoft isn't really fair).

Getting past the naming, 'God mode' can be very useful for finding options in Windows 7 and Vista.

Entering God mode

Make a new folder called:

GodMode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}

It can be anywhere – we tried it in the Drive C root folder.

If you do it right, the folder icon will change to the Control Panel icon.

Enter the folder and it shows up a long list of control settings that are normally spread across many locations (Action Center, Admin Tools etc).

According to [Cnet](#) it works in Windows 7 32-bit but might crash 64-bit Windows. It worked on several 64-bit machines, we've tried ... touchwood.

More 'Deity' modes

There are more special folder name codes in Windows ... try these out:

```
{025A5937-A6BE-4686-A844-36FE4BEC8B6D}
{15eae92e-f17a-4431-9f28-805e482dafd4}
{17cd9488-1228-4b2f-88ce-4298e93e0966}
{1D2680C9-0E2A-469d-B787-065558BC7D43}
{1FA9085F-25A2-489B-85D4-86326EEDCD87}
{208D2C60-3AEA-1069-A2D7-08002B30309D}
{20D04FE0-3AEA-1069-A2D8-08002B30309D}
{36eef7db-88ad-4e81-ad49-0e313f0c35f8}
{4026492F-2F69-46B8-B9BF-5654FC07E423}
{60632754-c523-4b62-b45c-4172da012619}
{7007ACC7-3202-11D1-AAD2-00805FC1270E}
{78F3955E-3B90-4184-BD14-5397C15F1EFC}
{7b81be6a-ce2b-4676-a29e-eb907a5126c5}
{8E908FC9-BECC-40f6-915B-F4CA0E70D03D}
{93412589-74D4-4E4E-AD0E-E0CB621440FD}
{96AE8D84-A250-4520-95A5-A47A7E3C548B}
{9C60DE1E-E5FC-40f4-A487-460851A8D915}
{9C73F5E5-7AE7-4E32-A8E8-8D23B85255BF}
{BB06C0E4-D293-4f75-8A90-CB05B6477EEE}
{D20EA4E1-3957-11d2-A40B-0C5020524153}
{D555645E-D4F8-4c29-A827-D93C859C4F2A}
{D9EF8727-CAC2-4e60-809E-86F80A666C91}
{E95A4861-D57A-4be1-AD0F-35267E261739}
{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}
{ED834ED6-4B5A-4bfe-8F11-A626DCB6A921}
```

For example:

What does this do.{D20EA4E1-3957-11d2-A40B-0C5020524153}

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Removing 'God' from 'God mode'

Claude Almer realized that the key number in curly brackets is the important bit - you can name 'God mode' anything you like:

The Prophet Mode - Peace be upon him.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}

Lord Vishnu mode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}

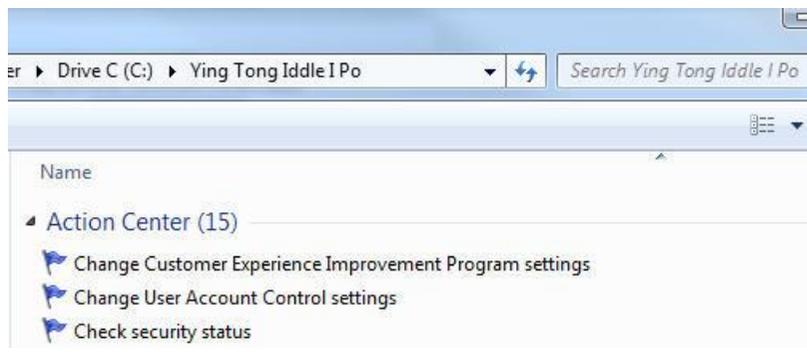
Yahweh mode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}

Confucius.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}

Buddha.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}

Richard Dawkins godless mode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}

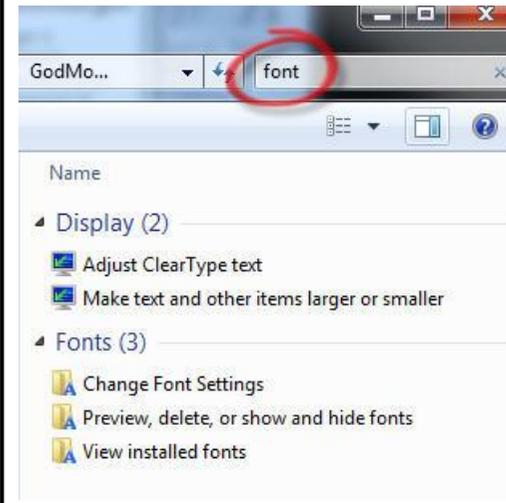
Ying tong iddle I po.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}



Windows 7 and Vista God mode without God

Searching God mode

You can search the 'God' folder from the search pane on top right to quickly find settings.



