

# Spectre and Meltdown have been big news for last few weeks

These relate to an apparent vulnerability in computer processors, that could allow hackers or malware writers to capture secure information such as banking log-in details. I would hasten to add that after the initial furore, there have been no reports of anyone falling victim to any such attack, and it now seems fairly unlikely, as the process to extract such data would be extremely complicated to do. However the major players Intel, Microsoft and Apple have been working hard to put out patches and fixes in the form of updates, to protect computer users. It is worth pointing out also that if you use an anti malware program that offers live protection, you should ensure that is also updated to the latest version to ensure it doesn't conflict with these new security fixes.

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## Photos on your computer can be stored in many places.

Traditionally in all Windows operating systems there has always been a 'Pictures' folder. But some photo programs, particularly those provided by major camera manufacturers, squirrel your photos away in a different location. It doesn't matter too much where they are, but in order to make sure you are backing up all your treasured images (and you should be!), you need to know where they are being stored. If you do use one of these programs, have a look in the settings and it will tell you the folder location. Another way to find useful information on a photo is to right click on it and click Properties, this will show you the folder & file location and even the size of the image, which is handy if you want to email a few pictures at the same time.

**Folders and Files** - All operating systems work on what is elaborately called a 'hierarchical file structure'. What that means in Plain English is that it you start off with one big folder, inside of which are lots of other folders which each contain all your files. Your computer's hard drive is just like a big filing cabinet. You start with your C Drive, then when you double click it, you see a whole list of folders, click on the Users folder and you will see one

with your name (or one for each user of the computer). Double click on that and you will see all your data folders: Documents, Pictures etc.

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**Good housekeeping** – or keeping everything tidy on your computer. Look inside the folders mentioned above and if you see hundreds of individual files its probably time for a tidy up. On the top bar you will see an icon you can click on to create a 'new folder'. Type a name for it then you can drag & drop or copy & paste the individual files into that folder to keep them altogether. If you want to change the name of a folder, just right click on it and click rename. You can do the same with individual or groups of files. Lets say you have a folder with holiday pictures in it and they are all of different places you visited. You can select a few of the same destination or subject by clicking on the first image, then hold down the shift key and click the last image of the group. This will highlight them all and you can then right click and click rename and type the name of the place or subject and press enter on your keyboard. This will then place all those pictures together and in alphabetical and number order. All this will become clear with practice and if you search online you will find numerous tutorials and even videos on the subject.

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## Security Central:

**Important advice on telephone and computer fraud – you will see a special feature on page 35 in this month's issue. Please inform anyone you think might be vulnerable to such scams. You can print out a full page version of the feature from my website, which could be useful for pinning on notice boards etc.**

**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.

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