

KEEPING UP WITH TECHNOLOGY

STAY INFORMED

READ

- The internet is full of technology blogs - reviewing latest technology, gadgets and software
- Examples:
 - The Register
 - TechCrunch
 - Gigaom
 - The Verge
- They are free and up to date
- They include different viewpoints
- Competition = always working hard to get the latest news
- Tedious to keep up with all the different blogs
 - **RSS - Real Simple Syndication**
 - it fetches the latest articles (or notifications of new content) from all the sites you have subscribed to and allows you to read them all in one place

IT WASTE/ E-WASTE

- E-Waste is anything electronic or related to electronics that is thrown away
- Examples:
 - Old Computers
 - CRT Monitors
 - Broken Hard Drives
 - Dead/ Unwanted Cellphones
 - Batteries
- **How much of it is there?**
 - In our lifetimes, we go through many gadgets and devices. Everyone we know goes through many gadgets and devices. In the end, even if we store them in a box for a few years or sell them, they will end up in the trash at some point.
 - Batteries are very often just thrown away.
- **Why does it suck?**
 - **Lead** is used in soldering = lead poisoning

- **Mercury** is used in circuit boards
- **Arsenic** is used in making glass
- Many of the materials that go into making electronic devices are toxic or **carcinogenic** (inc chances of cancer) or both
- The quantities in individual devices are small and the design and casing protect us but these devices are crashed, damaged and exposed to the elements in a landfill and there are a lot of them.
- The harmful chemicals will seep and leak out = damaging living things that come into contact with them or **may even seep into the water table and poison local water sources**
- **Recycling**
 - makes sure poisonous parts are removed properly before the materials get put into landfills.
 - It also gets back a lot of valuable materials (copper, gold, etc)

POWER

- Climate change is a p. big thing in our society atm (just go look @ instagram)
- **How Does This Relate To ICT?**
 - Every computer needs electricity
 - Most of the world's electricity comes from burning fossil fuels like coal, gas or oil which releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere
- **But How Does My Single Computer Make a Difference?**
 - Imagine:
 - Computer lab at school = never has its computers switched off (use power even if no one is using them)
 - Office blocks
 - All the computers being used in the world
 - Huge data centres - Amazon, Google, etc
- **Is It REALLY Off?**
 - TV is still on when you switch it off - it uses power so it can respond to the remote and keeps capacitors charged so that the screen can come back to life quickly
 - Plugs (Kettle, Cellphone Chargers, etc) still draw electricity while the wall socket is on.
- **How Can I Help?**
 - Switch off devices completely
 - Set your devices to use less power - Settings Include:
 - Altering brightness
 - Sleep or Hibernate after device has not been used for a period of time
 - Choosing balance between power consumption and performance
 - Saving power usually decreases the performance of the system = increases the amount of time before you need to recharge the battery

KEEP SOFTWARE UP TO DATE

- We update software by downloading patches and service packs in order to:
 - fix errors/bugs in existing programmes
 - close security loopholes (that hackers may try to exploit)
 - add new features and improvements to software
- Some software (like anti-virus) will not work efficiently unless kept updated (ensure newest viruses are accounted for)

PATCH

An update that can be downloaded to fix a specific bug in your software.
Most patches have the purpose of fixing security issues in the software.

SERVICE PACK

A release of corrections and new features since the release of the original software.
Released by software companies at fixed intervals.
Much larger than a patch as they contain patches for all the known bugs as well as new add on features to the program.
Contain all the content from previous service packs as well.

- When and How to Update or Upgrade?

- Most modern software checks for updates
- **Operating systems and anti-virus software** can be set to download and install updates automatically - Good idea as this software is critical in preventing serious issues that could result in malware or hacking
- Download updates to a **central location** - imp when you need to update several computers (network) = saves time and costs of using excessive amount of your internet cap to download on separate computers.

UPDATE TIP!

Good idea to always agree to update. If working on something critical, back up and then update