Windows 7 God mode with search

As you can see it doesn't just search the visible labels. Neither of the 'Display' items has the word 'font' but they are font related and show up. That's because each 'God' item has keywords that are also searched.

Windows Vista

Thanks to 'BBlohM' and Claude Almer for checking that 'God mode' also works in Windows Vista 32-bit. Office Watch and several of our readers have tried it with

Vista 64-bit and Explorer consistently crashes on any folder with a 'God' sub-folder.

Warning: Removing the 'God' folder from Vista 64-bit can be quite difficult so please don't try this yourself.

If you do have a 'god' mode folder that is causing problems here's how to delete it.

- Best to do with Administrator privileges enabled.
- Enter the Command Prompt - CMD or 'DOS' box.
- Go to the parent folder of the 'God' folder eg C:\ or wherever.
- Remove the folder using the rmdir command eg. `rmdir GodMode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}`
- Make sure you use the exact folder name. It's better to copy the name than re-type it.

We're obliged to David L. from Kingston, Ontario for testing and confirming this tip. He also points out that enabling 'Quick Edit mode' (right click on the top left corner of the command window, select Properties |Options) will let you right-click to paste into a command line. David has gone to the trouble of writing up full directions [here](#).

Windows XP

There's no 'God mode' in Windows XP. Explorer can't open the item.

Portability

You could put these special folders on a removable drive (USB) and plug them into a Vista or Windows 7 computer to quickly access various settings

CLOUD STORAGE IS A HACKERS DREAM COME TRUE

Webmail dangers and what you can do about it.

A recent article in the New York Times '[I was hacked in Beijing](#)' highlights some of the problems with storing your email or documents in the much-promoted cloud. In this case it seems the journalist was using a Yahoo online mail account which was hacked, most likely by the Chinese government or someone acting 'patriotically' on their behalf.

It highlights the downside of most 'cloud' storage – even in its simple form of a webmail account. Sure, webmail is cheap and easy to access, but it's also a security risk. You might not be 'of interest' to the CIA, MI6, FSB or Chinese MSS, but everyone has details online that they don't want other to see.

Cloud storage, is a stationary target for hackers that they can try to crack 24/7. That includes webmail and online document editing.

The makers of cloud storage have generally focused on accessibility and functionality , not security – much in the same way that Microsoft Office used to.

We now know that Google 'single password login' system was [hacked](#) back in January so that the attackers could have accessed any data in Google's cloud. That's not to

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(Continued from page 14)

single out Google - the same thing could have happened to another cloud system like Windows Live login.

Office Web Applications – the 'Office in a browser' coming from Microsoft falls into this trap. Once someone has hacked your Windows Live account they can view all your Skydrive/OWA documents. Microsoft does not allow password protected documents to be used on their new online service. That's a pity because password locked docs could be another level of protection against prying eyes.

Webmail and cloud storage is convenient but it's also accessible to others. Data stored on your computer isn't as available to outsiders, especially if you use the tools available to you in Windows like Encrypted File System, Bitlocker, password login. If used correctly, your data is secure even if someone steals the entire computer.

What can you do?

Strong passwords – yeah I know you've heard it before but at least use unique passwords for critical accounts like online banking and webmail.

Use webmail as interim storage for newly arrived messages. Setup your email program to grab email from the online storage and delete the online copy – this is the default for POP accounts setup in Outlook.



Get a digital certificate and use it to encrypt emails to others. Encrypted messages can only be read by the sender and recipient with appropriate software like Outlook / Outlook Express etc. Even if someone hacks your online storage all they'll see is a mess of characters.

What should they do?

Online services should have the option to login by personal certificate backed up by name/password. A login history should be available – when, the IP address, apparent location etc. Even a 'login alert' function to let you know via email or SMS when someone logs into your account.

