

Today's Technology and Genealogy



An survey on how computers and other types
of technology can help with your research
and record keeping.

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Agenda



- ❧ Computers (hardware), etc. – An overview.
- ❧ Software.
- ❧ Internet Sources.
- ❧ Museums and Archives.
- ❧ DNA Testing
- ❧ Discussions.
- ❧ Evaluation.

Computers and Other Technology



Introduction to computers and other technology that can be useful
when doing research at home and away.

Hardware Agenda



- ⌘ Desktops.
- ⌘ Laptops.
- ⌘ Tablets & Smart Phones.
- ⌘ Scanners & Cameras.
- ⌘ Printers.
- ⌘ Ext. Storage: Flash drives, CD and DVD.
- ⌘ E-Books

Desktops



☞ Pros:

- ☞ Large screen(s).
- ☞ Huge storage.
- ☞ Fast.
- ☞ Many attachments.

☞ Cons:

- ☞ Stays at home.



Laptops



☞ Pros:

- ☞ Mobile.
- ☞ Attach external devices.
- ☞ Good for displaying to groups.

☞ Cons:

- ☞ For the cost.
 - ☞ Slower.
 - ☞ Smaller storage.
 - ☞ Smaller screens.
- ☞ Battery life can be an issue if you are unable to plug in.



Tablets & Smart Phones



☞ Pros:

- ☞ Mobile.
- ☞ Light weight.
- ☞ Good battery life.
- ☞ Camera.

☞ Cons:

- ☞ Entering data (keyboard).
- ☞ Few attached devices.
- ☞ Small screens.



Scanners & Cameras



⌘ Document Copying.

⌘ Pictures of people, places & documents.



Printers



- ❧ Dot matrix (black) still available.
- ❧ Ink jet (black or colored).
- ❧ Laser (black or colored).
- ❧ All-in-one (print, copy, scan, & fax).

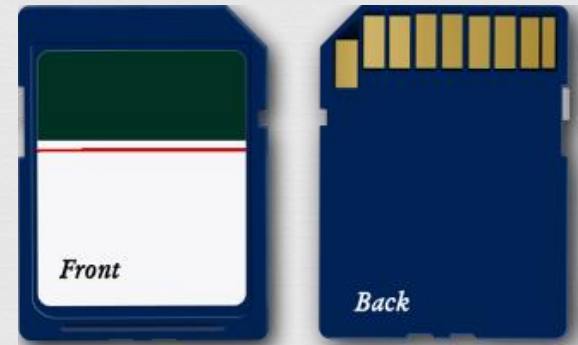


Ext. Storage Devices



- ✧ CDs (700 MB) and DVDs (4.7 - 9.4 GB)
- ✧ Flash drives and SD cards (128 MB - 256 GB)

(1 GB = 1,024 MB = 1,048,576 English characters)



E-Books



☞ Pros:

- ☞ You can carry some of your reference library with you.
- ☞ Limited note taking capability.

☞ Cons:

- ☞ Only a reference source.

Software



Cannot do anything without a program.

Software Agenda



- ✧ Email
- ✧ Browser
- ✧ Genealogy Programs
- ✧ Editors
- ✧ Database Programs
- ✧ Research Aids
- ✧ Data Exchange
- ✧ Web Software
- ✧ Image Editing
- ✧ OCR
- ✧ Virus and Malware
- ✧ Backup
- ✧ Cloud Storage

Email



- ❧ Used for communicating with others.
- ❧ Locally installed program (client) and internet via browser.
- ❧ Free clients at:
 - ❧ Windows, Mac, Android, or Apple iPad
- ❧ Free internet accounts:
 - ❧ Gmail, Yahoo, and Outlook
- ❧ Good if includes an address book that contains name, email(s), phone, mailing address, web page and social media contact info like Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Browsers



- ☞ All Browsers are free, find the one you like. They are written for all systems.
 - ☞ Google Chrome
 - ☞ Mozilla Firefox
 - ☞ Microsoft Internet Explorer
 - ☞ Apple Safari
 - ☞ Opera
 - ☞ Others are available but not in common use.

Genealogy Programs



- ❧ Used to record the person and family information you find.
- ❧ Should be able to attach documents, pictures and video.
- ❧ Creates Gedcom files.
- ❧ Locally installed program or online (internet).
- ❧ Use [Cyndi's List](#) to find one.
- ❧ Suggested [Family Tree Maker](#) and [Legacy \(free version available\)](#).

