

Doctors Orders

Hello and welcome to the September edition of Doctors Orders.

I trust all our customers with children have managed to get through most of the school holiday without inflicting grievous bodily harm on their offspring. We've certainly seen the results of some of the arguments and tantrums in the shape of a complete in-shelf full of laptops with keys missing, broken screens and motherboards full of Cola.

The geriatrics in the company (anyone over 25) tell me that school holiday time used to be a quiet time for computer repairers as all the children were out playing football or cricket and visiting the zoo. Nowadays, they stay at home downloading spyware and pulling the keys off their laptops.

Still their PC's are now in a safe haven guaranteed to get their annual top-up of TLC. If you are still to go on holiday and leaving your PC behind, why not drop it off at our surgery for a health check while you are away, your PC will love you for it.

Yes, that time is creeping up on us again. No not Christmas! The release of another new version of Microsoft Windows. Namely Windows 7.

So if you are pensioning off the old XP or Vista computer and taking the plunge for a new one and don't want to learn a new Windows edition, now's the time to give us a call. We still have stock of Vista and XP machines, or if you think you might quite like Windows 7 when it comes out, we have laptops with Vista plus a free upgrade to Windows 7, on release. What's known as the best of both worlds.

I'm glad to say that more and more of our regular readers are following me on Twitter to get advanced notification on all those free programs and utilities that pop up on the Internet every now and again.

I've had some direct comments from Twitter users including:-

- a) When I read your newsletter you sound fatter.
- b) Are you really old enough to mend a computer.
- c) I would have used the photo of Brad Pitt instead.

So no chance of me getting big headed then.

Craig the Trainee

<http://twitter.com/CraigtheTrainee>



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New browser combines best of three worlds

You no longer have to choose between Firefox, Internet Explorer, and Chrome as your browser of choice.

A new contender in the increasingly crowded field combines all three engines behind one easily customizable interface.

It's what's beneath the bonnet that counts.

If you want to start a heated discussion among a group of computer enthusiasts, just ask them, "What's the best Web browser?" Among the Firefox supporters, Opera freaks, Chrome devotees, Safari adherents, and even the occasional Internet Explorer advocate, you're bound to be sternly lectured as to why their particular browser favourite is the best.

However, this argument may be history. There's a new browser in town that combines the engines from all the major browsers into a single, easy-to-use package.

This all-in-one browser is called Lunascape — an appropriate name, because it has arisen out of the blue. It originated in Japan, where it has a substantial following and sizable installed base.

Lunascape may be downloaded from the vendor's site. www.lunascape.tv

The initial download is 8.42MB, plus additional downloads for the Gecko and WebKit engines, if required.

To understand Lunascape's significance, it's necessary to consider how browsers are constructed. Underneath the bonnet of your car is the engine. Regardless of what your car looks like on the outside, it's the engine that largely determines the vehicle's performance.

It's the same with browsers. Every browser has an engine that handles screen rendering and other key browser functions. The engine for Firefox is Gecko. Safari uses WebKit, Opera uses Presto, and Internet Explorer uses Trident.

The recently released Google Chrome browser also uses WebKit, as does Safari. That should alert you to the fact that different-looking browsers can share the same engine in much the same way different cars can have unique exterior and interior designs while using the same engine.

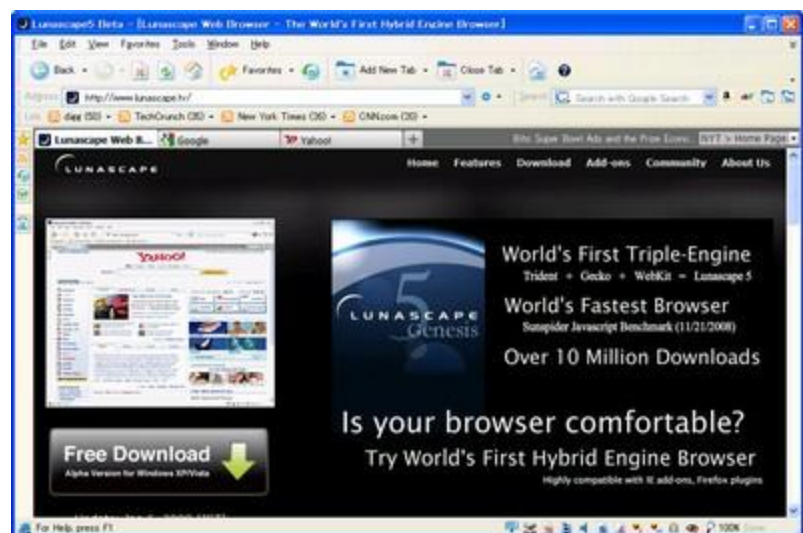
Each browser engine has its strengths and weaknesses. Indeed, much of the discussion about browser performance really comes down to differences in the engines used by those browsers.

