

## Welcome

This month's new members:

Yvonne Yule  
Norman Dolamore  
Heather Paterson  
Avis Fitzpatrick  
Pam Ewen

## Tips For Good Email

1. Ensure your e-mail includes a courteous greeting and closing. Helps to make your e-mail not seem demanding.
2. Address your contact with the appropriate formality and ensure you spell their name correctly.
3. Spell check - emails with typos are simply not taken as seriously.
4. Read your email out loud to ensure the tone is that which you desire. Avoid relying on formatting for emphasis; rather choose the words that reflect your meaning instead. Use "please" and "thank you".
5. Be sure you are including all relevant details or information necessary to understand your request or point of view.
6. Use proper sentence structure. First word capitalized with appropriate punctuation? Multiple instances of !!! or ??? are perceived as rude or condescending.
7. If your email is emotionally charged, walk away from the computer and wait to reply. Review the Sender's email again so that you are sure you are not reading anything into the email that simply isn't there.
8. If sending attachments, did you ask first when would be the best time to send? Did you check file size to make sure you don't fill the other side's inbox causing all subsequent e-mail to bounce?

## Private Surfing

No, not the beach variety – the internet. We all use Google to search the internet for information – so much that the word has become a verb. But what we don't realize is that Google stores a lot of data, much which is private. Recently a Dutch Company – Startpage - has setup a new search engine where they claim they do not store any information. To quote from their home page:

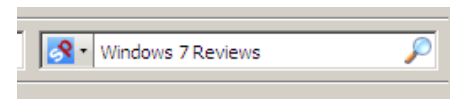
*"Every time you use a regular search engine, your search data are recorded. Your search terms, the time of your visit, the links you choose, your IP address and your User ID cookies all get stored in a database. The identity profiles that can be constructed from this cloud of information represent modern day gold for marketers. But government officials, hackers and even criminals also have an interest in getting their hands on your personal search data. And sooner or later they will..."*

Startpage – also known as ixquick in the USA - can be used through your normal web browser and if you use Mozilla Firefox – a browser that we like – you can add a toolbar to the browser. It has some very good privacy tools, especially if you wish to filter out objectionable sites, by setting a "family filter".

It works by clicking on Startpage and entering your search criteria in the

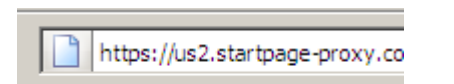
box. It looks for the information you want then when a web page is found click on proxy and you now access to the web page through a secure server (https) and anything you do while on that page will not store any data. If you click through to another site while on that page your anonymity is lost.

This is an example looking for Windows 7 Reviews using Firefox:



[Windows 7 Review - PC World ★★★★★](http://www.pcworld.com/article/172602/windows_7_review.html)  
Windows 7 gets the basics right. Here's what you need to know about  
[www.pcworld.com/article/172602/windows\\_7\\_review.html](http://www.pcworld.com/article/172602/windows_7_review.html) - Proxy - t

Click on "Proxy" to remain anonymous



You will notice that in the address panel it displays https which shows it is secure.  
Startpage.com

About <http://tinyurl.com/y9g2xw5>  
Homepage <http://tinyurl.com/ye3t9nz>  
Search page <http://tinyurl.com/ya8ldx9>

## iPad

Apple have announced a new way of mobile computing – the iPad. A touch screen display with only one button and a 9.5" screen. Slotting between an iPhone and a laptop it provides a number of functions but it is not a replacement for either. The current trend in mobile computing is towards netbooks. But smart mobile phones, like the iPhone and Nokia E series, are more portable and flexible offering a wide range of applications.

The drawback with these is the small screen so the iPad is better in this regard. Netbooks use less-powerful chips than laptops and are not better than a laptop at anything - they're just cheaper. They don't handle video or other processing-intensive tasks well.

The iPad uses a new chip that is custom-designed by Apple which they claim is extremely fast. It will play videos – you have to get them on to the hard drive first, music, surf the web, e-reader (on-line books), email, photos

and more. You can download over 140,000 applications from the Apple store. Its screen size and touch capability will appeal to gamers. No New Zealand pricing has been announced but the US pricing is \$499 (NZ\$700) for the 16 GB model. Available in New Zealand in March.

