

COURSES

Check out our web page for available courses

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

MICROSOFT SOFTWARE

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.

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

Order

HOW TO:

MS WORD

Format Copying

Often when using Word you need to apply the same style (format) to text. Word provides a handy tool called Format Painter.

You should an icon like this on the toolbar.



This is very simple to use.

Highlight the text, or part of, that you wish to copy. Next click the icon and you will see that your cursor has changed to a brush with an I Beam.

Go to the text you wish to format, click and hold the left mouse button and drag over the text. Release the mouse button and your text should now be formatted to the style that you copied from.

TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

A number of members got together to hold a workshop on Genealogy. We learnt quite a lot and how to access some of the huge resources that are available through the internet. One area of interest is how do you store all the data you collect? There is a lot of software available but which one?



Many will make reference to GEDCOM - a file system developed by the Church of The Latter-day Saints for exchanging data between various programmes. If you are looking for a suitable programme check out reviews at About.com. Two of the most popular are *Family Tree Maker 2008* (\$68 NZ) and *Legacy* (Standard is Free and Delux is \$73NZ). Available from Beehive Books. Also check out Wikipedia's genealogy articles. If you have MS Excel and are skilled in the formatting techniques you can use this with the advantage of doing your own design. A template for a 5 generation pedigree chart is available from Microsoft.

If you are using a dial-up connection forget using the internet as it is too slow. There is a huge amount of data to search through so you will need a good broadband connection with at least a 1Gb limit. Keep in mind is how the files are to be read in years to come as software and operating systems change. For long term storage save the files as PDF and print out hard copies. Much of the data you will have to pay for so make sure you have a separate credit card with a low limit such as \$500.

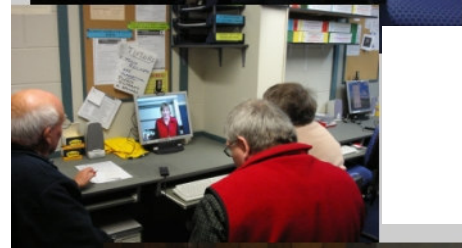
GEDCOM	http://tinyurl.com/6axqkj .	Beehive Books	http://tinyurl.com/5o4qly
Legacy	http://tinyurl.com/k5hk .	Family Tree Maker	http://tinyurl.com/2kb9h .
About.com	http://tinyurl.com/5defcj .	Excel template	http://tinyurl.com/2e49af
Wikipedia	http://tinyurl.com/yhbftv	Software	http://tinyurl.com/4qpy89
Familypedia	http://tinyurl.com/4v2ypa	NZ BDM (DIA)	http://tinyurl.com/4pcm9y
FamilySearch	http://tinyurl.com/684hcr	Find My Past	http://www.findmypast.com/
Ancestry.com	http://tinyurl.com/9eny4	RootsWeb	http://tinyurl.com/6fba08
NZ Society of Genealogists	http://tinyurl.com/45skd3		

SKYPE WORKSHOP

Thanks to Ross Taylor, on a recent Saturday morning we learned what Skype is and how to use it. Skype uses the internet to make telephone calls using your computer. Called VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) in the IT world. We were taken through the process of how it works, installing software and looking at the various functions. If there is someone whom you call regularly and they have Skype calls are free. You can call landlines and cellphones but there is a cost.



We moved into the computer room where the computers had been set up so we could talk and see each other. Special phones are also available, some cordless, but you don't have a telephone number, instead a user name like email. Skype has the ability to have a "face to face" call with the other person using simple web cameras as shown in our photos.



VOIP is the next technology and is being used by lots of businesses. In future your ordinary telephone will use VOIP. Skype is not a replacement for your standard telephone and cannot be used to call 111. To learn more call in to the Club on Thursday nights.



