

E-Newsletter 30th August 2010. (Issue 38)



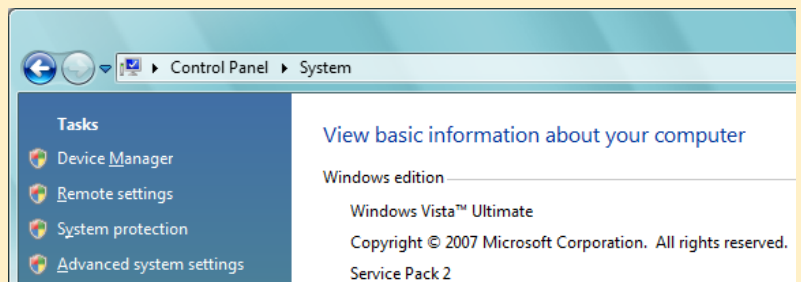
Yahoo + Bing.

Most members have a "favourite" search engine, be it Google, Bing, Yahoo, Ask or something else. Yahoo has decided to use Bing for its searches so you'll probably see a "Powered by Bing" label on your Yahoo searches. You might as well just go for Bing in the first place! (Source [PC Pro](#))



Windows Vista Service Pack 2 (SP2).

Support for Windows Vista without any service packs installed ended on April 13, 2010. To see which SP you have, go to Start > Control Panel > System (see right). Windows Update may not offer the latest Windows Vista service pack to some users. This issue can occur for several reasons. To continue receiving security updates for Vista, make sure you're running Windows Vista with Service Pack 2. Read more [here](#).



Weight for it...

The "Computer Club" seems to have turned into the "Computer and Diners Club" since the restaurant facilities have been upgraded and smoking banned (ooooh controversial !) Just prior to a recent meal, we discussed the BMI issue. No, not British Midland International but Body Mass Index. The calculation is straightforward enough but the interpretation of the resulting figure seems to vary wildly. We concluded that the National Health Service [site](#) was the best to go for.



Desktop or Laptop?



When it comes to buying a computer these days there is often the nagging question , should I buy a desktop PC or a laptop? Buying both makes good sense when there is a struggle in the family for access but that doesn't apply to all of us. Happily the answer can be remarkably simple for those who need both four walls around them and frequent mobility. Let's face it, even on holiday, many have the need for that daily dose of Facebook or to be in touch with the folks back home. netbooks and notebooks (laptops) fulfil real needs. Happily there is an answer to this dilemma. It's call a Port Replicator or Docking Station. It's not a new solution. Many companies, BA included in their business areas have been using this layout.

The venerable IBM Thinkpad with its docking station was a good example. The Thinkpad engages via the docking port on top of the docking station. The docking station itself has several ports which are fed from the Thinkpad's system. Typically these include additional facilities e.g. USB, Serial ports, and VGA connectors. Then monitors, external hard drives, etc. can be permanently or selectively attached, while the Thinkpad's own screen can be closed down. At the end of the business day, common practice is to lift the Thinkpad clear of the docking station, lock it away or take it out and about for mobile use.

The concept has taken some time to be a popular feature in home computing but it's now on the rise. Manufacturers Acer, Dell, Lenovo (makers of the IBM Thinkpad) and Toshiba all have models to support full docking. Other more common notebooks are not forgotten though and Acer, Belkin and Toshiba all make USB Port Replicators. Toshiba's new Dynadock models support up to 6 USB2 devices and even analogue/digital monitors including high definition.



DYNADOCK W20 Port Replicator with Wireless USB support

- Wireless USB support enables users to transfer content with no wires
- USB 2.0 connectivity includes support for Sleep-and-Charge technology to power mobile devices
- High resolution graphics supports 1920x1080p video with 16-bit/32-bit colour

Most notebooks running Windows, support through power options shutting down the lid while maintaining a full operating environment. It's an option well worth evaluating offering increased flexibility and considerable cost savings. Dennis Harvey



That syncing feeling...

Recently I wrote about SkyDrive but Microsoft also have [LiveMesh](#) and [LiveSync](#) available. So that's three different methods that MS has produced of sharing files using synchronisation. Roy and I recently played around with SkyDrive at the club. He sent some photos from his account to the computer club. It worked as it should but we came upon a major limitation. The recipient can download only one file at a time, not a batch or a folder full of files. Where's the sense in that? Microsoft programmers are in a world of their own as usual. I'll try LiveMesh and LiveSync and see if those two are any better. DropBox is still my current favourite, though.



Clean Install Windows 7 with Upgrade Media.

If you ever need to carry out a clean install of Windows 7 using an "upgrade" disc, see the full instructions [here](#).

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

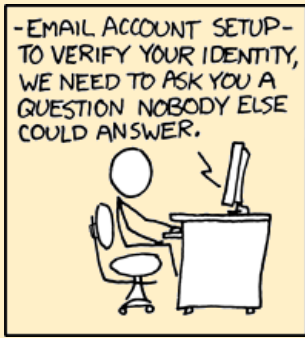
If you want to keep these newsletter issues for future reference, just save the attachment in a suitable folder. In most mail applications, just go to 'File' and 'Save Attachments' and then browse to where you want it to be saved.

Steve Kirby.

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

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Funny Fings...



Humour courtesy xkcd.com