

**COURSES**

Courses will recommence in February 2009. See our calendar <http://tinyurl.com/2wowsh>

**MICROSOFT SOFTWARE**

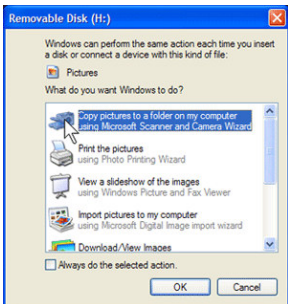
Don't forget if you want MS software to check out the SeniorNet Federation offer <http://tinyurl.com/6o4px5>

**HOW TO:**

**COPYING PHOTOS FROM YOUR CAMERA**

Don't use your camera's software, use a USB card reader.

When you plug your card into the reader the following box should open in Windows



Select "Copy Pictures to a folder ..." and click OK. The photos on your card will appear. Select those that you want and choose a group name that you want for all files, say Birthday 2008.

Click Next then select a folder or create a new folder and click Ok.

Your pictures may have cryptic names but you can rename these using the instructions from Microsoft at:

<http://tinyurl.com/7dmwv>

A better option is to use photo organiser software such as the free Picasa one from Google: <http://tinyurl.com/6hre8b>

We trust that you have survived the Xmas season and are now starting to settle back to reality. No doubt many of you have used your computer over Xmas with emailing, showing off your photographs and videos to your family and friends and generally making good use. We had our family at home this year for Xmas so the "boys" coupled up my laptop to our LCD TV and spent the day trying to fly various aircraft around Christchurch using X-Plane (Flight Simulator). By the way, the graphics now are so great it is almost like being there. Having got bored with that after crashing trying to land they then started off with Command and Conquer. My poor grandkids didn't get much of a look in that day!! As mentioned last month gaming is now such a big part of the computer market these days. When I look back at the Xmas in my younger days we used to camp out at South Brighton motor camp with our extended family and spent Xmas day together. No radio, no computers, no TV, no DVD's but just a few books, some board games lots of cricket games and of course the great times swimming at the beach. I often wonder if we have lost something. Electronic devices have changed the way we do everything and perhaps we shouldn't look back, but it doesn't hurt. Computers are now a fact of life and it is really great to see people of all ages developing various skills. SeniorNet is a great way for mature persons to attain these skills with no fear of being intimidated by the technology. If you have friends or family who want to make use of computers and don't know where to start introduce them to our club. They don't need a computer, in fact we can help in their choice. Unfortunately too many people go to the local shop and buy a computer going on a salesman's advice only to find later that they have made the wrong choice, paid too much or it is too complicated. We are here to help. Remember that we have a help desk each Thursday night so pop in and discuss your problems. Check our course calendar and if there is anything particular you want contact the co-ordinator. The email address is on our web page.



Best wishes for 2009 to all. *Stuart Taylor - Editor*

**INSTALLING SOFTWARE - A 4 PART SERIES**  
**PART 2 - DOWNLOADING SOFTWARE**



Last month we talked about selecting software. We suggested that you select software that is proven, reliable and comes from a trusted source. This can be difficult but for now let's look at the process of copying (downloading) the software to your computer. Nearly all software is "packaged". It may be just a simple single file or many files - perhaps hundreds. These are "packaged" as one compressed file (these will have an extension such as exe, zip, tar etc. - more about this in another article). The majority will have a .exe extension. Upon completion of the downloaded there is a simple install routine. Software is often written for many different operating systems and versions of each. You need to check the vendor's site to make sure that it will be suitable for your computer. For example, one version may run on Windows XP and 98 but not on Vista.

To download the file click on a link, such as [download](#). Before you start check the file size. Sometimes this is shown along with a suggested time depending upon the speed of your internet connection. Using AShampoo by way of example, the file is 29.2 Mb and will take at least 1hr 12 minutes on dialup and three minutes on broadband at 1.5 Mbps. This is the minimum time, actual times will be longer due to various factors. Your computer should ask you to either *Run* or *Save* the file. Click *Save* and select a folder to save file in. We advise you to have separate file named *downloads*.

One problem with downloading files is that the connection can be lost which may mean starting over again. This can be annoying if you have done 70% of a file which has already taken a hour. To overcome this use a Download Manager. Some browsers, such as Firefox, have one built-in but with others such as Internet Explorer you may need to install one. Check the section at Download.com for a suitable manager. If the download gets interrupted it will restart from where it stopped. When the download has been completed you should get a message advising this.

Sometimes before you download you have to register with a valid email address. Don't use your normal address but instead use one of the free ones from Google or Yahoo.

Next Month - Installation

- Free Download Manager <http://tinyurl.com/5hsch8>
- Download Managers <http://tinyurl.com/6oc96u>
- Time Calculator <http://tinyurl.com/cqqa6>
- Download FAQ's <http://tinyurl.com/6o9ml5>

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members:  
No new members.



