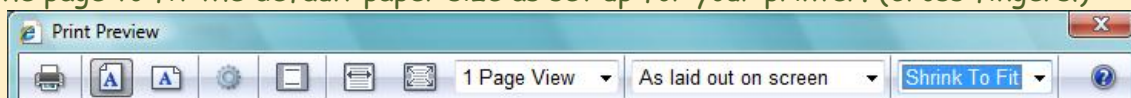


E-Newsletter 20th August 2010. (Issue 37)



Printing from your browser. Update.

Back on the 10th June 2010, issue 30, I mentioned a solution for those who have tried to print a page from the web but couldn't get it all on the paper; some words were missing on the right-hand side. I omitted to mention the option in print preview to "Shrink to fit" See below. This should resize the page to fit the default paper size as set up for your printer. (Cross fingers!)



PC / TV.

A while back I was wondering whether to buy a bigger monitor and a Freeview box or whether to get a TV and connect the PC to that. A friend said that you don't get a remote control for a monitor so I recently treated myself to a new TV. This has inputs for analogue TV, cable TV, VCR, Ethernet and PC. I use the PC connexion to watch iPlayer recordings. The PC is still connected to its monitor at the moment and I use a simple data switch to change twixt the monitor and TV, and a 3.5mm jack audio switch to swop the sound from the PC speakers to the TV speakers. This saves lots of unplugging. Simple really. I could manage without the monitor and just connect the PC straight to the TV.



Adobe Shockwave.

In issue 31, I mentioned Flash, Air, Silverlight and Java. I should also have mentioned Adobe Shockwave which is a multimedia player program. It allows Adobe Director applications to be published on the Internet and viewed in a web browser on any computer which has the Shockwave plug-in installed. So if you come across Shockwave, that's what it does. If you receive requests to update any of these five applications (Flash, Air, Silverlight, Java and Shockwave), then you're OK to accept.



How to Ping (but not Pong) a Website.

If you are having problems resolving a website you're visiting, you can "ping" it to see if the problem is caused by your server, or if there is a problem somewhere in the internet between your computer and the domain in question.

Here is how to Ping:- 1.) From the desktop, click Start. 2.) Select Run. 3.) In the Run box, type

command. 4.) Click OK 5.) The DOS window will pop up. 6.) At the C:\WINDOWS> prompt type **ping www.domainname.com** (note the space twixt **ping** and **www. domainname** is the website you're trying to access) and press enter. 7.) You will see some results scroll up the screen. 8.) It will tell you if there were any packets lost in the transfer (0% loss is what you want to see). It will also tell you the average speed, in milliseconds. 9.) To close the DOS window, type exit at the C:\WINDOWS> prompt and press enter. (With thanks to mymommybiz.com)



No uncertain sound...

One of our clubs members recently e-mailed me "A couple of days ago I discovered two things wrong on my Vista computer. During a DVD film I had running the sound just stopped. I decided to test the system with music from my files in the computer. All my stored music had disappeared from the files. The actual files were still there with names of artists, but empty. Tried running from music on disc, no luck."

After numerous tests and checks that I suggested, he found the cause himself.

"I remembered putting a DVD on and then switching it off half way thro' the film, later putting in a music CD which produced silence. So I brought out the original DVD and replayed it. It started where I had switched off. Lo and behold on came the sound! Then tried out what music was left in the computer and it came through loud and clear; also OK with music discs."

I've never come across this before but it looks like a corrupted registry that reset itself when fed the original disc. (The quotes above are slightly edited and condensed from the original messages.)



Wolf in Sheep's clothing.

There is a useful free anti-virus program made by Avira and called "AntiVir". Unfortunately, there is a nasty bit of malware called "Antivir". Same name? Well sort of. One of our members suffered an Antivir attack despite having a full paid-for anti-virus installed. The problem is that this isn't a virus, it's spyware so a straight anti-virus program won't deal with it. This manifested itself by demanding \$50 to pay for a removal tool. Fortunately the member had the sense not to pay up. Any attempts to access any other internet site were blocked so he couldn't download any solutions. Any attempts to run System Restore were also blocked. He called me for a solution but the one I found didn't really do the trick so it's clearly a sod to get rid of. I posted a query on my favourite forum, the [Gadgetdetective](#), and the best solution seems to be to install the free Malwarebytes' "[Anti-Malware](#)". If you're infected, download this on a clean PC and then use a USB drive to install it on the infected one. Then boot the infected one into "Safe mode" and perform a "Full scan".

