

Potpourri

This week we covered a number of diverse topics. I have detailed them below with some remarks as I remember them.

1. Buying safely on the Internet. I suggest signing up for a PayPal account and using it for all purchases that accept PayPal. The place you are ordering from will not see any of your financial information. They will just receive a payment from PayPal for what you ordered. I do use credit cards for purchases from known named stores like Amazon, WalMart, Staples, etc. When I purchase something on eBay I use PayPal. Discover has a feature called Secure Online Account Numbers. I sign in to my Discover account and request a one time number. Then I use that number to make my purchase on line. My regular account is hit with the charge but the online store I am ordering from never gets to see my real numbers. Same precautions when buying something on Craigslist.

2. Selling on the Internet. Use eBay or Craigslist. With eBay I only accept payments using PayPal. This way I know I have received my money before shipping out the item. If Craigslist, I only accept cash. Checks can be cashed and appear to clear within a few days. However, they might bounce and come back to you a couple of weeks later. Cash is safest. Money Orders and Bank Checks can be phoney.

3. Letting someone else control my computer. If you do not know them I would suggest finding another way to solve the problem. I do not want someone I do not know moving around in my computer. If they say they fixed something and I do not know what they did how can I call back later and have someone else figure it out? Bring the computer to the club or have someone you know sign on with LogMeIn, Join.Me, Skype, or Teamviewer to help you through an issue you are having. You get to see what they are doing and have someone you trust to call back later if you have questions.

4. Do I need a new computer, is XP still a usable OS, should I get a tablet? We all want the best, but do we really need the latest gadgets? I think not. If all you are doing on your computer works fine on your old XP machine, why upgrade? If it is not broke, why fix it? Over half the businesses in the world are still using XP. Yes, Microsoft is stopping support for XP, but have you ever called them with a problem? I haven't. If you have an older machine, you might want to increase the RAM to the maximum your machine can handle. I upped my to 4gb. It will not take more than that and XP only recognized 3.5gb. Need more hard disk space? Add an external drive or increase the size of your C: drive by replacing it with a larger one.

Great deal on a 7" tablet at Walmart.com. \$49 and free shipping. Android OS. Works great!

5. How to edit pictures with W8. You do not have to stay at the metro screen. Go to the desktop and download Irfanview. It is a free image editor that has many features. You can get it

at Ninite.com. If you have Microsoft Office installed, you have Microsoft Office Picture Manager. It does most of the editing you need, but not as much as Irfanview does.

6. How about W8 update coming in October. It is 8.1 as is available to try it out now. You can download it and play with it. If you already have 8, you will be given a free upgrade to 8.1 mid October. I do not see any major changes in the new version. One thing I have read about is an option to boot right to the desktop. I installed Classic Start which gave me that option plus my old Start Button and Menu back.

7. How to remove the site info on the top of a page when I print something. Open the page in Chrome and print the page. On the left side of the preview page that opens is the option to remove the Headers and Footers.

8. iTunes. It is an Apple application. Go to iTunes.com and download the application. Then you will be able to purchase music from the iTunes store and play it on your computer. You will also be able to watch movies in the .MOV file format.

9. Google Drive. With every Google account you are given 15gb of free storage in the cloud. Google Docs is an office package you do not have to have on your computer. You get to use word processor, spreadsheet, and presentation applications from the cloud at no charge. You can save the documents to your computer in Microsoft or OpenOffice format as well as PDFs. Easy to use. If you install Google Drive on your computer, what you save in the Google Drive folder gets synced to the cloud. What you change in the cloud syncs to your PC.

10. Jumping insertion point aka cursor. This is one that many people have an issue with. While typing all of a sudden the insertion point jumps somewhere else. Have not found the answer, but think it has to do with the touchpad on a laptop. I suggest turning off the touchpad and seeing if that solves it.