Find out more at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/ylgkqk9>,



## Genealogy Notes

If you have an area in the United Kingdom where your family lived, joining a local History Society can yield lots of information. Our family resided in Sussex so we have joined the Sussex History Society. Along with a CD and magazine we get the opportunity to place notices of people we are searching for.

SeniorNet have reviewed a book by John MacGibbon, Your Family's History.

<http://tinyurl.com/y894y15>.

## Upgrading to Windows 7?

SeniorNet has discounted Windows 7 Software. There are several versions but for most home users the Home Premium version is recommended. The upgrades only work with Vista. If you have Windows XP you need the full version.

SeniorNet Windows 7 offer:

<http://tinyurl.com/y894y15>

## Ten Dumb Things to Do With Your Computer

1. Use without surge protection
2. Surf without a firewall and antivirus
3. Having auto-updates turned off
4. Installing programs when a web site says you need this
5. Opening attachments when you don't know the sender
6. Clicking on anything that says "click"
7. Allowing someone else to use your computer
8. Picking dumb passwords e.g. 12345
9. Not backing up
10. Keeping personal data without encryption

## MySky and HDTV

If you subscribe to Sky's MySky HDi TV or use a BluRay player you could fall into a compatibility trap with your TV. To stop people from copying HD content the movie industry came up with a scheme called HDCP – High Definition Content Protection. In simple terms it works by the swapping of digital keys between the HD player or set-top box and the TV. A similar analogy would be the opening of a safe where two keys are needed, each held by different persons.

To get the HD content you connect the two devices through a special interface called HDMI (High Definition Media Interface) using HDMI cables. Without this you won't get HD pictures. You can still use the standard AV cables but the pictures will not be in HD. Some people who have bought an HD TV are finding that they cannot get HD from Sky or the player - just SD.

Reports say it is not the box or player but the TV that is not compatible, that is, they don't share keys. If you are buying a new TV insist on a written guarantee from the retailer that it is compatible. If you already have a TV but

now want MySky get Sky to check that it will be compatible with your TV.

In a blog a consumer said they had a compatibility problem and neither the retailer or set-top box supplier accepted there was a compatibility problem. Using another TV which worked okay in HD proved that the set top box was not the fault. The retailer still refused to accept the problem so a case was taken to the Disputes Tribunal using the Consumer Guarantees Act. The customer won the case with the retailer having to provide a full refund of the TV and the fees incurred getting technician to resolve the issue. Reports abound that to get around the licence fees some manufacturers may be using non-compliant technology.

Another point to watch is that if you use MySky HDi you need to buy the \$10 HD "ticket" to view in HD. Even though TV1,2,3 are in HD (some) you will not get HD. If you are a Vodafone customer you may be eligible for a free MySky HDi decoder, but you will still need the \$10 "ticket"

## On-Line Audio Books

The Christchurch Library has started up a free service of providing electronic audio books. These can be downloaded to your Computer, iPod, MP3 player and some can be copied to a CD. To access this service you need to be a library subscriber with a login number and password. Overdrive Audio-books offer over 400 titles with more to come.

You will need a special software-player (Windows and Mac). You can set your "borrowing period" for 1 or 2

weeks, after which the file will be deleted or locked.

Full details at:

<http://tinyurl.com/ya8cymr>

There are numerous other on-line audio books available but you do need to subscribe and pay for these. Often you can keep the audio file and play on any player. Two such sites are:

AudioBooksCorner .com

<http://tinyurl.com/yk4mtt8>

Project Gutenberg:

<http://tinyurl.com/y894y15>

## Still on Dial-Up Internet?

A recent survey found that less than 20% of internet users in NZ are on dial-up. Many have not changed to broadband due to very little use such as an occasional email. Some internet service providers – Slingshot is one – give you free dial-up if you switch your telephone services to them. Vodafone is \$10 per month unlimited use and Telecom \$10 per month up to 30 hours so it pays to shop around.

Nowadays broadband is quite cheap by comparison. You need a broadband modem which is usually supplied free by the ISP. This is a good option as it will arrive preset. You connect this to your

computer through an Ethernet port which most later computers have. Setting up can be a bit tricky. Usually the ISP will arrange to get your line switched over for broadband and will send instructions on setting your connection.

If you are not sure how to do this you may need a technician. Telecom charge \$199 for this, but other communication technicians can do this as well, often at a lesser price. If you do want to change have a look at TelstraClear who offer SeniorNet members a discount.

View the offer at

<http://tinyurl.com/y94tr47>