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complete **NETWORK** and **SOFTWARE** solutions

Top tips on investing in the web

Samarind gave tips on how to get the most out of a website at an IT Day organised as part of Flintshire County Council's first Business Week. 'Invest in the Web' was the name of a seminar presented by Senior Web Developer Matt Worrall and Software Sales Consultant Phil Turner at Theatr Clwyd in Mold. 'Invest in the Web' was aimed at those businesses without a website and those who had a website but were not maximising its potential as a marketing tool.

Matt and Phil highlighted the operational and financial benefits presented by a website that provides more than simple static content, that is to say a brochure site based on a stock template. They demonstrated how a professionally developed website can create new commercial opportunities for any businesses, regardless of its size. In addition, 'Invest in the Web' showed how the web can help companies manage enquiries and other business-related transactions, while reducing costs, through the use of automated processes both in and out of business hours. Later Phil joined Networks Sales Consultant Carly McKay on the Samarind exhibition stand during the IT day. A free prize draw resulted in Nathan Caley, IT manager with Mold-based West Coast Energy, winning a free iPaq 500 Series voice messenger and mini-handheld PC, worth £199. 'It was great to represent Flintshire at the Theatr Clwyd event,' said Carly. 'It certainly raised awareness for local businesses and the information given by the key-note speakers was inspiring. 'It was a great event and we're already looking forward to Flintshire Business Week 2008!'



Matt Worrall and Phil Turner deliver their seminar, 'Invest in the Web', at the Flintshire Business Week, held in October.

e-News

Samarind's green approach

Over the past months we have conducted much research about the format of our quarterly newsletter. Whilst it's immensely popular in its printed format, the general consensus seems to indicate that a large percentage of people would like to receive the newsletter electronically. For those of you who we didn't manage to discuss it with, please feel free to forward your views to us...

At Samarind we always aim to be as accommodating as possible. As from spring 2008 we will make our newsletter available to you in electronic format, sent directly to your email address. For those who prefer to receive the traditional printed format; don't worry, it will still be available; we appreciate that many of you keep and read previous editions and cut out articles, such as the ever popular Tips and Tricks!

An e-Newsletter opens the opportunity for you to easily and immediately interact with Samarind and the array of helpful information and 'special offers' exclusively available through our website. You will still have access to all of the same useful content as the printed newsletter, but without the need to cut out articles and paste them into your 'useful' file!

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What's **New** in Microsoft® Office Excel 2007

Microsoft Office Excel 2007 is a powerful tool you can use to create and format spreadsheets. Office Excel 2007 takes advantage of a new, results-oriented user interface to make powerful productivity tools easily accessible. New data analysis and visualization tools help you analyse information, spot trends, and access your company information much more easily.

Command Tabs – The traditional menus and toolbars have been replaced by a set of command tabs located in what is called the Ribbon, which we featured in our last newsletter. Presented graphically, command tabs display the commands that are most relevant for each of the task areas in the application. The Office Excel 2007 spreadsheet program has a unique set of command tabs useful for spreadsheet work such as creating worksheets, working with formulas, managing data, and other tasks. You can double-click a command tab to hide or reveal the Ribbon as needed. Of course, the traditional dialog box interfaces are still available for those who want a greater degree of control over the result of the operation.

Galleries and Live Preview – You can rest your pointing device over a gallery on the command tabs to see a live preview of an editing or formatting change before that change is actually applied.

Microsoft Office Button – The Microsoft Office button has replaced the File menu and contains many of the standard file-related commands.

Quick Access Toolbar – To the right of the Microsoft Office button is the customizable Quick Access Toolbar containing the Undo, Redo, and Save commands. To customize the Quick Access Toolbar, click the drop-down arrow to the right of the toolbar.

Spreadsheet Capacity – Office Excel 2007 delivers greater spreadsheet capacity—1 million rows by 16,000 columns—to facilitate working with tremendous amounts of data.

Page Layout View – You can also use the new Page Layout View to work with your spreadsheets as they will appear on the printed page. With headers and footers in plain view, you can quickly change the title of your report or add additional details in the footer. To use Page Layout, click Page Layout View on the View tab.

Excel Tables – Enhancements in Office Excel 2007 help you assemble data into a table with just a few clicks. Simply choose Format as Table in the Styles group on the Home command tab. Office Excel 2007 automatically labels column headings, creates AutoFilters, and displays other relevant tools. When you need to expand the table to accommodate more data, Office Excel 2007 quickly expands the table using the proper format.

