



In this issue:

- ✓ Social Network Spam
- ✓ Desktops, notebook & tables compared
- ✓ .Search webmail and more
- ✓ Browse with tabs
- ✓ Some useful smartphone apps

TOO MANY NOTIFICATIONS FROM SOCIAL NETWORKS

My email runneth over.

The latest influx of junk started when I took a presence on Facebook and LinkedIn because they are supposed to be good for business, and our daughter tells us that we must in order to see family her photos. Since then, I am getting an increasing number of invitations (often from people I don't know) asking me to be their friend, or to LinkedIn with them.

Here's what I have to keep up with:

- Home phone w/voice mail
- Business landline w/voicemail
- Cell phone w/voicemail
- Text messages
- Several business and personal emails, home
- And now social network notifications and invitations.

In polite company I refer to it as information overload. Mostly it's an influx of "stuff" that can be slowed down fairly easily – if you know how.

Here are some personal rules that I have implemented, and which I suggest that you consider, to deal with this information overload:

1. I don't answer phones when I'm eating – that's my personal time. If it's important, they caller will either call back or leave a voicemail message.
2. I usually try to not answer any phone call (landline or cell phone) when I'm conversing with someone, which I consider to be

just plain rude. There are some exceptions, if I know who the caller is and feel it's important, such as a call from my wife. Answering a cell phone while engaged in conversation with someone tells that person that the unknown call is more important than they are.

3. I reply to text messages, but don't implement them, except for 2 people in my immediate family who are more likely to read texts than check their voicemail. When possible I reply by phone rather than texting back, so as not to encourage texting.
4. I immediately delete emails from Facebook and LinkedIn because it's mostly spam cluttering up my inbox. If the message is important and from a real person, they will call or email me.
5. I unsubscribe to the multitude of ads wherever I have that option. I don't need to know of their latest sale or discount coupon, as I'll find that info if I'm looking for something I want to buy.

COMPARING DESKTOPS, NOTEBOOKS & TABLETS

When notebook computers came out the magazines predicted the demise of the desktop computer. Then the rush was on to get Netbooks which were going to replace notebooks. Now computer magazines are discussing whether or not tablets will replace all of the above.

The curmudgeon in me says **rubbish!** Each has a place and a use, but they are not designed for the same purposes.

Here is my nutshell comparison of desktops, notebooks and tablets.

A desktop computer is the largest of the three. It is also the most powerful, easiest to repair, and give you the most bang for the buck.

Notebook computers are primarily for travel. They are slower than desktops because of heat buildup issues. If sound, video, network adapter, or other components fail, they are built into the motherboard which must be replaced (generally around \$300). Replacement of the display on a notebook is also around \$300. Replacing these individual components on a desktop is oh...around \$50 to \$100 (\$150 or so for the monitor). All-in-one desktops in which the computer is built into the monitor housing are more like glorified desktops in this respect, except that they can run at desktop speeds because of better cooling.

Tablets are...tablets – which I consider to be just larger versions of smartphones (Android and iPhones). Tablets are not yet designed to easily interface with either desktop or notebook computers, or peripherals such as printers. Many don't even have USB ports. Printing from a tablet usually means that you must email the file to yourself and then print the email attachment from your notebook or desktop computer, although some, but not many, printers can accept some types of printing (such as photos) over a local network.

Lenovo is the only manufacturer that seems to be thinking of interfacing tables with desktop/notebook computers. Their ThinkPad tablet can slide into a **dock** that resembles a notebook computer and has several USB ports and so forth. It's only an early attempt to expand the usefulness of tablets, but I think it's a direction we'll see more of.

I really like the idea of tablets, but they are nowhere close to replacing either notebook or desktop computers

at this early stage of their development.

SEARCH WEBMAIL AND MORE

If you use webmail (gmail, hotmail, etc) then you have probably found it difficult to search through the webmail. **CloudMagic to the rescue.**

CloudMagic is a **free browser add-on** that you can use for lightning-fast searches of your email calendar entries (such as gmail calendar), Contacts and even Tweets. It is easy to use and very fast.

