



SENIORNET HUTT CITY INC

NEWSLETTER No. 42 - SEPTEMBER 2009

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'Member of the Federation of New Zealand SeniorNet Societies Inc'



Greetings,

Another AGM is over for another year, but this was a milestone as we celebrated our 10th Anniversary – a decade of wonderful service to the community by our many enthusiastic volunteers. My thanks go to all those who helped and contributed on the day.

Sadly, it was not as well attended as we would have hoped, but it did mean more eats for those who did come along!!

Those who did attend heard from various members about the start up and progress of SeniorNet Hutt City over the decade and special tribute was paid to those who have gone before and helped in so many ways; in particular the first Chair the late Ron Wood, SeniorNet Wellington and specifically Jack Hazlett, who has done so much for the SeniorNet movement.

We were delighted that The Hutt News ran an article on our first decade. We now look forward to our next 10 years.

There are some complaints about the Government cutting back on night school programs. I know many of our members have not only taken Courses but have been, and still are involved, in this worthwhile programme. However, a point I made when writing to invite our local MP's and the Minister for Senior Citizens to our AGM, was that the Night School tutors get paid while at SeniorNet, being a 100% volunteer organisation, the taxpayer is certainly getting 'more bangs for their buck' from us as the wages cost to the taxpayer is nil. In fact, of course, it is in reality a cost to those who do help out by tutoring or in our administration. That why is it is so important that we get people to volunteer and so help spread the cost and workload.

I should mention that we received a very pleasant and encouraging letter from the Minister of Senior Citizens, the Hon. John Carter who was unfortunately in Auckland chairing a Select Committee meeting on the day of our AGM and so was unable to attend. To date the Minister seems very positive in his attitude towards SeniorNet. You would have read how he has assisted the Federation with a special funding grant earlier in the year.

As you will see later in the Newsletter we are taking part in the Expo to be held on the 1 October. Why not come along or tell your friends to attend.

A Regional Meeting is to be held shortly and we will report on that in our next Newsletter.

With best wishes

Wayne Meredith

FREE ENTRY

HEALTH, WEALTH AND WELLBEING EXPO



**THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2009 10 AM – 3 PM
HORTICULTURAL HALL, LAINGS ROAD**

SENIORNET HUTT CITY WILL BE THERE

So come and join us along with the many other exhibitors.

As you see it is FREE – and you can't do better than that!

Look for the special advertising supplement in the Hutt News to see what other groups that will be joining us on the 1 October. Put the date in you diary today and ask your friends if they want to join you.

YOU DID SEE THAT IT IS FREE ENTRY DIDN'T YOU ! THEY USUALLY PUT ON A FREE CUP OF TEA OR COFFEE SO WHY NOT GO BY BUS USING YOUR SUPER GOLD CARD AND HAVE A GREAT FREE DAY OUT.



ALWAYS – JUST EMAIL US

How do you catch a gorilla. Hide in a tree and make banana sounds

▶▶ Life not only begins at 40 it begins to show ◀◀

PROGRESS - Some adapted thoughts from Bruce Simpson – www.aardvark.co.nz

We all know that the vast (and ever-increasing) array of technology-based appliances and devices at our disposal have made life a lot easier... or has it?

Mobile phones, big-screen TVs, home-theatres, iPods, PCs, PDAs, etc -- they all pay an increasingly important role in 21st century life, but I wonder if we're actually becoming victims of this advanced technology rather than beneficiaries of it.

Take the mobile phone for example...

There was a time when you could get away from the world very easily -- just walk out the door or jump in your car. When all phones required a thick unyielding wire to connect them, they weren't hard to escape from.

Today, our phones go with us, wherever we may be.

And, despite the fact you *can* turn them off, few people actually feel comfortable without this wireless umbilical cord and become quite anxious if made to "disconnect" themselves from the rest of the wired world.

But it's not just the phone, many people also suffer Net withdrawal if forced to leave their Internet connection for any length of time.

Like many of my peers, I've become very reliant on email and the ability to maintain regular contact with various groups of people. The thought of having to "go without" for even a relatively short period of time is an unpleasant one.

Yes, I am a victim of technology, just like you.