Browser lets you switch among three engines

The idea behind the Lunascape browser is to incorporate several major browser engines and let users swap among these engines, based on the tasks at hand.

The three supported engines are Internet Explorer's Trident, Firefox's Gecko, and WebKit — which is used by Safari and Chrome. You could use Trident for browsing sites that work well only with Internet Explorer, Gecko for pages where JavaScript speed is important, and WebKit for sites that have a lot of images.

This kind of optimization is easy with Lunascape, because it can be configured to open a different engine for specified sites. Indeed, you can have multiple tabs open, each using a different browser engine.



Swapping engines in Lunascape is easy: Just right-click a tab and select the engine you want.

Not only can you swap engines, you can also easily change the look and feel of the browser. If you like the Internet Explorer 8 look, you can configure Lunascape to look somewhat the same — though not identical. Similarly, you can choose a Firefox or Safari look, if you wish.

In fact, Lunascape is so amazingly configurable that it's a tinkerer's delight.

What's the browser like to use?

First, let me say that when I'm running the WebKit engine, the Lunascape browser is genuinely fast. The Lunascape site claims the product runs JavaScript faster than Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, or Firefox. I can't confirm this, but I can say that the product has the same

zippy feel when browsing as Google Chrome does.

Second, Lunascape will import your Firefox bookmarks and/or Internet Explorer favourites. That's a handy feature.

Third, you can use Internet Explorer add-ons with the product, although Lunascape doesn't support Firefox add-ons. Lunascape also supports a number of its own plug-ins (but at present, most of these have menus only in Japanese).

Fourth, I found the product stable. I tested the latest version, 5.1.4, over a three-day period, and the browser didn't crash once. That's a big advance on the alpha version I tested late last year, which crashed with the regularity of a ticking metronome.

On the downside, I found the interface somewhat cluttered compared to other modern browsers. Some would say that's because Lunascape offers more features. Maybe so, but to my eye, it's still cluttered.

The program's biggest negative for me is the inability to use my Firefox add-ons. It's the same problem I have with Safari and Chrome: both are great browsers, but I'm not prepared to live without the productivity provided by my Firefox extensions.

The three types of users who'll love this application.

Three groups of people will benefit the most from using Lunascape:

1. For webmasters and HTML developers who want to see how their sites look in different browsers, Lunascape offers a really simple way of doing so. You could have the same site open in three tabs, each using a different rendering engine.
2. Advanced users can maximize their browsing performance on sites that employ varying technologies.
3. Hardcore tweaker's will be able to totally customize the browser to meet their needs. Lunascape is a twiddler's dream and is the most configurable browser I've ever used.

Most average users will find Lunascape little more than a curiosity. Still, the browser looks rather cool, and the next time someone asks you what browser you use, you can answer, "I don't use any of the three common browsers — I use a browser that combines the best features of all three."

(Mind you, that's what Opera users have been saying for years!)

Get extra protection from an on-line malware scan.

Ever been offered an anti-malware program from the Internet and wondered if it is genuine or a piece of spyware itself?

To avoid being tricked into downloading a fake utility, go to Virustotal's website and check for the utility or program in the list of approved anti-malware products.

www.virustotal.com/sobre.html

Virustotal helps you thwart scare jobs that try to con you into downloading fake anti-malware programs. If you fall for such a ruse and actually install a phony security app, it might go undetected by your PC's antivirus program. (After all, you probably clicked OK more than once to download the file.)

The impostor will have a much-harder time, however, concealing itself from all of the 41 different antivirus engines Virustotal currently uses to identify suspicious files.

To scan any file on your PC, click the Browse button on the main Virustotal page. The service checks files as large as 20MB. Click the Save File button to begin the scan. It usually takes less than a minute for the results to roll in.