Editors



- ❧ Word processors – write history.
 - ❧ Microsoft's Word (\$), or Window's WordPad.
 - ❧ Corel's WordPerfect (\$).
 - ❧ LibreOffice or OpenOffice's Writer.
- ❧ Text editors – work with text files.
 - ❧ Window's Notepad or Mac's TextEdit.
 - ❧ Notepad++.
- ❧ Notebooks & Journals.
 - ❧ Locally installed and online.

Database Programs



- ❧ Use to create custom data storage
 - ❧ Microsoft's Access (\$)
 - ❧ Corel's Paradox (\$)
 - ❧ LibreOffice or OpenOffice's Base (Free)
- ❧ Search Internet for "free database software"

Research Aids



- ⌘ Used to capture information from the internet as is.
- ⌘ Browser's page save.
- ⌘ Zotero – indexes page contents as part of your browser or as a stand alone program.
- ⌘ Pagenest – grabs part or all the website and stores it as it is at that time on your hard drive.

Data Exchange



- ❧ Gedcom.
- ❧ PDF (free readers available).
- ❧ Text files.
- ❧ Problem with other programs because recipient has to have the same program to see what you sent.
- ❧ Foxit PDF reader or Adobe (uncheck Optional offer if you don't want it).

Web Software



- ❧ Used to convert your genealogy data (gedcom) to a website.
- ❧ Types:
 - ❧ Local program – converts gedcom to html (you require somewhere to host the pages). Could write it to CD/DVDs as webpages and send to family and friends.
 - ❧ Internet sites – upload your gedcom and the site converts and hosts the data.
 - ❧ [RootsWeb](#)
 - ❧ [FamilySearch](#)

Image Editing



- ❧ Software used to edit or convert digital images.
- ❧ Pictures have to be scanned to a file (digital image).
- ❧ Recommended:
 - ❧ IrFranView
 - ❧ PhotoScape
 - ❧ Picasa
 - ❧ Zoner Photo Studio (Free or \$)
- ❧ Use .tif file type for color image storage.
- ❧ File types .jpg, .png, .gif and .tif to store on internet.


OCR



- ❧ Optical Character Recognition.
- ❧ Converts a picture of words to text, which saves typing. Accuracy depends on quality of text image.
- ❧ Free online at [Online OCR](#) (max. 5MB file size).
- ❧ [OCR software reviews](#).
- ❧ [FreeOCR](#) (so-so, can follow columns).
- ❧ Best results obtained when image is scanned at 300dpi, converted, then check converted file with a spell checker. Hand check numbers. Then read to see what was missed.
- ❧ Does not work on hand writing.

Virus & Malware



- ❧ Viruses are programs that reproduce themselves between computers.
- ❧ Malware is downloaded from websites you go to and only infects your computer.
- ❧ Microsoft Security Essentials (free virus protection for windows)
- ❧ Malwarebytes Anti-Malware (free malware detection version available).
- ❧ Apple claims not a problem 

Backup



- ❧ Protect your data by compressing and copying it. Store it off computer.
- ❧ Write to CD/DVDs and store off site.
- ❧ Purchase and backup to an external hard drive.
- ❧ See Cloud Storage following.

Cloud Storage



- ❧ Good for backup, synchronization between computers, sharing large files with others.
- ❧ Requires sign up, download and install of sync program.
- ❧ Some sites:
 - ❧ Box UK – 10GB free, largest file 250MB
 - ❧ Copy – 15GB free
 - ❧ Google Drive – 15GB free
 - ❧ OneDrive – 15GB free

Internet



“Find it from home” but remember not everything is on it. Nor is everything on it indexed.

Internet Agenda



- ❧ Suggestions
- ❧ Search Engines
- ❧ Facebook
- ❧ Genealogy Index Sites
- ❧ How-to
- ❧ Forum & Query Sites
- ❧ Data Search Sites
- ❧ Genealogies
- ❧ Online Courses
- ❧ Maps
- ❧ Blogging
- ❧ Additional Links
- ❧ Capturing the Internet

Suggestions



- ❧ First of all you need a connection to the Internet.
- ❧ You need an email account, get a free one.
- ❧ If you don't want the world to know don't put it on the internet or send it in an email.
- ❧ What ever you say, be nice, because it will be there forever.
- ❧ Be truthful because the internet never forgets.
- ❧ What you find on the internet has to be verified!

Search Engines



☞ These are the best general indexes of the internet.

☞ Google

☞ Bing

☞ Yahoo

☞ Tips for Online Genealogy Searching suggestions on how to search.