Even those who aren't welded to their web-browser can also find themselves unable to give up their hi-techery.

Take the incredibly addictive TV set for example...

How many people are so addicted that they get agitated if forced to miss a programme they regularly watch? In fact, of all the tech-terrors, I think TV is not only the most addictive but also the most damaging.

At least mobile phones and the internet offer some form of interaction and require the user to think while using them. Unfortunately, the TV is a totally passive opiate.

Sit down in front of your new big screen LCD or plasma TV and huge chunks of your life will just disappear. You'll never get those hours back and you've done absolutely nothing to improve your life, your finances or your welfare during that time.

Got an iPod or other personal media player? Take care that you don't damage your hearing -- or get run down trying to cross the street while unable to hear oncoming traffic.

How's that Playstation or XBox? Play it long or often enough and you risk getting a bad case of RSI in your thumbs and wrists. The same for texting.

Now take a minute and cast your mind back to the "good old days" when you could take a holiday far from the madding crowd. no cell phones, no internet, no TV, no Playstation, no PDA reminding you of appointments you're missing.

Would you feel somewhat anxious if you were told that your internet connection was to be disabled for a week or two?

Do you find it almost impossible to turn off your mobile -- for fear of missing a call or losing touch with the rest of the "connected" world?

Got sore ears or thumbs?

Just what were you watching on TV that seemed so important six months ago!!

Email can be sent in several formats the most common being plain text and HTML.
We'll look at the difference, and which might be preferable.

HTML stands for HyperText Markup Language. It's the way web pages such as this one are encoded to handle things like **bold**, *italics* and even **colour text red**. Plain text is, well, it's plain.

There are reasons and times you might want to use both.

Plain text has no formatting. It's often displayed using what's called a "mono-spaced" font - meaning that each character takes up the same space on the line. Here's an example:

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

HTML started as the way to describe how web pages should look. It includes ways to specify formatting, colours, positioning, and some amount of layout. As email became more popular, people started wanting to make their messages "look" as nice as they felt web pages looked.

Let's look at our example again, this time in HTML: The quick **brown** fox jumps over the *lazy dog*.

In this example I've:

- Specified a specific type-face or font
- Specified a size for the font
- indicated that the word "brown" should be bold
- indicated that the phrase "lazy dog" should be in italics

HTML and Email

One thing that's important to know about HTML format used in email, is that not all email programs know how to interpret it. Most do, but some do not.

What does that mean? That means that if you send out your email looking like this:

The quick **brown** fox jumps over the *lazy dog*.

Some people may see this as your message, or worse, instead:

```
<span style="font-family: 'Times New Roman', Times, serif; font-size: 12pt;">The quick  
<strong>brown</strong> fox jumps over the <em>lazy dog</em>.</span>
```

Choosing HTML or Plain Text

Choosing Plain Text or HTML formatting for your email can, in most email programs, be done one of two ways:

- You can set a default for all email.
- You can change the format of the current message as you compose it.

