

### 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

# Welcome, 2010

A new year, a new decade (some say), soon a new government (perhaps\*)

The Tarragon team would like to wish you a

## Happy New Year

and look forward to working with you to make 2010 not just a *good* year but a **great** year!

\* some may think "hopefully" but I couldn't *possibly* comment!

## Prepare for USB 3.0!

USB has been around for a long time now, and USB 2.0, the "Hi-Speed" version, was introduced in 2002. Since then virtually all devices you attach to your computer use a USB connection; it's simple, quick and the performance is excellent.

USB version 3 was first demonstrated in September 2007 and now, at the start of 2010, devices are starting to make an appearance. One of the major improvements of USB 3.0 over 2.0 is performance and an example will demonstrate this:

You have a 25GB file you need to transfer from your workstation's hard drive to an external disk drive. Using USB 1.1 (which many people do still have on some older PCs!) that transfer would take around 9 hours. Using USB 2.0 "Hi-Speed", the same transfer will take about 14 minutes, which obviously is a dramatic improvement. However, using a USB 3.0 "SuperSpeed" port, cable and compatible external hard drive, you could shift the 25GB in around 4 minutes!

In fact, USB 3.0 is faster than current hard drive technology can fill, capable of a throughput of up to 5 Gigabits per second. This means that multiple USB devices will share the better performance, even if lots of data is being transferred.

*continued overleaf...*


## Prepare for USB 3.0! (continued from front page)

In addition to the potential speed improvement, USB 3.0 permits simultaneous reading and writing to a device. Under 2.0 you *can* both read and write, of course, but only one or the other at the same time. USB 3.0 achieves this by using extra wires in the cable and connector and it means that certain applications will gain even more performance.

Finally, USB 3.0 has been designed to use power more efficiently, very helpful in these eco-conscious days! As a result you'll be able to attach higher-powered devices to your computer (or attach more devices of lower power, via a hub) and it is said that (compatible) devices that can recharge via USB (mobile phones, for example) will do so faster .

As implied earlier, to get the most out of USB 3.0 you will need new, compatible devices and new, compatible cables as well as the USB 3.0 port in your PC. However, the good news is that USB 2.0 devices and cables will continue to work properly (but at 2.0 speeds) when plugged into a 3.0 port.

Over the coming months, USB 3.0 motherboards and peripherals will start to arrive at an increasing rate so soon you will be able to specify USB 3.0 on your new PCs and start to take advantage of "SuperSpeed".

Last month's edition of Solutions! was, of course, the Christmas edition - but how many of you noticed that the season of Noël had extended to the  logo at the side? It wasn't deliberate, honest!

### Tip of the Month - Windows 7 and shortcut removal

If you create desktop shortcuts to removable storage devices, such as network drives or USB keys, the icons may disappear from time to time because Windows 7 has a built in task to clean up broken and unused links. This is scheduled to run at 1am each Sunday morning or when the PC is next rebooted after that time, and only when the machine has been idle for 10 minutes. Many people are finding the disappearance of their network drive shortcuts somewhat annoying!

To prevent the task from running you need to disable the task in the task scheduler:

Go to Start > All Programs > Accessories > System Tools > Task Scheduler

Expand the tree in the left hand pane until you get to Task Scheduler Library>Microsoft>Windows>Diagnosis.

In the right hand pane, right click the task named Scheduled and select Disable.

Alternatively, you could move all your 'removable storage' shortcuts into a folder on your desktop so they will not be touched by the cleanup task.

**and, finally...** we sometimes have some strange messages left on the Tarragon voicemail but, over the weekend, we received one that was, well, a little different.

A person unknown, presumably having come across our web site and liking it, decided to leave us an impromptu song. You may listen to this work at:

[www.tarragon.co.uk/content/media/tarragonvoicemail.wav](http://www.tarragon.co.uk/content/media/tarragonvoicemail.wav)

(and if you happen to be the originator of this song - Many Thanks, please get in touch!)

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