Formulas – New formula enhancements enable you to build formulas based on column headers instead of cryptic cell names. Formulas can be automatically copied down the entire column. To select column headers in your formula, use the “[” and “]” keys.

Sorting and Filtering – Sorting and filtering are two of the most important types of basic analysis that you can do with data. New options for sorting and filtering, such as multiselect in AutoFilters, sort or filter by colour, and “quick filters” for specific data types make Office Excel 2007 the ideal tool for working with large amounts of complex data. To sort by multiple levels, click the Data tab. In the Sort & Filter group, click Sort.

Conditional Formatting – You can apply conditional formatting more easily and identify trends by using colored gradients, data bars, and icons. In the Style group on the Table Tools command tab, click Conditional Formatting.

PivotTables – Create a PivotTable view more easily by using data fields to reorient data quickly to summarize and find the answers you need. Simply drag the fields to where you want them to display. To create a PivotTable, click the Insert tab. In the Tables group, click PivotTable.

Office 2007 Shared Charting Engine – With accessible charting tools available from the newly redesigned interface of the Microsoft Office system, you can use the same tools to create and format charts in any of the core Office applications. Use the Chart Tools contextual command tab to format axes, titles, and other chart labels, or to add visual enhancements such as 3-D, shadows, and glow. To insert a chart, click the Charts group on the Insert command tab.

Save as PDF – With the Microsoft Save As PDF or XPS add-in, which is available for download at no cost from



Action man Tobey



Microsoft
Office Excel 2007

<http://office.microsoft.com>, you can save your document as a Portable Document Format (PDF) or XML Paper Specification (XPS) file. Click the Microsoft Office Button, and then click the arrow next to Save As. Select PDF or XPS.

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Tobey Brookes has certainly been making waves since he joined Samarind at the top of the year. As network project manager, Tobey has headed up the engineering team since early January, impressing everyone with his organisational skills.

Tobey previously worked as the IT project manager for a travels promotion company in Chester. His experience managing the IT networks for branch offices in such diverse locations as Ireland, Spain and Switzerland has given Tobey the expertise to manage Samarind's major implementations, as well as working out the schedules and ensuring the five-strong team are on track.

Tobey's used to making a splash, however. He's a water sports nut. To Tobey, being pulled along at 30mph on his wakeboard is like a walk in the park. Zooming over the ocean at 60mph on his jet ski and hurtling 20ft into the air off a big wave – that's Tobey's style. Not for him the pointless pootling about you see squealing holidaymakers perform a few yards from a beach. Tobey takes his jet ski on comparatively epic journeys round the North Wales coast. A typical route would start at Porthmadog and take in Abersoch, Hell's Mouth and Nefyn before returning – and that's on very choppy water at speeds up to the National Speed Limit on a good straight road.

The big challenge is wave jumping. Tobey will aim his jet ski, Captain Ahab-like, at a monster wave and then leap off it high into the air. Of course, such activity isn't without its risks. On one occasion, a cross wave hit his jet ski just as he was preparing to jump. 'The resulting crash was so loud I thought it had bust open the jet ski's hull,' Tobey recalls. 'Fortunately, that wasn't the case, otherwise I'd have been stranded. With a dislocated shoulder and a strained back, I managed to climb back on board and limp back to shore. 'I'm not too worried about the risks,' he adds. 'I've been jet skiing for ten years and that's the only problem I've had.'

Driving a car on the roads these days is probably riskier! But it's not just the thrills that make jet skiing appealing to Tobey. He also enjoys the coastal scenery and the wildlife he encounters. Graceful porpoises and huge jellyfish are often his companions on his travels round the Gwynedd coastline, and colonies of seals, invisible to people standing on the headlands, can be seen basking in inaccessible coves.

Tobey lives in Connah's Quay with his partner Bridie. Although Bridie isn't as keen on jet skiing as Tobey, she does enjoy the social aspect of the sport, assembling picnics or barbecues on the exotic beaches where they take their holidays. Bridie's parents live in Malaysia and visiting them provides not only some opportunities for exciting water sports but also the chance to further explore their shared passion for Oriental food. 'Bridie and I love Eastern cuisine and enjoy cooking it ourselves,' Tobey explains. 'Our favourite dish is Laksa, a kind of highly spiced Malaysian stew with everything in it – seafood, chicken, meat, noodles and vegetables. 'We go to a lot of trouble sourcing authentic ingredients and tracking down the correct seasonings. We've both got fairly educated palates. Neither of us is afraid of a bit of chilli!'