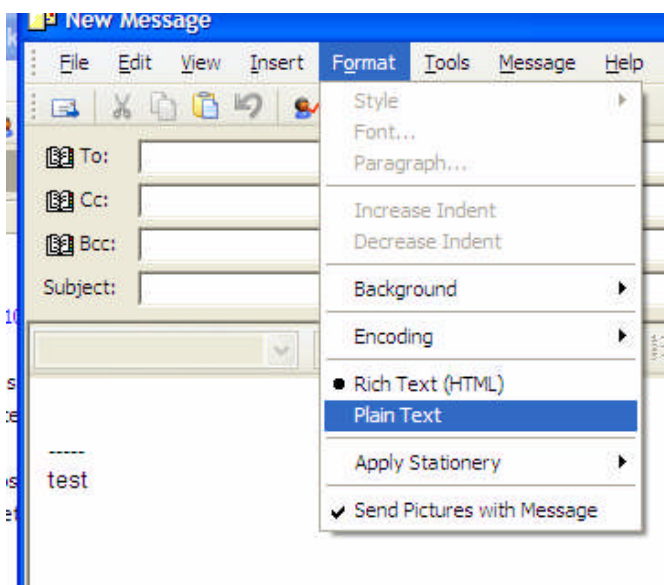
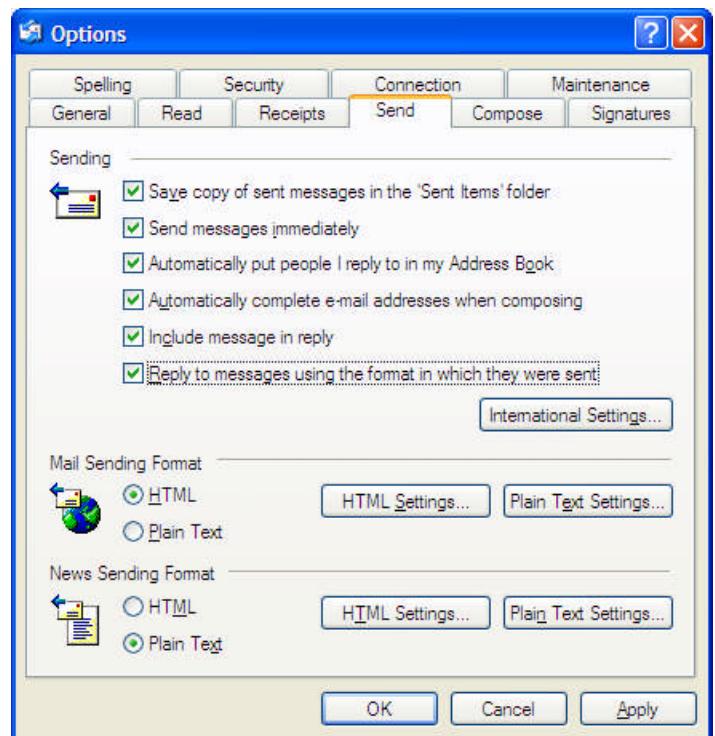
In this example we use Outlook Express

To choose which format you want Outlook Express to use by default, click the **Tools** menu, select **Options**, and click on the **Send** tab in the resulting dialog:

Under **Mail Sending Format**, select HTML or Plain Text as appropriate.

To change the current format of a message that you are composing, click on the **Format** menu, and then make sure that the format you want, **Rich Text (HTML)** or **Plain Text** is selected:

The appearance of your message will probably change, and if switching from HTML to Plain Text, you may get a warning that you're about to lose your formatting.



Which should you use?

It depends. Some say the focus should be on the message, not how "pretty" it looks. Plain text email is smaller, delivers and downloads quicker, and is also much less likely to be erroneously marked as spam. However, images and stationary *may* draw attention to the message and some want their email to look much nicer. So it's up to you.



OLD GEEZERS

I'm passing this on as I did not want to be the only old geezer receiving it. Actually, it's not a bad thing to be called, as you will see....

'Geezers' are easy to spot: At sporting events, during the playing of the National Anthem, Old Geezers remove their caps and stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.

Old Geezers remember World War II, Monte Cassino, Spitfires, D Day, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the Korean War, The Cold War, the jet age and the moon landing, Sputnik and more.

If you bump into an Old Geezer on the footpath he will apologise. If you pass an Old Geezer on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. Old Geezers trust strangers and are courtly to women. Old Geezers hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection. Old Geezers get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like any filth on TV or in movies.

Old Geezers have moral courage. They seldom brag unless it's about their grandchildren.

It's the Old Geezers who know our great country is protected, not by politicians, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs Old Geezers with their decent values. We need them now more than ever.

Thank God for Old Geezers!

Have you noticed the wall screen at the Centre? This was donated by Ruby Fraser. Ruby thank you for your thoughtfulness, we really appreciate the screen. Another (not so old) but true Blue SeniorNetter who is worth her weight in gold - A Tutor.

CLASS VACANCIES - Apart from emailing Class Vacancies these are always listed on our Blog. We ask you to always register as early as you can. It not only causes a tremendous amount of extra work but it is extremely frustrating and time consuming that we have to continually produce new class lists because members won't register early. So come on - register today for next Term. There is a form attached to the Newsletter.

SQUIRRELIZER

It all started so innocently when a young ground squirrel stepped into the family photo of Melissa Brandts in Canada's Banff National Park. They set the timer and at a critical moment up popped the squirrel. They put the photo on the Net and the rest, as they say, is history.

