

COURSES

The course calendar for the next 3 months is out. Courses are filling rapidly with some closed already. Check out our web page.

<http://tinyurl.com/2wowsb>

MICROSOFT SOFTWARE

Do you know that the SeniorNet Federation has obtained significant discounts on a range of Microsoft software? Go to the site below and select the software you want and click.



Order

You don't have to pay on-line, just send a cheque when the software arrives.

<http://tinyurl.com/6o4px5>

MOUSE SETTINGS

Microsoft Windows (XP and Vista) have default settings for the mouse. If these don't suit you, e.g. the pointer moves too quickly, the double-click needs a rapid tap, you prefer left-hand to right-hand, the pointer is too small among many other problems. To set your own:

Go to **Start|Control Panel|Mouse**.  Click to reveal several tabs. Open **Pointer Options** tab to change the pointer speed. Open **Pointers** tab to change the size of the pointer. Double-click **Normal Select** to see cursors available. (Change the View option to **Thumbnails**).  Click on the cursor you want, **then Apply**. Click **Buttons** to change Double-click speed.

HIGH-DEFINITION VIDEO and Blu-Ray Disc™

The latest TV's, DVD players and PC's support a new technology - High Definition (HD). HD provides much greater clarity than standard televisions. A new recording technology known as **BLU-RAY** is a DVD size disc format that allows 6 - 12 times more video to be fitted to a DVD disc (25 G to 50GB) and about 6 times better quality when played on HDTV systems. Although the discs are the same size as DVD's/CD's they are not compatible with existing DVD players so once again you will need a new player.



All new movies are being released in this format along with the current DVD format. Up to a couple of months ago there was another non-compatible format known as HD-DVD but this has now been dropped. Most makers of the new players are making them backwards compatible. Your existing collection of DVD's will still play with improved quality through "up-scaling" which converts the DVD signal to 1080p (HD). Many new computers now have Blu-ray drives fitted as standard. By the way, the name comes from the colour of the laser - **blue**.

Players are quite expensive at present but will come down as demand increases. Eventually the present type of DVD player/recorder (and VCR) will be defunct. Sony have a Blu-Ray model selling for \$632.

When connecting your HDTV to a DVD player you use what is known as HDMI. The latest DVD players have this connection. Be aware of a big scam going on where the dealer will try to sell you a \$400 cable! Don't buy. HDMI cable 1.0m - \$18 at computer shops.

More at:

Blu-ray Disc.com

<http://tinyurl.com/ynlrdx>

Blue-ray.com

<http://tinyurl.com/3vvlb>

HDMI Cable Scam

<http://tinyurl.com/3kmt3r>

BLUETOOTH



Bluetooth, named after a famous Viking, is a short range radio (0 - 100m) communications technology that allows cellphones, mp3 players, headphones, even medical devices to communicate between each other and to PC's printers and Home Theatre systems without cables.

Many computers have Bluetooth built in or can use a USB "Dongle". (Check Control Panel for the Bluetooth symbol). Bluetooth is not the same as wireless networking - (WiFi).

Setup is easy. Devices are set to search for each other and once found are "paired" by a code number. Often when using computers you will need to add some special software which comes with the device. e.g. such as connecting a cellphone phone to a PC.

Full instructions are given in your device manual.

More at:

What is Bluetooth

<http://tinyurl.com/5zqsfc>

Setup Bluetooth - Vista

<http://tinyurl.com/yoe2tx>

Bluetooth.com

<http://tinyurl.com/q76aa>



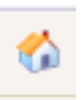
USB Bluetooth "Dongle"

SEARCH TIPS

If you want an Australian or UK site type the country prefix at the end of your search text. E.g. **Car sales Nissan UK** will list the Nissan car sales in the United Kingdom first. Another way is to use a local search engine for the country such as www.google.co.uk; or www.yahoo.com.au.



Your computer may come with the browser's home page set to either the computer maker or the ISP's website. You can change this to suit yourself. I suggest that you use either Yahoo or Google. Go to either www.google.co.nz or www.yahoo.co.nz. In your browser select **Tools|Options**. In the window that opens select **Use Current** from the Home Page panel. Click **Apply** then **OK**. Use this method for any other page you want.