If you receive one or two generic-sounding warnings such as "suspicious Trojan," the results might be false positives. If multiple engines flag the file and identify it by a specific malware name, however, don't use the download.

To make Virustotal even easier to use, you can install a tiny, free tool from the site. The utility allows you to upload a file to the site without having to open your browser first.

www.virustotal.com/metodos.html

After installing the upload utility, you can right-click any file in Windows Explorer and select Send To, Virustotal.

Once the file finishes uploading, you'll see the scan results in your browser. This is a dead-simple option, although it can handle only files that are 10MB or smaller.

To use the service or get the utility, see the Virustotal site.

www.virustotal.com

This is an excellent site for checking one downloaded file, but is no substitute for an installed antivirus or anti-spyware program. See our download page for such programs.

www.computerdoctors.uk.net/pages/links.htm

Top 5 Current Email Scams You Should Know About

There are numerous ways to be scammed nowadays. Pyramid schemes, 'too good to be true' investments and of course the good old internet. There are literally millions of websites that will gladly take your money, personal info, bank details and a host of other things from you and then skedaddle

Now, given the fact that 90% of e-mails sent worldwide can be regarded as spam, undoubtedly a large proportion of that spam will be scams trying to get your hard earned money. Fortunately, given the huge amount of inactive email accounts most of this spam will go unopened and will lie dormant forever

The Bank

When opening a bank account of any kind you are informed beyond any doubt that the bank will never, ever, send you an e-mail asking for your information. Why would they? They already have it. But millions of people still reply to e-mails asking for just that. These e-mails will normally have a professional layout and will have originated from a domain very similar to the banks in the hope that when you see the e-mail address you assume it is from the bank.

Popular ones include telling you your bank card is about to expire and they need your information or there is a sum of money on the way to you and they need your information to process the transaction. Don't believe a word. They want your details to rob you of every penny you have.

Nigerian Inheritance

Ever got a poorly written e-mail from a bank manager in Africa telling you that a rich customer died along with all his family in a plane crash and he wants to transfer money to your account? These kinds of email scams are called "419 emails" or Nigerian scams.

If you reply and begin talking to them they will shower you in promises and may even up the amount of money you're going to get. Then, before the transfer can be made they'll ask you for a few thousand pounds to cover their expenses.

Phishing Email Scam

These e-mails will often appear to come from sites you actually use, such as PayPal. If they find your profile they send you an e-mail that looks exactly like one from the site. They will redirect you to a bogus site which, once again looks just like the actual website. Once you sign in all of your info will go straight to them meaning they can do what they wish with your money.

Virus E-Mails

Many people who want to scam you will create programs and spy applications that will send them your bank details as soon as you use any online monetary service. They normally skulk around in the attachments of e-mails. Many scammers will find a funny picture or video and will send it to as many people as they can.

They are getting into the mindset of your typical office worker who will forward the e-mail to all his/her family, friends and co-workers. When these email scams are successful, scammers can often retrieve thousands of peoples details. Think about it. If they send it to one person who then sends it to thirty, each of these people will again send it to all their contacts. Hundreds of peoples' details all in a very short space of time.

Lottery Email Scam

These have a low forward rate and as such require a lot of work by the low tech scammers. They will tell you that you have won a substantial amount of money in an e-mail address raffle or something similar. They tell you that you must reply to the e-mail, just like the inheritance e-mails.

Eventually, you will be asked for a few thousand dollars to cover fees. Don't fall for it. This is the real world and you don't just win a £3,000,000 prize in a raffle you never entered!

My advice to combat all the above e-mails, which are very popular, comes in two forms.

- Be aware that any e-mail asking you for any information such as account numbers, passwords or account verification long after you signed up is fraudulent. Legitimate companies will never contact you to ask for such information.
- Install antivirus and anti-spyware software or a combined security product such as Kaspersky Internet Security. They can you £50 per year, but it's not as costly as having your bank account drained.

View MS Office documents without using MS Office

If you've ever received a file created in Microsoft Office that you couldn't open because you don't have Office or have the wrong version of Office, here's help.

This Microsoft site offers free, downloadable viewers and converters for many Office programs. Viewers allow anyone to view the files, while converters can be used by people using different versions of Office.

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/downloads/ha010449811033.aspx>

How to install extra fonts.

A good font can dramatically enhance a graphic design. And a unique font is a must, if text is involved in a logo design. Some large brands create their own custom font to express the uniqueness of their product.