Squirrels are now showing up everywhere interrupting many a classic moment. To insert a squirrel into your photo, Google squirrelizer.



THE ORIGINAL



THE TIGER AND THE SQUIRREL



HE EVEN CRASHED THE CAKE CUTTING AT OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY AGM

QUICK TIPS <><

Did you know **Ctrl + L** highlights (selects) the address bar in any Internet Browser??

F6 switches between Help and a Word Document

Ctrl + 1 gives single space while Ctrl + 2 gives double line spacing and Ctrl + 5 means 1.5 spacing

FREE SOFTWARE: As we always say - on the Internet, if it's not free look elsewhere: www.7-zip.org a great zipping program www.ccleaner.com a good cleaning tool Have you ever lost a Word Doc due to a crash – try this freebie at www.tinyurl.com/ndetgj



SENIORNET HUTT CITY ON TV1 NEWS



Recently Grant Sidaway 'phoned to ask if we could provide a person to be interviewed as well as a 'dummy' class for an item to be broadcast on the TV1 news concerning the older citizen and technology. We were delighted to be able to help and on 27 July an item was shown featuring an interview with Jeanette Gregor and film showing a class in action.

The actual article was several minutes long (a lifetime in TV terms) and Jeanette was simply brilliant.

After emailing members and putting the details into our Blog the date changed, (Grrrr) which meant new advices had to be sent. We later learnt that our first spot was usurped by another program (one of little importance – the anniversary of the moon landing!!). We know many of you did see it on the 27th as we received a number of complimentary emails from members.

Thanks to all those who assisted (especially Jeanette). As it happened, the day they wanted to film at the Centre we were having a small morning tea function for our tutors so many stayed around to make up the numbers for the 'class'. It is great to get our name out there so our thanks also go to Grant.



THIS IS THE WONDERFUL CAKE MADE BY RAEWYN FOR THE AGM

FOR MORE PICTURES FROM THE DAY VISIT OUR BLOG

www.seniornet-huttcity.blogspot.com



Some more Freebies:<><> When you delete a program using the Add/Remove function that Microsoft provides it usually leave bits of the program behind. A good free program remover is <http://www.revouninstaller.com/>

Does Defragging cause you problems or take a long time. Try this program at <http://www.iobit.com/iobitmartdefrag.html>

DESKTOP OR LAPTOP ?????



Perhaps the most common question when shopping for a new PC is:
desktop or laptop?

There's no doubt laptops – a term interchangeable with notebooks – are the stars of the show, outselling their desk-bound cousins by almost two to one.

But don't rule the desktop out of contention. As convenient and oh-so-cool as notebooks may be, desktops are still a better choice in some instances.

They're more affordable and more powerful than the equivalent laptop.

There's also the matter of ergonomics.

Desktops have larger screens and more comfortable keyboards than laptops, resulting in less strain on the eyes, hands and wrists if you're going to be spending hours at a time working or surfing the net.

Traditionally, desktop PCs had a boxy, bulky "system unit" containing all the components, which sat separate to the monitor. There is almost no need for that dated design these days.

Instead, systems now can integrate everything into a slim chassis behind a large flat-panel screen .

A more recent trend is the desktop equivalent of the netbook. Asus and ViewSonic offer low-cost computers in a chic, all-in-one design, built around the same components as a netbook.

These do fine as a secondary computer for web browsing, email, Skype, word-processing and playing MP3 music – pretty much the same lightweight load as a netbook.

However, they're simply not powerful enough to meet the wide range of tasks the average home computer is expected to handle.

If your home will have only one desktop PC – and especially if that's to be shared among members of the family – our advice is to stick with a fully featured system running a dual-core processor, at least a 500 gigabyte hard drive and backed by at least 2 gigabytes of RAM.

But it's really up to you – the convenience of mobility against the easier to operate Desktop with its easy mouse, larger screen and keyboard.

ITS ALL IN THE PROCESSOR

Processors are easily the most important factor in choosing your next desktop or laptop. Here's what you need to know.

You can always upgrade the memory and the hard drive later on, for a little extra performance and a lot more room to store your stuff.