Any feedback or suitable contributions gratefully received. Just e-mail them to me. If you want more detail on items raised, just contact me.

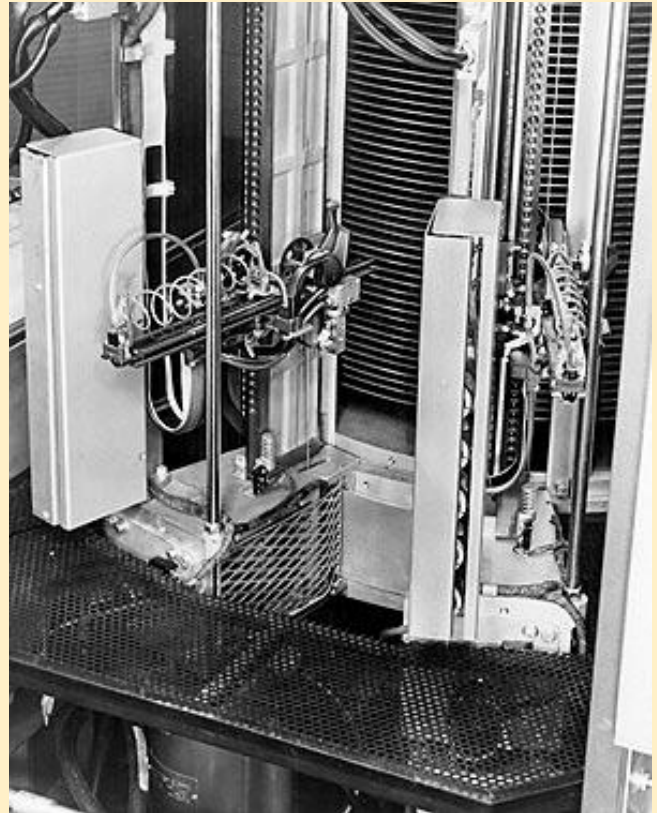
If you want to keep these newsletter issues for future reference, just save the attachment in a suitable folder. In most mail applications, just go to 'File' and 'Save Attachments' and then browse to where you want it to be saved.

Steve Kirby.

See the club's [website](#) for news & events or the [About](#) section for info on the club generally.

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Can you guess what it is yet?



No. It's not a washing machine, it's a hard disk drive with 5 MB of storage. In September 1956, IBM launched the 305 RAMAC, (Random Access Method of Accounting and Control) the first SUPER computer with a hard disk drive (HDD). The IBM 350 disc drive weighed over a ton and stored a whopping 5 MB of data. Do you appreciate your 8 GB memory stick now, or a 3GS iPhone with 32GB of memory?

The 350 Disk Storage Unit consisted of the magnetic disk memory unit with its access mechanism, the electronic and pneumatic controls for the access mechanism, and a small air compressor. The 350 was 60 inches long, 68 inches high and 29 inches deep. It was configured with 50 magnetic disks containing 50,000 sectors, each of which held 100 alphanumeric characters, for a capacity of 5 million characters. Disks rotated at 1,200 rpm, tracks (20 to the inch) were recorded at up to 100 bits per inch, and typical head-to-disk spacing was 800 microinches. The execution of a "seek" instruction positioned a read-write head to the track that contained the desired sector and selected the sector for a later read or write operation. Seek time averaged about 600 milliseconds. The photo on the right shows the dual arms used to record or read data from the 350 disk storage unit.

If you understood all that, keep it secret!

I have strong suspicions that the picture on the left is a publicity photo because I simply do not believe that an extremely expensive fragile machine like this would be transported on a pallet with no protection or covering whatsoever.

I think the aircraft is a DC6. Anyone else good at plane spotting?