Skype	http://tinyurl.com/2n2jbu .
How VOIP works	http://tinyurl.com/2evqc7 http://tinyurl.com/38h75g

Demonstration of video call using Skype

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members:



HELP DESK

The help desk is available on Thursday nights. If you require further help email us at:

helpdesk@seniornetnorthwest.org.nz

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

SITES

FREE E-BOOKS
On-line books

UCLA Courses

<http://tinyurl.com/43tse3>

Grays Anatomy

<http://tinyurl.com/4fm27v>

Guinness Records

<http://tinyurl.com/3qkee4>

Internet Library

<http://tinyurl.com/4h5a3a>

Project Gutenberg

<http://tinyurl.com/3gw7xn>

Onlinebooks Library

<http://tinyurl.com/47ftl>

Children's Books

<http://tinyurl.com/22npe>

<http://tinyurl.com/zarz7>

Safari Books On-Line

Available through City Library. Members Only.

<http://tinyurl.com/4r7335>

OPENING LINKS

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

DESKTOP OR LAPTOP?

Until now the desktop PC has dominated and laptops have been very expensive. Laptops are now pushing desktops aside and becoming the focus of consumer and vendor attention. Although desktops will still persist, they will soon only appeal to a niche market that's looking for a specialized device. Its predicted that in 2008 laptop sales will exceed desktop sales and by 2011, 71 percent of consumers will be buying laptops.



Laptops have suffered through their lack of power and couldn't match desktops. Most laptops today match or exceed desktops except all but the more advanced towers. The availability of Intel's Core Duo and Core 2 Duo chips, has been foremost in the change. With built-in support for wireless networking, large hard drives (500Gb) laptops are very mobile. Around home all you need is a wireless modem and you can connect to the internet anywhere you want. With the right hardware you can connect a printer wirelessly. One downside is they have smaller monitors, but you can connect an external one along with keyboards etc. You can use your laptop at home in any position and it functions as if it is your desktop.

Getting to use the touch pad can be a little trying but you can connect a mouse and with built-in Bluetooth support you can use a wireless mouse. In the past laptops weren't much use for gaming but nowadays many have high end graphic cards and can compete with desktops.

So you have decided to buy a laptop but which one? The question is what do you intend to do. The very basic ones will handle word-processing, email, internet surfing and photo and manipulation quite well. You will need more power if you do video editing, create DVD's or watch movies. Check what software comes with the laptop. How much are you going to pay for extra? Windows machines will need Vista Home Premium as a minimum. If buying a Mac, the same operating system is used on all Mac's. Also Mac's come with all the software you need and remember Mac's can also run Windows. By using WiFi you can connect your laptop at thousands of Wireless Hotspots.

Laptop Magazine <http://tinyurl.com/456cvf>

Consumer NZ <http://tinyurl.com/3ufnek>

Wireless Hotspots <http://tinyurl.com/5y5tbm>

Buying Guide <http://tinyurl.com/4eax85>

Tech World <http://tinyurl.com/43c38b>

<http://tinyurl.com/43hzmz9> <http://www.jiwire.com/>

TIPS FOR BETTER WIRELESS NETWORKING

Wireless networks are becoming more common these days but they do have some restrictions. Like cellphones or cordless phones they can be plagued with weak signals causing "dropouts" which can be exasperating if you are surfing the net or copying files. Here are some things to look at:



1. Position your router in a central location
2. Change your wireless channel
3. Move the router off the floor and away from walls
4. Reduce wireless interference
5. Replace the router's antenna
6. Update the router's firmware
7. Replace adaptor with a high gain USB
8. Choose same equipment
9. Add a wireless repeater
10. Upgrade to 802.11g or n

Microsoft has some really useful tips at <http://tinyurl.com/4o9dr>.

GOING BROADBAND ?

In the early years of the internet we had few companies to choose from, Telecom being the main provider. Today many others have entered the market each with their own flavour. You no longer have to use Telecom as your telephone provider as many companies offer the full range of telephone, tolls, mobile and internet services.

Changing is very easy and you can now keep your telephone number and *Yellow Pages*™ listing. But which ISP do you choose. *Netguide* magazine lists most providers along with some basic costs. Also *ISP Find* has a free website listing 483 plans! One problem you will have is that most charge for the amount of data you use, giving you a monthly cap such as 1GB. Many of the plans offer very competitive bundles (phone, internet tolls, mobile). Each listing can be clicked taking you to the ISP's website. Check it out. You could save some money.



ISP Find: <http://www.ispfind.co.nz>.

Netguide Mag <http://tinyurl.com/zxu6n>