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members:

Elva (Sam) Lumberton
Marie Anderson



HELP DESK

During Winter the help desk is closed on Thursday nights. If you require help email us at:

helpdesk@seniornetnorthwest.org.nz

Mail is checked daily so we can help you more quickly.

SITES

Neighbourhood Support
<http://www.ns.org.nz/>

NZ Police Security Tips
<http://tinyurl.com/63t9er>

Insurance Ombudsman
<http://tinyurl.com/6hc8cy>

Electricity Complaints
<http://tinyurl.com/5l6cbv>

Consumer Rights NZ
<http://tinyurl.com/8dccm>

Tenancy Tribunal NZ
<http://tinyurl.com/6g54dc>

Motor Vehicle Disputes
<http://tinyurl.com/3jxx7r>

OPENING LINKS

To access links on these pages click on the URL or copy and paste in your browser.

WORD and HIDDEN DATA

When you create, open, or save a document in MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint the document may contain hidden personal data that you don't want to share. If you are using MS Office 2007 there is a tool called Document Inspector that you use to remove this data. If using MS Office 2000, 2003 or XP you need to do this manually or install the tool listed below. In Office 2003/XP to remove your personal information go to **Tools|Options|Security**. Under Privacy Options check **Remove Personal Information from File Properties on Save**. Another trick is to not have your user details listed in Office. Go to **Tools|Options|User Information** and change your details to some non-descript option such as commas etc.

To check what data is saved go to **File|Properties** and you will see several tabs. Click on each to see what is being stored. If you are really concerned don't use Word but type your letters that are being sent electronically in either Notepad or Wordpad which don't store any hidden data.

More at:

Microsoft Hidden Data Removal Tool Office 2003/XP

Tips on Removing Hidden data

Word 2007 Document Inspector

<http://tinyurl.com/3u5tw>

<http://tinyurl.com/56tdjx>

<http://tinyurl.com/29ql2o>



DEAD FLOPPY

After 37 years and billions of sales, the floppy disk is to join the video player, cassette deck and 35mm film camera on technology's scrapheap. The 9cm piece of plastic, first used by Apple in 1983 will soon no longer be available. Several shops have already stopped restocking.

Floppies were once considered among the most vital accessories to computer users and offices worldwide for holding data in an easy-to-store format, which could easily be transferred between PCs. In 1998, 2 billion were sold around the world and every computer would have an 'A-drive' to handle them. They would be the all-important backup in case computers crashed. But floppies hold only 1.44mb of data – about one Mp3 song, one high resolution picture or a few dozen word-only documents. Apple stopped providing a floppy drive in 2004.

Instead, USB memory sticks that can hold up to 1,500 times as much data on one card (2Gb) and costing only \$20 are now the norm. Only 700million floppies were sold globally last year – down from 2 billion in 1998 – and 98 per cent of PCs no longer have an A-drive. The floppy looks increasingly quaint and simply can't compete. The first floppy, introduced by IBM in 1971, was a 20cm disk (8") holding just 100kb of data. Ten years later, Apple introduced the standard 3.5" 9cm floppy.

Video players have now been consigned to history as most retailers have stopped selling stand-alone units. At least they outlasted the Betamax format tapes which all but disappeared in 1985 after a 2 year battle for supremacy with VHS. Reading the latest on Blue-Ray and HD-DVD it sounds familiar.

More at

Uses For Old Floppies

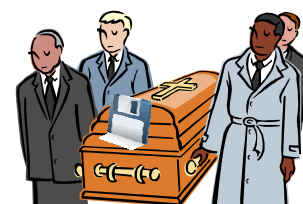
History of the Floppy Disc

USB Memory Sticks - History and Function

<http://tinyurl.com/3qojrl>

<http://tinyurl.com/67kmxy>

<http://tinyurl.com/5t7wuh>



FREE SOFTWARE

PDF (portable document format) has become a universal file format that is true cross-platform. To read the files you need Adobe Acrobat Reader which is a 20 Mb file. Latest version 8.1 is needed. **Foxit Reader** is new free PDF reader that is only 2.2Mb. It claims to be considerably faster than Adobe. Windows only.

More information and download at:

<http://tinyurl.com/dad3s>