Buy a PC with a processor that's not quite powerful enough, however, and you're stuck with it until you buy your next PC. Processors can't be easily upgraded any more than a car's four-cylinder engine can be replaced with a V8. - So it pays to buy a little above your current needs.

Everything your PC is doing once it's running is stored in the memory chips. So the more programmes you run, and the more demanding those programmes are, the more memory your PC needs.

Without enough RAM your PC runs out of puff and has to struggle to keep up. The minimum amount of memory you want for most new PCs is 2 gigabytes.

If you're buying a PC for editing home movies, doing multimedia design work or playing games then go straight to 4 gigabytes of RAM. Notebooks are the sole exception to this rule; they can get by with 1 gigabyte because they're not used for heavy-duty tasks.

Choosing the right hard drive is also simple. It comes down to one thing: the size or capacity, which like memory is measured in gigabytes.

Most desktop PCs kick off at 320 gigabytes and notebooks at 160 gigabytes (notebooks' drives are physically smaller than their desktop cousins, so they can't hold as much data).

As long as you don't download tonnes of music or videos, store lots of digital photos or home movies, those drives are good enough to start with.

But if you can pay a little extra to have the PC delivered with the next highest drive capacity, that's the way to go - especially if several people will share the computer, such as a desktop that's used by the whole family.

After the processor, memory and hard drive, everything else is pretty much of a muchness for a desktop or laptop intended for undemanding everyday tasks.



Clean up Your Desk (top)

Have too many icons on your desktop? You probably only have a few that you really use on a regular basis, so why not keep the other ones handy, but hidden?

Well, it can be done by putting a little folder on your desktop and dragging any infrequently used shortcut icons to it. Here's how:

1. Right-click the desktop and select, **New, Folder**.
2. Name the new folder "Desk **Drawer**" (no quotes) or something similar.
3. Now, drag any icons that aren't being used on a regular basis to the folder. Some of the icons are stubborn and refuse to live anywhere but the desktop, so you'll find you can't move them (no amount of colourful language seems to improve this situation either). Most of them will make the transition with no complaints though.

That's it. A much cleaner desktop! If you need one of those little shortcuts, open the Desk Drawer folder and there they are.



COMPUTER MEASUREMENTS

1024 Bytes	=	Kilobyte
1024 Kilobytes	=	Megabyte
1024 Megabytes	=	Gigabyte
1024 Gigabytes	=	Terabyte
1024 Terabytes	=	Petabyte

And there are others – but that will do for now otherwise it could confuse some of us.

REDUCE PRINTING COSTS

Printers will look for colour in a page and if it is present, some computers won't use black. To force your printer into generating black print, select Greyscale or Black

Click these in order

- 1) File
- 2) Print
- 3) Properties
- 4) Advanced
- 4) Greyscale

PRINT JOB GETS STUCK

Sometimes a print job gets 'stuck' and you'll need to clear it from the printer's queue. Click on the printer icon in the task bar to view the queue.



Right-click on the print job that's stuck – it usually has an error message against it – and select *Cancel*. This clears the job and lets the printer get on with other tasks.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Always remember to forget the things that made you sad, but never forget to remember the things that made you glad.

-Irish Blessing

INCORRECT OR MISSING FILE ASSOCIATIONS.

The problem makes files open in the wrong program, or you see an "unknown file type" message when you try to open a file.

Usually, it starts with 'I can't open a file that's attached to my e-mail.' "Here's a method I use.

Right-click the file and save it to the desktop. At the desktop, click it once, then right-click and choose Open With, Choose Program. Then choose the program that is the best guess and do **not** check the **Always use the selected program** box.

"If the program doesn't open correctly, repeat the process, guessing again. When you get the program to open properly, repeat the process, choosing the program that worked, and this time **do** check **Always use the selected program**. You can then delete the file from your desktop.

"This avoids having to know the file name of the program and where it lives."

Taken from Horowhenua Newsletter

HOW TO CALL THE POLICE WHEN YOU'RE OLD AND DON'T MOVE FAST ANYMORE.

A man we will call George, was going up to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. (Boy does this sound familiar!)

He opened the back door to go turn off the light but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked 'Is someone in your house?' and he said 'no'. Then they said that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be along when available.

