

## the newsletter of Tarragon Solutions

### Tarragon Solutions

#### Head Office

First Floor  
Victor House  
Barnet Road  
London Colney  
AL2 1BJ

#### Accounts

Accounts Dept  
Tarragon Solutions Ltd  
PO Box 528  
Huntingdon  
PE29 9AQ

#### Phone:

0800 0199 925

#### Fax:

0845 1305 807

#### E-mail:

info@tarragon.co.uk

#### Web:

www.tarragon.co.uk

### Solutions!

#### Editor:

Steve Booth

#### Email:

solutions@  
tarragon.co.uk

## Netbooks: Tools or Toys?

Netbooks are in the news. Netbooks are the current big seller, with their share of the computer market growing fast. But, are netbooks just a gadget with no practical use for business or can they serve a useful purpose for staff who are “on the road”?

The netbook market has grown from nothing in a very short time. The first netbooks – computers small enough to be carried around with ease and marketed with the capability of running “real” applications – suffered from being too small, too underpowered and with too short a battery life.

Since that time, the development of netbooks has accelerated; the current releases can have reasonably high resolution (1024x600) screens of 9- or 10-inch size, “solid state” disks (SSDs) of many Gigabytes and power-lean processors, like Intel’s Atom. The changes mean they are now capable of running Linux or Windows XP Home and can have a battery life of 4 to 6 hours, which is quite impressive. The use of SSDs means more than saving power; it means the netbooks have no moving parts so they are somewhat more robust than traditional laptop or notebook computers! They are also much lighter; at around 1 kilo (2.3lbs) they are less than half the weight of all but the lightest notebooks.



netbook vs laptop

Netbooks generally are equipped with a ‘proper’ keyboard (small, but with keys that feel right) and sometimes a trackscreen device to take the place of a mouse. Normally, luxuries such as a CD/DVD reader/writer would not be built in but, if you need one, you can always use an external drive via a USB port. The amount of memory supplied varies but 1GB is common – enough for Windows XP Home to run happily enough. Most netbooks have built-in wireless connectivity as well as the ability to plug in a network cable. The newest models are beginning to include “mobile data” too – a built in 3G modem so you can use the mobile phone networks for data transfer.

So, netbooks seem to have the right things in the right places – but can they do anything useful?

In order to consume as little power as possible, the processors in netbooks are carefully designed, with all unnecessary facilities removed and much reduced raw processing power. Consequently, the applications you use may not run as quickly as you are used to. For netbooks running Windows, it is possible to install and run all the applications you are familiar with but you would certainly notice the difference when using the more processor hungry ones!

Where netbooks excel is as mobile Internet and email browsers. The larger screen and keyboard of a netbook means using them to read and write words is a much more pleasant task than on a smart phone or Blackberry – and you can see much more of a website without incessant scrolling.

As with all mobile devices, security is an issue – we continually hear of laptops/notebook/USB sticks being left on public transport – and netbooks are equally vulnerable to being mislaid. However, their small disk capacity and slower processor, which make running full-blown applications on them a less enjoyable experience, mean that you can make the loss of a netbook less critical to your business.

Their inbuilt connectivity, together with the wide availability of high-speed wireless facilities, mean that netbooks

continued overleaf...

are ideal for *virtual applications*, where an application is actually running in a server, in your office, say, but the screen images are sent to another computer. To the remote user it looks like he's running the program but the server provides all the computing power – and the data – and the netbook provides just the interface. Because the company data is never held on the netbook, there is no data to fall into the wrong hands if it becomes lost.

Virtualization is a very powerful concept – if you'd like to know more about it, please talk with us.

So, is the netbook a toy or a tool? If you need to run large applications when disconnected from the Internet then it won't do for you, buy a laptop. If, like most of us, you need a capability of browsing emails and the web and using web applications then, yes, a netbook absolutely is a fine business tool. And if you want to impress your clients when making a presentation, turn up with a netbook and one of the new pocket-sized projectors and show your audience your PowerPoint creation on equipment you've pulled out of your briefcase!

April 2009

Solutions!

## Earn yourself an Asus EeePC Netbook!

Yes, just take part in **Tarragon's Client Referral Programme** and you can earn your own netbook, an EeePC from Asus.

With this copy of **Solutions!** you'll have received details of our new programme which encourages you to talk with other businesses about the services and support offered by Tarragon.

Simply by introducing another business to us you can receive a smart LaCie flash drive; if that business signs up for one of our services you'll be given an even smarter LaCie flash drive and, if the service is a support contract\*, then we'll present you with an amazing EeePC netbook!

Full details can be found at:  
[www.tarragon.co.uk/referrals](http://www.tarragon.co.uk/referrals)

\* conditions apply



## High-speed fibre-optic broadband - on its way to an exchange near you!

British Telecom have announced the 29 telephone exchanges that will be included in the next phase of their upgrade to fibre-optic technology - and five of them are local!

The new medium will offer download speeds of up to 40Mb/s initially, with a predicted 60Mb/s available in the future. Additionally, upload speeds are likely to increase to 10Mb/s which will be of great benefit to remote working and virtualization.

The local exchanges in the list are:

- Hemel Hempstead**
- Leagrave**
- Luton**
- St. Albans**
- Watford**



The work is due to start early in 2010 but service availability and pricing structure have yet to be announced.

## Tip of the Month - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur...

...which you probably recognise as the dummy text known as "Printers' Greek" even though it's Latin. It's used to fill documents with words that allow the reader to concentrate on the *layout* of the document rather than its content.

In Word, you don't need to know or remember the text to include it in your document; simply enter, on a line on its own, the following: `=lorem()` and the full Lorem text will be inserted.

If you'd prefer to stick to English, you can also insert that well known user of all letters, "the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog." by entering, on a line of its own, `=rand()` which will produce 3 paragraphs, each one containing "The quick..." three times. In Word 2007, use `=rand.old()` as `=rand()` will insert a 3 paragraphs about using Word!

If you'd like control over the number of paragraphs and sentences that are inserted, visit here:

<http://word.mvps.org/faqs/Formatting/DummyText.htm>

Please let us know what you think of **Solutions!** - email [solutions@tarragon.co.uk](mailto:solutions@tarragon.co.uk)