Staff working in sensitive areas – like a foreign correspondent – should be using something better than Yahoo mail. Microsoft's Exchange Server has webmail access called 'Outlook Web Access' which can be setup for tight security (login requiring a digital certificate, VPN login etc).

We're very aware of security issues having just finished the latest Office-Watch.com ebook – [Privacy and Security in Microsoft Office](#). Getting a digital certificate and using it to sign and encrypt emails is covered in step-by-step detail

What I Want In A Man! Original List:

1. Handsome
2. Charming
3. Financially successful
4. A caring listener
5. Witty
6. In good shape
7. Dresses with style
8. Appreciates finer things
9. Full of thoughtful surprises

What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 32)

1. Nice looking
2. Opens car doors, holds chairs
3. Has enough money for a nice dinner
4. Listens more than talks
5. Laughs at my jokes
6. Carries bags of groceries with ease
7. Owns at least one tie
8. Appreciates a good home-cooked meal
9. Remembers birthdays and anniversaries

What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 42)

1. Not too ugly
2. Doesn't drive off until I'm in the car
3. Works steady - splurges on dinner out occasionally
4. Nods head when I'm talking
5. Usually remembers punch lines of jokes
6. Is in good enough shape to rearrange the furniture
7. Wears a shirt that covers his stomach

8. Knows not to buy champagne with screw-top lids
9. Remembers to put the toilet seat down
10. Shaves most weekends

What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 52)

1. Keeps hair in nose and ears trimmed
2. Doesn't belch or scratch in public
3. Doesn't borrow money too often
4. Doesn't nod off to sleep when I'm venting
5. Doesn't re-tell the same joke too many times
6. Is in good enough shape to get off the couch on weekends
7. Usually wears matching socks and fresh underwear
8. Appreciates a good TV dinner
9. Remembers your name on occasion
10. Shaves some weekends

What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 62)

1. Doesn't scare small children
2. Remembers where bathroom is
3. Doesn't require much money for upkeep
4. Only snores lightly when asleep
5. Remembers why he's laughing
6. Is in good enough shape to stand up by himself
7. Usually wears some clothes
8. Likes soft foods
9. Remembers where he left his teeth
10. Remembers that it's the weekend

What I Want in a Man, Revised List (age 72)

1. Breathing.
2. Doesn't miss the toilet.

Hotmail's social networking busts your privacy

By Woody Leonhard

In its rush to take on Facebook and Google Buzz, Microsoft is now collecting and displaying personal information on your Hotmail page — information you may never have wanted to broadcast.

Exactly how it's mining this information is something of a mystery, but if you use Hotmail or Windows Live, it's time to review your privacy settings — lest something you said or did comes back to haunt you.

One user signed in to her Hotmail account recently and was greeted with Microsoft's new, improved social networking splash page, shown in Figure 1.



Hotmail's new user home page Figure 1.

When you sign in to Hotmail, you now see the "Today" page with its new social networking format.

What's wrong with this picture? All three What's new with your network entries contain potentially embarrassing information that the authors never dreamed would appear on someone else's Hotmail sign-in page. I speak with authority — I'm one of the contacts.

This looks like a heavy-handed attempt by Microsoft to expand its Windows Live Spaces social networking out to the zillions of people who use Hotmail. A controversial move in a confusing marketplace, it's reminiscent of the Buzz privacy debacle that got Google into hot water with several governments (as reported in a Deutsche Welle story). In essence, Microsoft is signing you up for a Windows Live Spaces account without your consent.

The new format brings up some disturbing questions: How, for example, does Microsoft come up with a list of your network contacts, when you've never created one in the first place? How does Microsoft find the What's new items — little titbits of information about those in your network, the network that you didn't know you had until just now?

Unfortunately, these questions remain unanswered.

Where the 'what's new' list gets its faces

In an e-mail, I asked Microsoft two questions: Where do they get the list of your network contacts that appears on the Hotmail login page? And how do they harvest the content that appears next to each contact?

A Microsoft spokeswoman replied with an e-mail that simply stated:

* "Hi Woody,

Please see the Windows Live 'What's New' feed permissions work to answer your questions.

