

Time for a new computer, gift ideas, news and a quiz

Banish that beige box, consign that old creaking tower and treat yourself to a shiny new PC. Start up your PC within 90 seconds rather than having your breakfast while its warming up! Yes it's all possible, any specification of PC can be quoted, all with the latest generation of Intel processors. The lead-in processor is the very popular i3 which is great for normal computer use and is competitively priced. For those wanting faster performance and better multimedia capabilities, the i5 is the one to go for. This is a quad core processor and is a bit more expensive but worth the difference. Team either of these with 4 or 8GB of the latest DDR4 Ram (operating memory) and you'll be cooking on gas! All PCs are offered with home delivery and set up. And don't worry about all your existing data and emails and contacts, we can arrange to take care of all that for you too. See my helpful article on 'what to consider when buying a new computer' which you can download free from my website.

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New gadgets for Christmas. The biggest seller again this year will probably be tablets. The iPad is the original and still the best, with the standard 9.7" screen version usually selling for £339 which is actually £60 cheaper than last year. The smaller iPad Mini with a 7.9" screen retails at £419 owing to a new model being released (version 4). Both are very easy to use thanks to the Apple operating system, extremely portable and very fast. If you have KC Lightstream Wi-Fi at home, then connect your iPad (or iPhone) to the 5g network for the best performance. Other tablets on the market include the Amazon Kindle Fire, and the Samsung Galaxy Tab which both use the Android operating system found on most other mobile phones. If you just want a tablet to read books on, then the Kindle is the one for you. It comes in various models

including the new waterproof one I mentioned last month.

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If you're planning a quiz at Christmas this year, here are some computer-related questions for you:

Q: Who invented the first 'computer' called the 'difference engine', spending £17,000 on design & production, and died in 1871?

Q: Which UK celebrity made the first mobile phone call on 1st January 1985?

Q: What year was the (computer) mouse first invented?

Q: Who was fired from his own company in 1985 but came back to make it the richest brand in the world?

For ten questions and all the answers go to my website: www.rdmcomputers.co.uk/news

Another article on the website which I hope will come in handy is a new one I have just added on the subject of: **Transferring pictures from a digital camera or memory card to your computer.**

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Microsoft Office tips:

- If you are using Office 2013 or 2016 and often work on the same documents or spreadsheets in Word and Excel, you can pin them to the top of the Open menu. When you click File and Open, you will see a list of all the items you have opened recently, just click the pin to the right of the title and these will stay at the top of the menu.
- Can't find how to do something? At the top of the screen you'll see a light-bulb icon with 'tell me what you want to do' – just type your question in there and it will guide you through it.
- Lost the Office Ribbon across the top of the screen? Just press CTRL and F1 to get it back.

Security Central:

If you haven't already upgraded to ESET Internet Security, now is the time to do it. And for anyone who hasn't tried ESET yet, don't just take my word what an excellent product it is, go to the website <https://www.eset.com/uk/home/free-trial/> and download a **free one month** trial! Just make sure you uninstall any existing anti virus you may have, even if it has expired. For prices, upgrades and licences – just give us a call.

Telephone scam – yes, I must mention this again as I have many times before. There has been another spate of unsolicited calls to computer users in this area purporting to be from Microsoft (which they are not) offering to fix problems with your computer (which they won't) and then fraudulently taking money for their (non-existent) services. If you get such calls, and they can be very persistent, tell them you are not interested, or that you have a local computer specialist, or that you don't have a computer!

Remember to look on my website for copies of the current and previous two articles where they can be read, downloaded or printed. And if you are considering investing a new computer you will also find on there my popular article on 'things to consider when buying a new computer. Or if you would like a copy sent by email, just drop me line.

Richard Mills
RDM Computers
Cottingham

01482 875666 or 07850 105424

Web: www.rdmcomputers.co.uk

Email: richard@rdmcomputers.co.uk

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T. (01482) 875666 M. 07850 105424
sales@rdmcomputers.co.uk www.rdmcomputers.co.uk