It would seem Tobey has a taste for adventure in more ways than one.



Innovation in Nutrition

to the improved features and letting me have some hand-on experience with it, too. I liked what I saw and I trust Samarind's judgement absolutely. VitaFlo has employed Samarind for the four years I have been IT manager and for many years before that.

'So, I said go head – let's give it a go!'

Any reservations since?

'No, not at all,' Vishal confirms.

'Samarind have installed Vista Business for us and it's proved a great operating system. It looks different structurally but its functionality is basically the same as the previous Microsoft tools, so there's no need to retrain on it. It looks great, actually, with much more potential for jazzing up your desktop!'

Vista is more than just a pretty face, however.

'There are lots of enhancements,' Vishal points out. 'Improved security is one of the major pluses, especially for businesses. For example, it will always throw up message boxes to make sure you approve any changes to your system, such as new software installations, and it will warn you if programs are trying to install themselves.

'I've also found it much quicker and easier to search for files on Vista. There are probably other improvements, too, that I haven't come across in my working day yet.'

So, what would Vishal say to any business having reservations about upgrading to Vista?

'I'd say go for it,' he says. 'I'm happy to recommend Vista Business. I know there have been issues with the compatibility of third party software – Samarind helped us sort out the drivers on our printers, for example – but that happens when any new system is introduced.

'Samarind's judgement on Vista has proved correct. From now on, every new computer introduced at VitaFlo will have Vista Business installed on it.'

CASE STUDY

New horizons with Vista

VitaFlo is one of Samarind's many customers to take on board Microsoft's new operating system, Vista.

Liverpool-based VitaFlo manufactures food products for people with medical conditions such as metabolic disorders. When Vista was launched earlier this year, VitaFlo was undergoing a period of growth, with many people joining the company who needed new computers.

IT manager Vishal Koowaroo had a decision to make: to stick with Windows XP or to start introducing Vista. To help him make up his mind, he attended one of Samarind's popular Vista open days held over the summer to introduce the new system to their customers.

'The Vista day proved very helpful,' said Vishal. 'Samarind's team guided me through the new system, introducing me

Employee Profile

Employee Profile

Employee Profile

Employee Profile

iPod Touch

The latest addition to the already impressive Apple portfolio is the new iPod Touch, which gives you Music, Video's, Photo's and Websites in one neat and very attractive device. Some of the new features include:

Ambient Light Sensor

The iPod touch display has an ambient light sensor that automatically adjusts brightness to suit the ambient light in your surroundings. The result? A better experience for you and battery-saving efficiency for iPod touch.

Accelerometer

An accelerometer detects when you rotate iPod touch from portrait to landscape, then automatically changes the contents of the display, so you immediately see the entire width of a web page, your music in Cover Flow, or a photo in its proper aspect ratio.

Wi-Fi web browsing

With Apple's Safari browser built in, iPod touch is the only iPod that gives

you wireless access to the web. See websites the way they were designed to be seen. Sync your bookmarks or add a few as you go. Search the web using the touchscreen keyboard. Zoom in and out by tapping the multi-touch display. And now, iPod touch does even more with the introduction of web apps.

For more information please visit
<http://www.apple.com/ipodtouch/>

Music downloads from iTunes

With iPod touch, you can discover new music anywhere. Built-in wireless capability gives you access to the iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store, where you can buy songs with a tap. Browse New Releases, What's Hot, Genres, and Top 10 selling songs. Or find exactly what you're looking for with a quick search. Tap a song to preview it or tap Buy to purchase it. From anywhere.



Christmas Competition!

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize all you need to do is log on to our website at www.samarind.co.uk and

FIND THE SAMARIND SANTA'S!

There are 12 Samarind Santa's in total and they're hiding within our website having a rest until their busiest day of the year, Christmas Eve. Along with each Santa there's a letter. The 12 letters make up a well known but jumbled up Christmas Carol and you must find the Santa's and use the letters to piece together this famous festive song.

Once you've solved this 'Christmas conundrum' register your details, along with the answer online, it's that simple!

The competition runs from Monday 3 December and closing date is Tuesday 18 December. We will announce the lucky winner on Wednesday 19 December and their new iPod Touch will be merrily on its way to them before you can say Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer! What a lovely early Christmas present!

WIN YOURSELF A FANTASTIC NEW 8GB IPOD TOUCH!

Good Luck & a very Merry Xmas!

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