Facebook



- ❧ Place to find friends, access pages and join groups all to share information, [go here to join](#).
- ❧ Listing of [Facebook pages](#) related to genealogy in Canada (good section on Nova Scotia).
- ❧ Suggestions
 - ❧ [Guysborough County Genealogy](#).
 - ❧ [Nova Scotia Genealogy](#).
 - ❧ [Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia](#).
 - ❧ [Sherbrooke Road NS Family Connections](#).

Genealogy Index Sites



- ☞ Sites specializing in indexing genealogical websites.
 - ☞ [Cyndi's List](#)
 - ☞ [Genealogy Gateway](#)
 - ☞ [Can Genealogy](#)

How-to



- ❧ Websites explaining how to start doing genealogy.
 - ❧ [Genealogy Gateway](#)
 - ❧ [Beginner's Guide](#)
 - ❧ [How to Begin Tracing Your Family Tree.](#)
 - ❧ [Genealogy.com](#)
 - ❧ [Library & Archives Canada](#)

Forums & Query Sites



☞ Place to see what is happening and ask questions.

☞ [RootsWeb Nova Scotia Message Board](#)

☞ [RootsWeb Surname and area Message Boards](#)

Data Search Sites



- ☞ Sites with free data to search.
 - ☞ Ancestry.com (available for free at ECRL Libraries)
 - ☞ FamilySearch
 - ☞ The Olive Tree Genealogy
 - ☞ GlobalGenealogy
 - ☞ United Kingdom's FreeBMD, FreeREG & FreeCEN

Genealogies



- œ Places to search others genealogies
 - œ [RootsWeb WorldConnect Project](#)
 - œ [WikiTree](#)
 - œ [FamilySearch](#)
 - œ [Gedcom Library](#)
- œ You can upload your genealogy in gedcom form thus making it internet accessible.

Online Courses



- œ Genealogy training on the internet.
 - œ National Institute for Genealogical Studies (\$)
 - œ GANS Genealogy 101 (\$)
 - œ Cyndi's List
 - œ 27 Golden Rules of Genealogy
 - œ Pharos (United Kingdom)
 - œ Family Search Learning Center

Maps



☞ Use internet maps and street views to locate and see what is there now.

☞ [Google](#)

☞ [Bing](#)

☞ [Mapquest](#)

☞ [Google Earth](#)



Great grandfather's house in north England from Google maps street view.

Blogging



- ☞ Want to write and have it on the internet?
- ☞ Search engines do index the contained information.
- ☞ Some free blog web sites Blog.com, Blogger.com, Tumblr.com, Webs.com, and WordPress.com
- ☞ A desktop blog client will have to be able to post to the blog web site(s) you use. See [here](#) for a list of recommendations.

Free Websites



- ❧ Two best rated places to create a free website.
 - ❧ SiteBuilder.com
 - ❧ WebsiteBuilder.com
 - ❧ You get free space, templates, design tool and a subdirectory web name.
 - ❧ No coding needed.
 - ❧ Costs to have your own domain name.
- ❧ Contact me if you are considering purchasing a domain name and setting up a website.

Additional Links



- ❧ [Guysborough County Genealogy](#) by me.
- ❧ Online notebook @ [Evernote](#) (free account allows adding 60MB/month).
- ❧ [Google books](#) for out of print books that you can download to your computer, e-book or read online.

Capturing the Internet



- ⌘ **Never retype.** Highlight text then copy to clipboard and save clipboard to your editor.
- ⌘ Images, right click and save as a file.
- ⌘ All browsers have the ability to save the page. Usability of results varies with browser.
- ⌘ Website grab programs like PageNest saves the whole thing to your hard drive.
- ⌘ Remember **everything has to be verified** and if used you need to cite source like always.

Libraries, Museums & Archives



Where to go from home.

Things that are useful.



- ❧ Laptop or tablet (record information).
- ❧ Camera/Portable scanner (digitize instead of photocopy).
- ❧ Notebook software (research notes).
- ❧ Custom database (collect all sorts of data).
- ❧ Email if site is too far to travel to.

DNA Testing



Finding your ancestors through genetics.

DNA Testing



- ❧ Tests are a mouth swab.
- ❧ The number of segments tested determines price, \$99-\$900US
- ❧ The more segments tested, the more information to compare with.
- ❧ To find ancestors, you must match with someone else that has be tested and done genealogy that will help you.
- ❧ Choose a company with a very big database so you have a better change of matching with someone.

Q & A



Discussion, and Questions

Evaluations



Please complete the evaluation form I am handing out.

PDF of this presentation available at:

<http://guyscogene.net/courses/technology.pdf>

My Website: <http://guyscogene.net>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/guyscogene/>

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