



Newsletter No. 17

March 2009

I know that you will have had Newsletter No. 18 already but No. 17 got left out so here it is.

Finding a recipe

If you are at a loss as to how to use a varied collection of cooking ingredients in your fridge or larder try typing in the ingredients together with the word 'recipe'. I found over 50,000 recipes for "chicken cucumber and mustard" using this technique. On the other hand you could go to www.epicurious.com or www.bbc.co.uk/food for further inspiration.

Trillions

The news reports of the present credit crunch has increased the use of the word "trillion". How big is a trillion? One trillion seconds equates to 11,574,071 days or 31,709 years. This puts our increasing National Debt into some sort of perspective!

Scrolling a page on your monitor/screen.

There are many ways of scrolling up and down a long page on your screen. Many people click on the small arrows at the top and bottom of the scroll bar on the left of the page but this only moves the page up or down one line at a time. If you click above or below the actual scroll bar it will move one page at a time. Even faster scrolling can be achieved by dragging the scroll bar up and down. If you want to go to the very beginning or end of a document use the keyboard combinations of Ctrl+PageUp and Ctrl+PageDown.

Lastly, if you have a wheel on your mouse, try clicking the mouse wheel down when the pointer will change to a double arrow symbol and then you just move the mouse up and down to move the contents of the screen. To turn off this function, simply left click anywhere on the screen.

Free music while you work

You can select your own music to play while working at the computer. Try out www.spotify.com. Simply register – it's free, download a small program and choose your favourite artists or songs to sing along with while you type out the minutes of the last committee meeting. You have to put up with the occasional commercial break but they are quite short and do not detract from the listening experience. You can eliminate the adverts by opting for a subscription service but they are a bit expensive if you are only going to make occasional use of the program.

Google Froogle



This bargain hunting facility was originally restricted to shopping on the other side of the Pond but now it has been extended to this side of the Atlantic. However, it is now to be found at www.google.co.uk/products . It can be useful if you are looking for more exotic purchases like wood burning stoves for example.

Google Street View

There has been a lot in the papers recently about the latest Google offering of Street View. What is this all about? You will need to download the Google Earth program at <http://earth.google.com> which, if you haven't done already I can strongly recommend. Street View is one of the options down in the left hand margin under Layers. Click on this option and type in your postcode or town name; give it a little time to home in and establish the view then look out for the small camera icons. Street View is limited to 25 cities in the UK at the moment but if you live in Southampton or Norwich you will be able to zoom in on your home street. There are many varying opinions regarding this addition to our Big Brother society.

PCWisdom web site:

This website at www.pcwisdom.co.uk offers you the opportunity to ask me any question you may have regarding the use of your computer. I will get the answer back to you within a couple of days. You can also download previously published newsletters from the site or join me for a live web chat.

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With my best wishes – Adrian Arnold