Few of us have the skills to create our own fonts. Fortunately, there are lots of free text fonts available on sites like DaFont, (<http://www.dafont.com/>) FFonts, (<http://www.ffonts.net/>) 1001 Free Fonts (<http://www.1001freefonts.com/>) or Fontex (<http://www.fontex.org/>). Once you have downloaded your favourites, you'll need to figure out how to install those fonts. Here's a basic guide on how to install fonts in Windows.

Please uncompress / unzip all fonts before trying to install them, preferably into a separate folder.

Windows Supported fonts:

- TrueType
- Open Type
- PostScript type 1 (requires Adobe Type Manager (ATM) or ATM Deluxe; comes with Windows XP and up)
- Windows bit mapped FON

Installation process under XP:

- Close all applications.
- Select font files and copy them into C:\Windows\Fonts folder.

Alternative installation process under XP:

- Close all applications.
- Go to > Start Menu > Control Panel (> Appearance and Themes) > Fonts.
- From the > Fonts folder menu open > File > Install a new font...
- Browse for your fonts and click > OK to install.

Installation process under Vista and 7:

- Close all applications.
- Right-click font files to be installed.
- A menu will pop up, select > Install.

Alternative installation process under Vista and 7:

- Close all applications.
- Go to > Start Menu > Control Panel (> Appearance and Personalization) > Fonts.
- Right-click into the list of fonts and select > Install a new font... from the menu.
- Browse for your fonts and click > OK to install.

Anti-malware on a Cloud

Cloud (Internet) computing is not a new fangled concept anymore. Google Apps is perhaps the most in-our-face example we have today.

Immunet Protect takes this approach one step further by bringing the web community on board in the defence against malware and viruses.

Immunet is free, light and hassle free to install. The 4.25MB application can be downloaded and installed quickly. It works with Windows XP (SP2 or later), Vista and Windows 7 (RC 32Bit only).

The Immunet interface is clean and minimal without complicated settings. The application loads and exists without noticeable lag.

Immunet can run alongside Norton Antivirus. Also supported are AVG Pro and McAfee 2009. Other antivirus software are not specifically mentioned but it's assumed that they can be run unless bugs crop up. (For instance, I am running it with Avast!)

On installation Immunet starts off with a Flash Scan. Flash scan is a rapid-fire initial system scan. This is not a comprehensive system wide scan. On my system, completion of the Flash Scan showed 2804 files checked in 1 minute 39 seconds. A later, full scan went over 3300 files in 3 minutes 12 seconds.

Immunet features only one type of scan. Individual files or drives cannot be scanned individually. But Immunet does offer one feature – Protection Settings when enabled allow you to monitor application installations and starts.

An Active Protection Mode takes a few seconds to check and block program installations unless they are deemed to be safe. You can switch these settings on-off from Settings.

Cloud computing has inherent advantages and some prominent drawbacks as well. With the Internet server doing the bulk of work, you don't have to worry about updates. The software is light and low on system resources. The community based protection is a good idea in theory. Its real power will be realized only when greater numbers log-in. Its early days...last figures suggest 1,800 users were logged in and were protected from 3.5 million threats.

The one singular feature of Immunet is that it can work alongside your existing antivirus program. Thus, doubling your protection

If industry experts reckon that more than two million viruses will be created in 2009 alone and established protection has a 50-50 chance of catching all of them, then Immunet becomes a vital addition to our defence armory.

<http://www.immunet.com/>

Fake Antivirus programs get under the wire

Scareware is software which pretends to be a security program, pretends to scan your computer and find threats on it, and demands money in order to remove the fictional threats. Quite a few users fall for these scams. We've even sent out warning emails to our customers, in the past, when these started hitting the streets, but now we get a couple of reports each day that customers PC's are infected.

Our surgery and office PC's are pretty well protected behind a hardware firewall and Kaspersky antivirus, so we rarely see these sort of infections that our customers have to suffer, so we went on a trojan hunt.

We installed an unprotected PC outside of our network and went surfing.

Within 15 minutes, while leaving the page after checking the local weather, I got a popup browser window that faked a malware scan. This was the infamous "Personal Antivirus" and is similar to the page shown on the link below.

http://blogs.pcmag.com/securitywatch/assets_c/2009/07/scareware-3550.php

This is a particularly professional looking one, but typical of the genre. It's just an animated browser window, it can't be doing the scan it claims to be doing, and within seconds it's done (which itself is incredible). It also finds threats on the D: drive, which was an empty DVD-ROM drive. It does add some nice touches like my IP address and town (which it can get in a number of ways).