(Microsoft doesn't allow its spokespersons to be identified by name.)

The link goes to instructions on how to set your Spaces profile permissions. Using a tedious procedure described at the end of this story, you can keep Microsoft from divulging some kinds of information. But what you see and what the world sees on your new Hotmail start-up page is the way it's meant to be.

Even though I don't know for sure where Microsoft gets its Hotmail content, I can make a few educated guesses.

If you subscribe to Microsoft's Windows Live Spaces, you have a list of What's new with your network contacts. Microsoft uses that list to come up with the names that appear on your Hotmail startup screen. If, however, you never signed up for Live Spaces, it looks like MS draws the What's new information primarily from the people you've IM'd using Microsoft Live Messenger. (You can check this by instant-messaging someone new and seeing whether that person then shows up on your Hotmail page.)

It also looks like Microsoft draws the names in the Hotmail What's new list from your Hotmail contacts. Microsoft has many different contact lists (Hotmail, Messenger, Live Mail, Outlook, Spaces, etc.), and it appears Microsoft's scheme is to expand its social networking system by combining all these lists. Fortunately, it can't do that unless you give your consent (and your contacts may have to give their consent as well).

Microsoft also lets you draw names from other social networks

such as Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, AOL, and others.

How Microsoft finds other 'what's new' content

The What's new with your network list adds content from blog updates, favourites updates, photos, games, and more — but for the life of me, I have no idea from what specific sources Microsoft mines this material.

This is not a case of paranoia or that I'm anti-social — I have no problem with Facebook, for example. If you stick something on a Facebook wall, you expect the missive to be visible to anybody who wants to look at the wall. That's part of the social-network deal. But the new Hotmail user home screen goes to another level.

For instance, if you have a Windows Live ID and you add John Smith to your What's new network, you expect that others in your network will find information on Mr. Smith. That's cool. But you'd probably be surprised when you discover that someone you casually IM'd six months ago now sees that you and John are buddies.

I'll give two examples where the source of the new Hotmail content mystifies me. I made a comment on December 11, as shown in Figure 1, but I have no idea where Microsoft found that text. (You won't find it searching on Google or Bing.) What's new also says that I commented on Kim's file — but I have no idea who Kim is. Clicking through on the linked PDF e-book turns up a dead link. By clicking on Kim, I discovered that she is or was a marketing manager at Microsoft Press. But I still have no idea how she ended up as a What's new link with my name on it.

I'll readily confess that I don't recall every I agree button I've

(Continued from page 18)

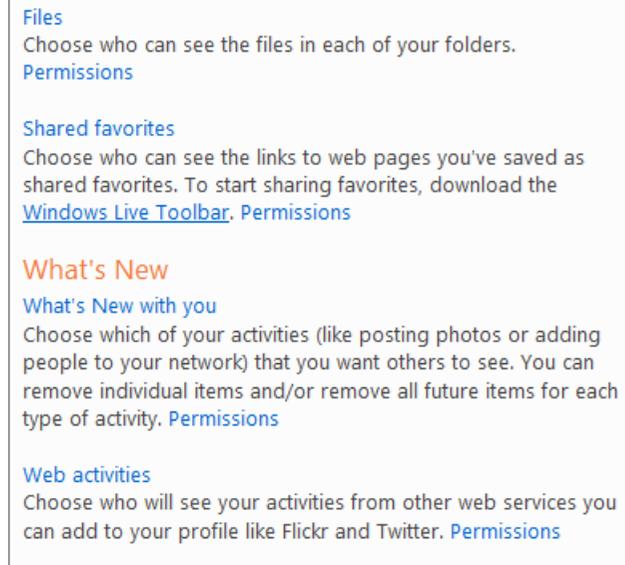
ever pushed. But I'm reasonably certain I've never given Microsoft permission to mash together information about a woman I've never heard of and stick it under my name on other people's Hotmail pages.

Use the Permissions pages to protect yourself

As far as I can tell, a Windows Live ID is necessary for MS to spread potentially embarrassing information about you across the Hotmail sign-in pages of people you barely know. Windows Live IDs have gone by many different names over the years, including @hotmail.com or @live.com e-mail addresses, Windows Live Messenger, MSN Messenger or Windows Messenger ID, Xbox Online ID, Windows Passport or .NET Passport ID, and Microsoft Wallet or Passport or Passport Network ID.