George said, 'Okay,' hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again. 'Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I've just shot them.' Then he hung up.

Within five minutes three police cars, an Armed Response Unit, and an ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence and caught the burglars red-handed. One of the Policemen said to George: 'I thought you said that you'd shot them!'

George said, 'I thought you said there was nobody available!'

I LOVE IT - Don't mess with old people!!

TO REMOVE A HORIZONTAL LINE IN WORD

Question: I added a horizontal line to a page in word by pressing the dash key 3 times and pressing **Enter**. Later on I decided I didn't want the line and I tried to remove it. Trouble is, I can't get rid of it. Every time I press the **Delete Key** to remove, part of my document disappears, but the line stays in place. I have managed to walk the line halfway up my document, but it is still there.

Answer: The problem is the line created isn't a line as such. I know it looks like a horizontal line across the page, but it's actually the bottom border of a paragraph and it's attached to the little invisible paragraph marker in the document, which makes it very difficult to see and remove. The simplest solution is to select the entire document by clicking **Edit – 'Select All'** or pressing **Ctrl-A**. Alternately you can select a few paragraphs of text above and below the problem area. In Word 2003 and earlier, go to **Format – 'Borders and Shading' – Borders Tab**. Select none as the setting, make sure the **'Apply To'** option is set to paragraph and click **OK**. This removes the bottom Border line from all paragraphs, including the line you are having problems with.

Taken from the Doubtless Bay Newsletter



PLEASE <><><>

WHEN TAKING A CLASS AT THE CENTRE DO NOT TAKE ANY LIQUIDS NEAR THE COMPUTERS. IT ONLY NEEDS ONE ACCIDENT. ALSO PLEASE READ THE HOUSE RULES ON THE NOTICE BOARD

WINDOWS 7 UPDATE

Although no firm date has been given, this is now expected to be released in October of this year, with the RC1, the final pre-release version now circulating among manufacturers and programmers.

Microsoft will include a feature that lets people run applications in a Windows XP mode on Windows 7 to ensure that applications not designed for the forthcoming OS can run on it. During a keynote address at the Microsoft Worldwide Partner Conference in New Orleans, Bill Veghte, Senior Vice President of Windows, demonstrated a mode called "Seamless XP" that allows someone to run an application designed for a previous version of Windows on Windows 7 as if it's running on XP. He showed how the feature works using an older third-party application originally designed for Windows 2000, QuickBooks Enterprise Solution 5.0.

And surprise, surprise, when you buy Windows 7, you get Windows XP with it. It would seem that Microsoft has at last listened to public comments on Vista and the many complaints on its incompatibility with many programmes, even with Microsoft programmes.

Taken from Huntly Newsletter

GOOGLE: Need to know what "perspicacious" (or any other word) means - just type define perspicacious into the Google search bar.

You can limit a search to a certain range of numbers by placing two full stops between the bottom and top numbers in the range eg - typing academy awards 1950..1960 provides you with information about the Oscars from just that period of time.

There is no need to hunt around for your calculator or find it in All Programs - Google can crunch the numbers for you. You can perform basic mathematical equations ($16*37$ or $144/12$) or even use trigonometric functions (*sin* for sine and *cos* for cosine).

Using the word "in" allows you to find out how much one quantity is when converted to an equivalent quantity. If you're looking for currency conversion, you can type, for instance, 10 NZ dollars in pounds to find out the British equivalent. Or you can make a similar query if you need to convert something from one measurement to another (for example, 50cm in inches) Or Type in an equation: ($100+4567*10-200=$). What is the square root of 267? ($\text{sqrt}(267)$)

If you are looking for some old web site you can directly search in Google cache. Try cache:slashdot.org and see the cached pages.

GMAIL: Do you have a Gmail account. If not it is certainly of help as more and more FREE Google applications come online. It is not only handy but a real advantage to 'hide' away your personal email address as you would have learnt from our Internet & Email Course. This particularly applies to all those people using Trade Me. Also it is a requirement when you do a Course such as Blogging.

Google has just announced it is linking with Hasbro to bring a free Monopoly game online. Monopoly City Streets will use Google maps and it will be online until 31.1.10