After it does the scan it pushes an executable file at the user. I downloaded the file and submitted it to Virustotal, www.virustotal.com which checks it against 41 anti-malware scanners. Not a single one found it. 12 hours later, that evening, I resubmitted the file and a single scanner found it, surprisingly Microsoft.

They called the threat Trojan:Win32/FakeXPA.

I had heard from a different anti-malware vendor a while ago that detection rates for scareware are typically low. I suppose this is because the program doesn't do anything that looks malicious to a security program. It displays bells and whistles, but it doesn't try to manipulate system areas, set itself to run at boot time or steal passwords.

This means that the only defence you really have is your common sense, and you may need to sharpen that tool. We've all done it when we are busy

Quite a lot of this type of malware are polymorphic (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polymorphic_code) which means the code changes over time to prevent the anti-malware companies getting a grip on it.

For this reason it is difficult to recommend a particular utility to remove it. Particularly as it usually comes with a re-installer that puts it back after a certain number of re-starts.

There are utilities out there that are doing their best, but it's a moving target. The best we can do is, advise you to give us a call if you get "scareware" and if there is a current utility that is working we'll let you know. If not our engineers are getting quite good at hacking it out (and it's re-installer) manually, although with a constantly changing list of file names it's not easy.

Incidentally, during the four hours total that our unprotected PC was alone on the internet, we picked up a host of minor spyware, viruses and general malware. Nothing that Avast and Spybot could not handle when we installed them later, but a good indication of just what's out there waiting for an innocent PC to wander into view.

Mind you we did visit some pretty scary websites whilst on our Trojan hunt so I suppose 90% of the time you get what you deserve.

If you have other users on your PC, particularly children, be particularly careful and run your security programs on a regular basis.



5 Free OCR Software Tools To Convert Images Into Text

Optical character recognition (OCR) is a system of converting scanned printed/handwritten image files into its machine readable text format. OCR software works by analyzing a document and comparing it with fonts stored in its database and/or by noting features typical to characters. Some OCR software also puts it through a spell checker to "guess" unrecognized words. 100% accuracy is difficult to achieve, but close approximation is what most software strive for.

We will be looking at 5 free pieces of OCR software and to start off let's see the overlooked two that are already installed on our systems if you have MS Office.

OCR Using Microsoft OneNote 2007

For the occasional basic OCR stuff, MS OneNote's optical character recognition feature is a timesaver. You might have missed it...it's called Copy Text from Picture.

Drag a scan or a saved picture into OneNote. You can also use OneNote to clip part of the screen or an image into OneNote.

Right click on the inserted picture and select Copy Text from Picture. The copied optically recognized text goes into the clipboard and you can now paste it into any program like Word or Notepad.

OneNote is simplicity personified. But it's not too great for handwritten characters or even fuzzy ones. But for a quick job, I am all for OneNote's clip and paste.

OCR Using Microsoft Office Document Imaging

Another little used tool within the Microsoft family. It's right there under Menu - Microsoft Office - Microsoft Office Tools - Microsoft Office Document Imaging.

Doing OCR using the document imaging tool is a bit limiting because it accepts only TIFF (or MDI) formats. But that's not too much of a bother as any graphic application can be used to convert an image to TIFF. You can use MS Paint to convert a JPEG to a TIFF.

Open the file in Microsoft Office Document Imaging - File - Open.

Click the little eye icon - Recognize Text Using OCR.

Click on MS Word Icon - Send Text to Word.

A MS Word File opens with the editable converted text.

Alternatively, you can also use MS Paint to select a specific area and copy it to the clipboard. Open MS Office Document Imaging - select Page - Paste Page to copy the selection for OCR.

Again, this handled printed text ably, but my handwritten text was met with an 'OCR performed but could not recognize text prompt'. Of course, do try out with your own handwriting.

So, now let's leave the Microsoft family behind and look at three free tools which call themselves OCR Software...

SimpleOCR

The difficulty I was having with handwriting recognition using MS tools, could have found a solution in SimpleOCR. But the software offers handwriting recognition only as a 14 day free trial. Machine print recognition though does not have any restrictions.