If you have a Windows Live ID and you're concerned about privacy — as you should be — you can use the permissions pages (and there are many of them) to control exactly what other Hotmail users will see about you. Here's how:

- * Step 1. Go to the Windows Live sign-in page and sign in with the Windows Live ID that you want to protect.
- * Step 2. At the top of the page, above the masses of advertising, click the Profile link.
- * Step 3. On the Profile page, click the Permissions link. You'll see a lengthy list of permission options, as shown in Figure 2. I counted 22 different main permissions options, and several of the options have multiple choices.



Windows Live permissions page Figure 2. A tiny subset of all of the permissions you're allowed to tweak.

One of the options — What's New — includes 16 sub options (see Figure 3). These settings control the What's new with your network items on the Hotmail login page, but they're poorly defined — many of the links shown in Figure 3 didn't lead anywhere.

* Step 4. Work through the permissions that concern you the most — for example, whether your last name should be displayed. It could take an hour to slog through it all. As far as I can tell, there's no easy way to simply say, Keep Out.

* Step 5. When you're done, click the link in the upper-right

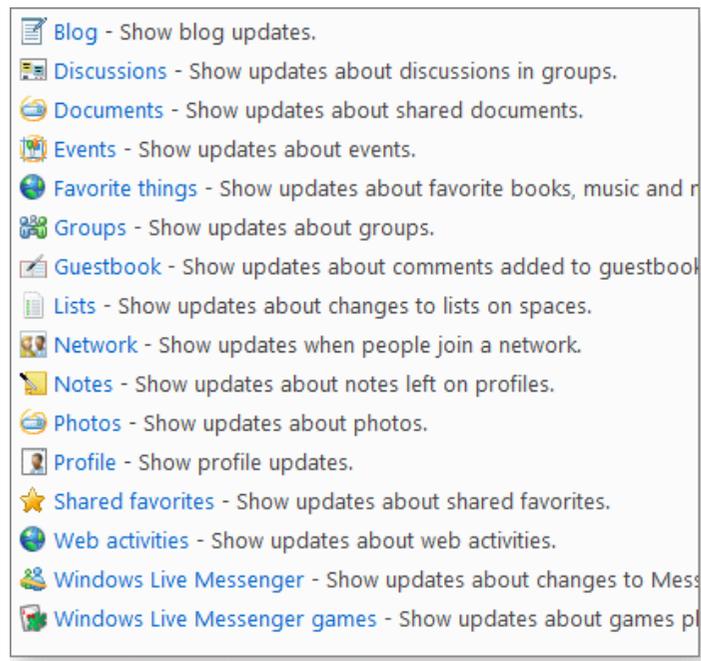
(Continued on page 20)

corner of the window and sign out.

That's what you have to go through to keep Microsoft from broadcasting your personal details to people you barely know.

Unless somebody in Redmond shows a little common sense and restraint, this foray into public — and potentially embarrassing — data mining could bring with it legal liabilities.

Given the murkiness of this new social networking scheme, I'd just as soon opt out — if I could only figure out how



Whats New permissions page

Figure 3. The many permissions options for the "What's New" section of Hotmail have a daunting number of choices.

Why men shouldn't write advice columns

Dear John,

I hope you can help me. The other day, I set off for work, leaving my husband in the house watching TV. My car stalled, and then it broke down about a mile down the road, and I had to walk back to get my husband's help. When I got home, I couldn't believe my eyes. He was in our bedroom with the neighbor's daughter!

I am 32, my husband is 34 and the neighbor's daughter is 19. We have been married for 10 years. When I confronted him, he broke down and admitted they had been having an affair for the past six months. He won't go to counseling, and I'm afraid I am a wreck and need advice urgently. Can you please help?

Sincerely, Sheila

Dear Sheila,

A car stalling after being driven a short distance can be caused by a variety of faults with the engine. Start by checking that there is no debris in the fuel line. If it is clear, check the vacuum pipes and hoses on the intake manifold and also check all grounding wires. If none of these approaches solves the problem, it could be that the fuel pump itself is faulty, causing low delivery pressure to the injectors.

I hope this helps,
John

— Forwarded by Steve Sanderson,
Gilbert, S.C.