

Providing peace of mind for your IT

PC people

Newsletter

May 2011



A brief message from Nash Hunter.

Dear all,



It has been a busy few months for PC People. With the launch of our data hosting facilities coming ever closer, we've been working hard to ensure our systems are safe and secure. Once testing is complete, I'll be sending out more information to the many customers that expressed an interest. Please let me know if you would like to be added to this list.

This month's newsletter contains some useful tips & tricks for Blackberry and iPhone users, but the main feature is about carbon footprints. Inside, you can find a brief overview of what a carbon footprint is and how to calculate yours, as well as some ideas on how to lower it.

If you have any questions about anything in our newsletter then as always, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Best wishes,

Nash

PC People is proud to announce that Managing Director Nash Hunter and Senior Engineer Nick Watson will be taking part in this year's Going Commando! They will be raising money for Help for Heroes.



Help for Heroes helps to provide better facilities for British servicemen and women wounded since September 11, 2001. It was founded by Bryn Parry

OBE and his wife Emma Parry OBE after they visited soldiers at Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham. The charity was launched after a meeting with General Sir Richard Dannatt, the Chief of the General Staff, the professional head of the British Army. H4H has attracted a number of high profile trustees and patrons and has the support of the Army Benevolent Fund and the Ministry of Defence. It has also attracted support from national newspapers. such as *The Sun* and *The Sunday Times*.

Going Commando! Is a charity drive from London to Newquay which has had much success in recent years with fundraising. If you wish to help Nash and Nick do their part, you can donate directly to Help for Heroes at <http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk/donations.html>.

Carbon Footprint

Overview

A 'carbon footprint' measures the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by a person, organisation, event or product.

The footprint considers all six of the Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gases: Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous oxide (N₂O), Hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs), Per fluorocarbons (PFCs) and Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

A carbon footprint is measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). The carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) allows the different greenhouse gases to be compared on a like-for-like basis relative to one unit of CO₂. CO₂e is calculated by multiplying the emissions of each of the six greenhouse gases by its 100 year global warming potential (GWP).

The main types of carbon footprint are:

Organisational:

Emissions from all the activities across the organisation, including buildings' energy use, industrial processes and company vehicles.

Product

Emissions over the whole life of a product or service, from the extraction of raw materials and manufacturing right through to its use and final reuse, recycling or disposal.

On the next page, you'll find a little more information on how to lower your company's carbon footprint. If you want to learn more, please don't hesitate to get in contact with us.



Lower your Carbon Footprint

Switch off lights and equipment when not in use: Putting your computer into sleep mode will reduce the amount of energy it uses by 60-70 per cent. And if you can, turn it off. After just 16 minutes of not using your computer, it's more energy efficient to turn it off and restart it than to keep it on. Most IT equipment now has power-management features, so make sure these are activated on yours.

Unplug Chargers: laptop, mobile phone and BlackBerry chargers continue to charge (using up to 95 per cent of the power) even when no longer attached to the device. So you must remember to unplug chargers and if you turn your mobile phones and BlackBerries off at night, you'll only have to charge them half as much.

Buy energy efficient equipment: Look out for the Energy Saving Recommended logo on products such as insulation, light fittings, glazing and appliances. Products carrying it will save your company up to around 190kg of CO₂ emissions and £45 a year. Philips achieved a 25 per cent reduction in energy use between 2001 and 2005 by investing in more energy efficient products, saving more than 150,000 tonnes of CO₂.

Recycle: Set up recycling bins for glass, cans, plastic, cardboard, etc., in your office. They'll soon fill up.

Monitor Carbon emissions: Install energy monitors on different types of office equipment to find out just how much energy they use. Look at the energy bill for your organisation and find out how much carbon dioxide (CO₂) has been emitted. Monitoring electricity use saves IBM more than £370,000 every year.

iPhone Tips

iOS 4 contains a number of nifty tricks that allow you to use your iPhone more effectively.



