

Rise of the Silver Surfers

TechKnow

Your source of technical snippets

Following a recent trip to see my Grandfather, who at the ripe old age of 84 suggested I write about his computer escapades, I started wondering what motivation a pensioner might have for using a computer. What I didn't consider was finding similar motivations in my own parents—both in the 55-65 bracket.

Initially there are the communication benefits—while your kids are too busy to talk to you on the phone, let alone visit you, you can always email them or visit their MySpace page to find out what they are up to. You might even engage their interest by setting up a webcam and chatting to them on a messenger programme.

Then there are the rest of the world's shenanigans to keep up with—various news tickers and web bulletin websites take care of that one. Keeping track of old friends, on websites like Friendsreunited.com and forcesreunited.com as a military spin-off.

Catching up with the TV, watching the programmes you fell asleep through first time, or were on at the same time as something else and you just can't buy blank videos any more!

The same goes for LPs, and I am sure it won't be long before iTunes overthrows the CD as THE music format.

And then there is the convenience—from having your shopping delivered to renewing your library books, without leaving the comfort of your warm living room.

There is the keeping-up-with-the-Jones' to attend to—showing the latest snaps of the grandkids to

your friends who insist on visiting you in person (because that's the way it's always been done!), and creating and printing signing-out sheets for the other residents of the residential home.

What a busy day for the technically retired!

I am absolutely sure that there are people who have no interest in the Internet and computers, nor in the latest prints from our photo printer that we insist on showing them—but their lives have been touched by technology whether they like it or not. Is embracing it really such a bad thing?



Silver Surfing Dos and Don'ts:

- ✓ DO have confidence with a computer—the world won't stop if it breaks!
- ✓ DO ask for help or suggestions to your everyday computer problems
- × DON'T expect to be as quick as your 7-year-old grandson!

This article has kindly been supplied by



www.lansalot.co.uk

who supply, install, and maintain computer and network solutions for home users and small businesses. Call Jon on 0870 803 3145 for a **free** personal, no-obligation consultation.