You can download CloudMagic from <http://www.cloudmagic.com/>

USE TABS

Whether your internet browser is Firefox, Chrome, or Internet Explorer (version 7 or later), you may have noticed that there are tabs under the menubar – they resemble the label portion of paper file folders. If you don't use tabs, you are wasting your computer's resources and slowing down your computer.

If you open more than one web page without using tabs, each opens in a separate "instance" of the browser. Most browsers use about 25MB to 50MB, so if you have 4 web pages open, you could be using 200MB or more of your computer's memory (RAM). Particularly with older computers and even newer computers that may not have much memory, this can cause the computer to noticeably slow down.

If you open multiple web pages using the tabs feature, then you only have one instance of the browser open, with each page displayed in one of the tabs, drastically cutting down on the amount of memory that is being used.

Browsers use tabs by default, but often people will open the browser more than once, which will bring up another instance of the browser on the computer. The way to open multiple web pages using tabs is to look at the right side of the tabs. You will see a

narrow tab that looks somewhat like a square. If you click on that little tab, it will open a new tab from which you can navigate to another web page. You then click on any of the tabs to display the webpage that is on that tab.

When you are done using any tab and want to get rid of it, click on the little X at the right side of the tab.

You can read more about tabs by clicking [here:](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2G4ZgdwVVw)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2G4ZgdwVVw>

USEFUL SMARTPHONE APPS

According to a very recent article at <http://technolog.msnbc.msn.com>, there are now over 400,000 apps available for Androids and over 500,000 for Apple iOS. That's worse than walking into an ice cream store that is 957 flavors. Gee – give me one of those and...ummm...#% @&\$+!*

Here is a short list of some smartphone apps that you might find useful. These apps are free unless otherwise noted. They are available for both Apple (iOS) and Android phones. Many are also available for tablets, and some for Windows7 Mobile and RIM (Blackberry) smartphones.

ShopSavvy Barcode Scanner: Scan a barcode and this app will display the price ad some local brick-and-mortar stores and online vendors. Obviously it's great for comparison shopping, but it has other uses as well. You see something that a friend has, or bought something while on vacation and so forth – if it has a barcode label you can find out where you can get it. I've used ShopSavvy for over a year and find it very cool. **Free.**

Amazon Mobile is a new competitor to ShopSavvy and is somewhat controversial because Amazon offers an additional discount if you purchase from Amazon using Amazon Mobile after finding an item in a store.

GoogleSky – Look at the night sky through your smartphone and find out what that star or planet or constellation is. It doesn't line up

exactly with what you're looking at because of the difference between true North and magnetic North, but that's only a few degrees.

Dictionary.com is just what it says – no more misspelled words. Also has a thesaurus.

Google Translate works the same as it does on a computer. Enter a word or phrase in most languages and translate it into a different language.

Google Goggles lets you scan something from your smartphone (such as a menu or label) that is in a foreign language and Goggles will translate the scanned text.

Localicious gives info about restaurants and stores, based on your current location. Available for Androids only – sorry, but it's not one of the hundreds of thousands of apps for iOS.

Daily Sudoku has a different set of Sudoku games every day, with 16 different skill levels of games. I think it's only available for Androids but there are undoubtedly similarly outstanding versions of Sudoku for iOS as well.

This newsletter is a service to clients of Coastal Computer Care. Please remember us when you need professional computer support or tutoring. If you are not currently a client but wish to receive this free newsletter, send me a request via email and I'll be happy add you to the distribution list

Disclaimer: Coastal Computer Care presents information in this newsletter as a courtesy. The recommendations are made in good faith and are believed to be reliable and safe. CCC cannot, however, foresee every possibility and assumes no responsibility for any problems that may be encountered as a consequence of the recommendations. Always backup your computer and make sure that System Restore is set to On.