The software can be set up to read directly from a scanner or by adding a page (jpg, tiff, bmp formats).

SimpleOCR offers some control over the conversion through text selection, image selection and text ignore features.

Conversion to text takes the process into a validation stage; a user can correct discrepancies in the converted text using an in-built spell-checker.

The converted file can be saved to a doc or txt format.

SimpleOCR was fine with normal text, but its handling of multi-column layouts was poor. In my opinion, the conversion accuracy of the Microsoft tools was considerably better than SimpleOCR.

SimpleOCR (v3.1) is a 9MB download and is compatible with Windows.

<http://www.simpleocr.com/>

TopOCR

TopOCR, in a breakaway from typical OCR software, is designed more for digital cameras (at least 3MP) and mobile phones along with scanners. Like SimpleOCR, it has a two window interface - The source Image window and the Text window.

The image sourced from a camera or a scanner in the left window gets converted to the text format in the text editor on the right. The text editor functions like WordPad and can use Microsoft's Text to Speech engine.

The software supports JPEG, TIFF, GIF and BMP formats.

Image settings like brightness, colour, contrast, despeckle, sharpen etc. can be used to improve readability of the image.

Camera filter settings can also be configured for enhancing the image.

The converted file can be saved in a variety of formats - PDF, RTF, HTML and TXT.

TopOCR functions well with straight oriented text but the usual failing of OCR with columned text remains.

The software though, parses a mixed page (text plus graphics) well and processes the text only.

The software works with 11 languages.

TopOCR (v3.1) is an 8MB download and is compatible with Windows (not tested on Vista).

<http://www.topocr.com/download.html>

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FreeOCR

This free OCR software uses the Tesseract OCR engine. Tesseract OCR code was developed at HP Labs between 1985 and 1995 and is currently with Google. It is thought of as one of the most accurate open source OCR engines available.

FreeOCR is a simple Windows interface for that underlying code.

It supports most image files and multi-page TIFF files.

It can handle PDF formats and is also compatible with TWAIN devices like scanners.

FreeOCR also has the familiar double window interface with easy to understand settings.

Before starting the one click conversion process, you can adjust the image contrast for better readability.

FreeOCR (v.2.03) requires Microsoft Net 2.0 framework.
<http://freeocr.co.uk/>

Free OCR tools come with their own limitations. And scanning a page has to do a lot with resolutions, contrasts and clarity of fonts. From an average user's standpoint, 100% OCR accuracy remains a pipedream.

Though the free tools were adequate with printed text, they failed with normal cursive handwritten text. My personal preference for infrequent OCR use leans towards the two Microsoft products I mentioned in the beginning.

Dishwasher Safe Keyboard

Only hygienists and computer engineers know the amount of detritus that lives in our keyboards. So here's something we've all been waiting for.

Medical Grade Keyboard - Dishwasher Safe & Antimicrobial (Black) (USB) **£49.50** Special order only, but anyone interested email sales and we'll send you the full spec.



High Spec laptop with free Windows 7 upgrade

We have received stock of the first laptops to have a free upgrade to Windows 7 when it releases later this year. The Viper T3007.



The specification is also pretty special for this price.

- * **Intel T3000 Dual Core Processor**
- * **15.4" Widescreen TFT**
- * **4Gb DDR-2 RAM**
- * **250Gb SATA-2 Hard drive**
- * **Webcam**
- * **Dual Layer DVD rewriter**
- * **Windows Vista Home Premium with additional licence for Windows 7 when released.**

All this power and Windows 7 two for just :-

£469.95

that's just £20 more than a similar Viper T3000 installed with Windows XP, which we still have in stock if you prefer it.

Don't forget all Viper PC's and laptops come with full 12 months free antivirus and antispymware programs as well as Open Office 3, a Word, Excel and PowerPoint compatible Office suite.

These are not the 3 months trial versions that you get from most manufacturers, these are the full monty!

For full specification on all our laptops see:-

<http://www.computerdoctors.uk.net/pages/notebooks.htm>

A winner for Last months Router Competition

We had real difficulty giving away a free router last month. We had lots of winning entries so it went down to drawing the winner from a hat.

As usual we asked a passing customer to dip in and he pulled out a winner from Weedon. Unfortunately, the winner already had a wireless router fitted so kindly offered the prize to another entrant.

