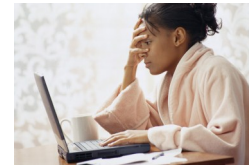




**Tabard IT Ltd**

Making Your PCs Work Harder

January 2006 Newsletter



### Happy New Year from Tabard IT



**Free Phone Calls**— In case you are unaware, VoIP is changing the way people communicate. It utilizes your broadband connection, to allow free or discounted calls to people around the globe. Its free to call other users of the software you are using, whilst allowing you to phone non VoIP users for a small charge, in comparison with traditional telco providers such as BT and Telewest. [Skype](#) is just one of a handful of companies providing this type of service. It should be pointed out though, that not every county that you call with VoIP is cheaper. The main [savings](#) through free calls to like-minded users.

**Paying too much for Broadband!** — If you have been with your ADSL provider for a year, you can quite often migrate to other providers like [Force 9](#) for free, with substantial saving. The [ADSL Guide](#) website shows comparisons between services, which can often differ greatly between speed and the amount of data you can download per month. It's important to consider your usage, as data capping for a teenager who uses file sharing software, could turn out more expensive. The other big factor is whether or not you need services like the telephone and digital TV. Quite often cable providers can offer attractive bundles, of what are known as triple plays. A triple play is the phone line, broadband and digital TV, all in one package.

**Pictures**— Have lots of pictures you want to show off from last year? Well, Yahoo have acquired a tool, that allows you to display your pictures to the world, via PC or Mobile. There is a monthly limit, but the basic version is free. Visit Yahoo [Flickr](#) for more details.

**Satellite Navigation System**— Let's face it, how many times have you set off on a journey, only to spend hours lost or caught in traffic. Well fear not, satellite navigation systems are here to your rescue. Just input your current location and intended destination and watch as the sat nav system guides you to your destination quickly and easily. Price and models varies, to find out more click [here](#).

### Try Something New



**Webshots Desktop 2.2** — Is a free photo management application that combines wallpaper and screensaver functionality with tools for managing and sharing your own personal photos.

**Stardock DesktopX 3.1**— Lets you design your very own desktop and can use widgets to enhance your desktop experience.

### Travel The World



**Google Earth** — A planet's worth of imagery and other geographic information right on your desktop. View exotic locales like Blackpool, Lancashire and the Grand Canyon, Arizona. Once there, you can locate local amenities or points of interest. You will require a Broadband connection and a good graphics card. [Download Here](#)

### Backups



Imagine losing all the data you have accumulated, over the last year. What would you do?, how would you cope? Stringent backup procedures can help soften the blow, when your systems go down. Tabard IT can advise on PC and server backups if needed.

### New Year, New Windows

Yes folks as some of you maybe aware the next generation of Windows i.e. Windows Vista will be released sometime in the 2nd half of 2006 (this maybe subject to delay). Vista will be the successor to Windows XP.

You can learn about Vista from [here](#). For those you who are wondering about the system requirements for Vista? Vista will require a powerful PC and perhaps even specialised hardware!

We have tried to make this newsletter informative and interesting, but if you would not like to receive email newsletters from us, please email [rufus\\_chapman@tabardit.co.uk](mailto:rufus_chapman@tabardit.co.uk). If you receive this twice, it could be because we have two email addresses for you and we've used both—let us know and we can stop that for next time. To contact us, email [help@tabardit.co.uk](mailto:help@tabardit.co.uk), call 0131 538 0766, or you can call Rufus