## HELP DESK

The help desk is closed and will reopen on Thursday 29 January. If you have an urgent issue please contact by email

[helpdesk@seniornetnorhwest.org.nz](mailto:helpdesk@seniornetnorhwest.org.nz)

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

## SITES TO TRY

Today In History NZ  
<http://tinyurl.com/3otuct>

Today in History - Historynet.Com  
<http://tinyurl.com/5ty9no>

Celebrities When They Were Kids  
<http://tinyurl.com/5f8wci>

How to Podcast  
<http://tinyurl.com/64vfpz>

Old-time Radio Shows  
<http://tinyurl.com/423nt2>

Photography Guide  
<http://tinyurl.com/ryxeq>

Free On-Line Tutorials Word Excel etc.  
<http://tinyurl.com/4vlu45>

How to Use your Scanner  
<http://www.scantips.com/>

Who Is? IP - Domain  
<http://tinyurl.com/4k6o9w>

## OPENING LINKS

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

## THE @ SYMBOL



A question was asked as to why the @ symbol is used in email addresses and its meaning so a bit of research revealed the following.

That @ symbol found in email addresses is most commonly referred to as the "at" symbol. Surprisingly though, there is no official, universal name for this sign. There are dozens of strange terms to describe the @ symbol. Before it became the standard symbol for electronic mail, the @ symbol was used to represent the cost or weight of something. For instance, if you purchased 6 apples, you might write it as 6 apples @ \$1.10 each. With the introduction of e-mail came the popularity of the @ symbol. The @ symbol or the "at sign" separates a person's online user name from his mail server address. For instance, joe@uselessknowledge.com. Its widespread use on the Internet made it necessary to put this symbol on keyboards in other countries that have never seen or used the symbol before. As a result, there is really no official name for this symbol. There is an enigma about its origin.

History tells us that the @ symbol stemmed from the tired hands of the medieval monks. During the Middle Ages before the invention of printing presses, every letter of a word had to be painstakingly transcribed by hand for each copy of a published book. The monks that performed these long, tedious copying duties looked for ways to reduce the number of individual strokes per word for common words. The monks looped the "t" around the "a" and created it into a circle-eliminating two strokes of the pen.

Another story says the @ symbol was used as an abbreviation for the word amphora. Amphora was the unit of measurement that determined the amount held by the large terra cotta jars that were used to ship grain, spices and wine. Giorgio Stabile, an Italian scholar, discovered the @ symbol in a letter written in 1536 by a Florentine trader named Francesco Lapi. It seems likely that some industrious trader saw the @ symbol in a book transcribed by monks using the symbol and appropriated it for use as the amphora abbreviation. This would also explain why it became common to use the symbol in relation to quantities of something.

## MALWARE

Malware is a word formed from the words **mal**icious and soft**ware**. Malware is software installed on a computer without the user's knowledge. It includes Viruses, Trojans, Rootkits, Adware and Spyware. In one form it can be likened to vandalism or graffiti. At the other, it can be criminal in that it will steal information from your computer, use your computer as a host to send email spam, steal your bank account and other personal details or at worst, download pornography - all without your knowledge. The only way it can get on to your computer is if an external file is brought in through the internet, email or a CD/DVD, flash drive or floppy. So how can you stop this? The simple way is to never install any file, connect to the internet or use email. Not really practical these days. Not all antivirus software nor firewalls will prevent some malware being installed on your computer. There are two ways you can stop this. First, use a programme on a regular basis that scans your computer for known malware. The second is to have one that does this continuously. A lot of malware is cleverly written so as to trick your anti-virus and firewall programmes into thinking that it is legitimate. Have a look at [Malwarebytes](#) which has a free and a paid version. The free version requires a user scan, whilst the paid version provides realtime protection.



To understand more about malware  
Malwearbytes

<http://tinyurl.com/e372w>  
<http://www.malwarebytes.org/>

## GENEALOGY

While trying to trace your family you will come across a lot of information that "looks as if it might fit". Do not rely on information from other people or sources without checking the validity. Don't discount personal accounts but don't accept at face value. Other members of your family may have done some research that may be worth sharing - but check the accuracy. If you are doing searches for family in New Zealand and you need help visit the Aotearoa New Zealand Centre at the Christchurch Public Library. They have a large amount of records and the staff are only too willing to help. There is a large selection of newspapers on microfilm that can help find birth, marriage and death notices. You need to use the readers at the Library and be prepared to spend a lot of time reading through each issue, but it can be worthwhile. If you a library member you can access a large number of databases on-line including Ancestry.com. You'll need a pin number but ask the library staff how you can set this up if you don't have one.

Papers Past NZ <http://tinyurl.com/2jmx6x> NZ Digital Library <http://tinyurl.com/42vku8>