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**WHAT'S ON**

The course calendar for September 2007 is available

More Digital photo editing courses will be available soon. We are looking at a mix of evening and Saturday. Let us know what suits you.

Remember Thursday nights 7 - 9 pm is help desk night. Call into the rooms with your problems and we will see if we can help.

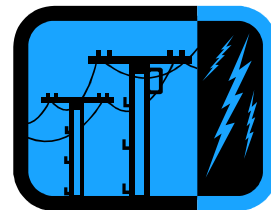
To access links on this page click on the URL or copy and paste in your browser.

**Apple News**

A number of members have Apple computers. The new Intel Macs make it possible to run Windows. There are many Windows programmes that run well on the new Macs. One that makes this easy is *Parallels* which runs any version of windows on the same desktop as Mac OS X. <http://www.parallels.com>

**Electrical Surges**

We are aware that faults on the electricity system can cause failure of computers. The mains technology has remained unchanged for more than 120 years. Older, pre-electronic appliances were unaffected by "surges", as they are known. It is not just your computer that is affected.



How many other electronic devices do you have in your home? The United States Ministry of Commerce has an excellent document on this subject. Other than NZ voltage being 230-volts most of the material is relevant to us. What can you do? First there are two types of devices. One is a simple plug-in unit designed for protection of the appliance it feeds. The second is mounted at your main switchboard. This protects your entire house. To get really good protection you should have your electrician fit one - costs about \$200 - and use a plug-in one on each appliance. The switchboard one will protect against any external surges - except direct lightning - and the plug-ins against most internal surges. One important thing to note is that all of these devices are "one-shot" in that once they have stopped a surge they no longer offer protection and need replacing. You should regularly check the indicator light to make sure the device is working.

More info at [http://www.nist.gov/public\\_affairs/practiceguides/surgesfnl.pdf](http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/practiceguides/surgesfnl.pdf).

**On-Line Games**

Yes I know we all say we don't play games on our computers "it is just the children or grandkids". Okay, so lets say we have some time to spare but don't want to buy any games to load on our computers. Have a look at this site - it has some amazing games from puzzles, word, strategy and action. <http://www.miniclip.com/>.



Don't be too concerned if you only have dial-up access as some of the games are quite small and are downloaded as temporary files.

**On-Line Encyclopaedia**

The on-line encyclopaedia, Wikipedia <http://wikipedia.org/> is well known. Recently there has been an accusation that Air New Zealand "softened" the text. Because there is no editorial control anyone can change or alter the text. The message here is that although it is a very good site use with care. More reliable is Encyclopaedia Britannica <http://www.britannica.com/>. Unfortunately you have to pay. There is free trial which if you do not cancel will cost you US\$69.96 per year.

**Useful Tips**

There are a lot of internet sites offering a range of computer tips. World Start <http://www.worldstart.com/> has numerous tips that are very well categorized. Also lots of help from Microsoft <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/using/windowsxp/default.aspx> and Apple <http://www.apple.com/nz/support/hardware/>



**Try These Sites**

Rugby World Cup <http://www.rugbyworldcup.com/>  
Rugby World Cup TV3 Broadcasts <http://www.tv3.co.nz/RugbyWorldCup/tabid/171/Default.aspx>  
All Blacks <http://www.allblacks.com/>  
New Zealand Rugby Museum <http://www.rugbymuseum.co.nz/>