- **To force-quit an application:** iOS 3.0 introduced a new way to force-quit applications. Press and hold the Sleep button (on top) until the “Slide to power off” slider appears. Then press the Home button until you reach the Home screen.
- **To take a screenshot:** Press the Sleep and Home buttons simultaneously. The screen will flash to indicate that a screenshot has been taken and saved in the camera roll.
- **Delete individual messages:** In the SMS application, tap on a message thread then the Edit button on the upper right corner. Tap on the circle next to a message to mark it for deletion. When you’re done, press Delete at the bottom.
- **Enable the scientific calculator:** Launch the Calculator application and rotate it sideways to bring up the scientific calculator.
- **Move between home screens:** Usually done by swiping left or right across the screen, you can also tap in the area left or right of the home screen indicators.
- **Silent/Reject a call:** To silent a call, press the Sleep button once. It will continue to ring without any indications (no ringtone, no vibration) until you answer or the caller hangs up. To reject a call, press the Sleep button twice.
- **Customised Home shortcut:** You can preconfigure double-clicking the Home button to quickly launch the camera, iPod, favourite contacts or Spotlight. Go to Settings -> General -> Home and set what you’d like the Home button to launch.
- **Quickly return to the main home screen:** If you’re at the 11th home screen, there’s no need to swipe through all the other home screens to get to the main one. Press the Home button to quickly be brought back to the first home screen.

Blackberry Tips



- **Switch the signal bars to decibels:** If you want a more precise measurement of your wireless signal, just hold down the **ALT** button while typing **N M L L**. The meter on the main screen will change to a number. Do these steps again to change it back.
- **Give the audio a boost:** Many people say that the ringtone or music isn't loud enough on the BlackBerry. Go to **Menu > Options > Audio Boost > On**.
- **Enable separate app for SMS text messages:** Don't like your email crammed in with text messages? Separate them by going to **Messages > Menu > Options > SMS and Email Inboxes > Separate**.
- **Quick period:** At the end of a sentence, press the **Space** key twice and a period will be typed automatically.
- **Switch to another program:** Hold the **ALT** key and press **Escape**. Continue to hold **ALT** and select the program you want to switch to.
- **Send your PIN:** Need to send somebody your PIN so you can communicate with them? Just type **MYPIN** in an email or text message and the text will change to your actual pin number.
- **Start in Safe Mode:** Install an app that caused problems? Start in Safe Mode so you can remove it. Remove and reinsert the battery, then when the light goes off while starting, press and hold the **Escape** button until the main screen loads.
- **Add more callers:** Press **Menu** while on a call and select **Add Participant** if you wish to add more people to the call.
- **Reboot:** **ALT + CAPS + Delete** reboots the device.
- **Change ring tone:** Don't like the default ring tone? Change it under **Menu > Profiles > Advanced > (Active profile) > Phone > Ring Tone**.

Microsoft acquire Skype

Microsoft has confirmed that it has agreed to buy internet phone service Skype.



The deal will see Microsoft pay \$8.5bn (£5.2bn) for Skype, making it Microsoft's largest acquisition.

Luxembourg-based Skype has 663 million global users. It was

founded in 2003. Calls to other Skype users are free, while the company charges for those made to both traditional landline phones and mobiles.

Internet auction house eBay bought Skype for \$2.6bn in 2006, before selling 70% of it in 2009 for \$2bn.

Shares in Microsoft ended the day in New York down 0.5% at \$25.68. In contrast, eBay - which owns a stake in Skype - saw its share price rally 2.5%.

Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer said: "Skype is a phenomenal service that is loved by millions of people around the world.

Microsoft®

"Together we will create the future of real-time communications so people can easily stay connected to family, friends, clients and colleagues anywhere in the world."

Skype will now become a new division within Microsoft, and Skype chief executive Tony Bates will continue to lead the business, reporting directly to Mr Ballmer.

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