We did another draw and found a winner from Wellingborough who again told us that she already had a router and would be glad to let another customer have the prize.

I should point out that both ladies didn't realise that they had routers fitted when they entered the competition, they were both told by their families when they passed on the news of their win. I think its testament to the fair play of our customers, that they were both happy to let someone else get the prize.



So we dragged another customer off the street to pick another winner from the hat. This time we did have a winner, in the form of Mr Wright from Northampton. (Shown left receiving his prize).

When we rang him to tell him of his good fortune (and to make sure he didn't already have a wireless router) his reply was "what I've won again". We'd completely missed the fact that Mr Wright was last months winner of a photo quality printer.

All the staff have accused the boss of being related to Mr Wright, but the boss categorically denies it!

As we can't really subject one of our customers to a DNA test, I suppose we'll have to believe him.

So it just goes to show that persistence pays off and lightening can strike twice.

So to prevent Mr Wright from winning again , turn to page 10 to see details of this months competition.

Free calls and text's from Google Voice

This seems too good to be true and we haven't had a chance to try this out yet, but if it lives up to the sales hype it may change the world of mobile communications forever.

This is the kind of all-in-one package that should have been part of telephone and communication companies all along.

This site below has a very useful guide to Google Voice and how to use its features.

How about free text messages?

Free long distance calls?

How about one phone number that dials any phones you have? (just pick up one of them and answer)

Sadly, Google Voice will not work on iPhones. You'll have to take that up with Apple.

<http://www.404techsupport.com/2009/09/03/a-guide-to-google-voice/>

This months competition prize is ideal for all our "silver surfer " customers or indeed anyone over the age of 50.

We have **three** advanced copies to give away, of the much publicized "Which?" book, "**Computing made Easy for the over 50's**".

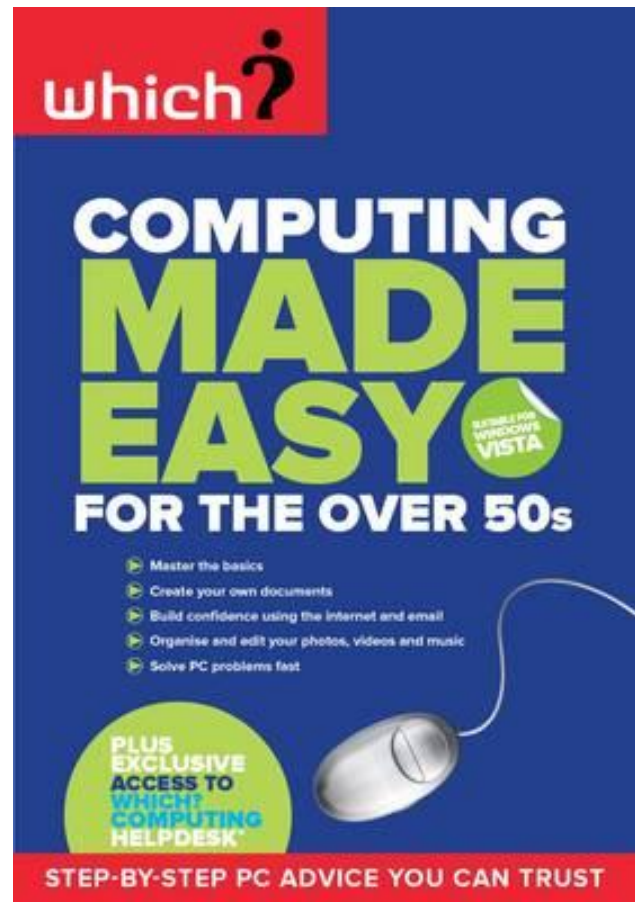
This book has 224 pages packed with step-by-step instructions and an easy learning style that would benefit all ages and not just the over 50's.

Don't think that you have no chance of winning. Our competition is only open to people in our catchment area (*see below) so give it a try, you never know, yours might be the only entry. You don't have to be an existing customer, so if you already know all about computers, be nice to your friends and help them with the answers.

As usual there is a few easy questions to answer but all the answers are on our website. **Good Luck**

www.computerdoctors.uk.net/competition

*NN1 – NN18, NN29, MK19, MK40 – MK46, LE16.
Competition ends 28th August



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www.computerdoctors.uk.net/pages/newsletter.htm



Map to our Northampton Workshop
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