

## Introducing the Internet

### Part Five Media and Social Networking



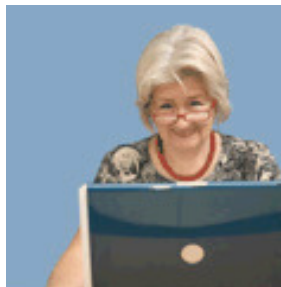
# Introduction

Dear Friend,

Welcome to The Web on Wheels' Introducing the Internet, Part Five in this series! Now it's time for the fun part. The Web isn't just pictures and words. In Part Five, 'Media and Social Networking', we'll look at photo sharing, music, radio, video, and social networking sites.

You might want to send pictures to a friend, or listen to and purchase your favourite music and store it on your computer, or listen to the radio while you surf the web, or watch a funny video clip, or share all of these with a group of people at one time. Well, we're going to show you how to accomplish these tasks and more in Part Five.

Our main goal in this series is to help you to gain confidence with the Internet, and make it into a useful everyday tool, rather than thinking of it as something rather frightening. Believe it or not, if you go through these Guides slowly and carefully, you will become competent at using the Internet, and firm in understanding what it is and how it can help you do what you need.



Part Five of this series involves multimedia and social networking sites. Simple and straightforward, we'll introduce you to ways to upload your photos and videos, great sites for uploading, viewing, printing, and sharing your media, and ways to keep in touch with friends by networking with many people through the Internet. By the end of Part Five, you'll be able to enjoy the fun parts of the Internet where photos, videos, and instantaneous updates from friends are possible. Enjoy.

Keep in mind the websites and companies recommended in this series are current Winter 2010 in Australia. If you're viewing this series later, the sources and popular sites may have changed. Feel free to send me an email or call so I can point you in the right direction. (03) 9787 7500 or email:

[info@thewebonwheels.com.au](mailto:info@thewebonwheels.com.au)

# Part Five

## Media and Social Networking

Think about all the various types of media out there: pictures, videos, film, music, etc. Through the Internet, you'll find amazing ways to combine and share media instantaneously. The best part is, once you've got the hang of it, the ability to share media on the Internet is easy. There's so much to learn, and we want to make sure you confidently grasp the concepts without becoming overwhelmed. So, let's go!

Here's what we'll cover in Part Four:

1. Photos
2. Videos
3. Music and Radio
4. Blogs
5. Social Networks: Facebook, AboutMyAge, Bebo, and MySpace



# 1. Photos

In the 'Getting to Know My Computer Series', we covered how to get photos from your camera to your computer. Let's recap quickly.

You need a data cable (comes with your digital camera) to connect your camera to a USB port on your computer. When connected to your computer, the cable and camera may look similar to our photo. Connect the two, turn on the camera in the photo reviewing mode, and instead of the camera's screen turning on as usual, you will probably see some sort of display indicating the pictures are uploading to the computer.



Once you've got your photos stored on the computer, it's time to upload them onto the Internet so they may be shared with others. There are many ways to share photos, but only one way to get them on the Internet – through an upload. To upload something means to transfer the information from one place to another. If you've got a picture of yourself stored on your computer, and you want to email it to Aunt Shirley, you've got to upload or attach the file of the photo to your email before you send it off. If you want to order some prints through the Internet, you must transfer, or upload, your photos from your computer onto the photo printing site. Let's go through the basics of an upload.

## Upload Photos

How does one upload pictures onto the Internet? When you're on a website that accepts picture uploads, you'll be able to go to a web page that allows you to upload your pictures. Simply look for the 'upload' button to click. Then, select the photo file you want to upload, and click 'ok', and you should see a progress bar indicating how quickly the file is being transferred over the Internet to the website.

## Printing Photos

The only way to print pictures used to be through the local chemist or photo shop. If you wanted to have your pictures printed, you used film that they turned into negatives and prints. Well, many of you may be familiar with or own a digital camera. You might have been introduced to the media card that stores those photos and perhaps you've had pictures printed at the photo shop, by inserting your media card into a machine and choosing which pictures you wanted to print and printing them instantly.

For a cheaper option, you may order prints online. In essence it's the same as going to the photo shop with your media card. But this time instead of putting the card with your photos on it into a machine, you upload your photos from the card, or from your computer to a website. Then you click on the buttons to order the prints and pay for them online.

Here are some great Australian online photo shops:

<http://www.fujicolor.com.au/en/Content/Home.asp>

<http://www.snapfish.com.au/snapfishau/welcome>

<http://www.photomax.com.au/>

There are so many sites from which you may share and print photos. These are just a few we find reliable and user friendly. Really, you only need one, so find one that you're comfortable using, and stick with it.



## 2. Videos

Uploading videos is virtually the same as uploading pictures – it just might take longer, and use more of your internet allowance.

If your digital camera records videos, when you upload, both pictures and videos transfer to your computer. Be aware that video files are rather large, so this may eventually take up too much memory storage space on your computer, thus slowing the computer down.

### Finding Videos



<http://www.youtube.com/> The most popular site and perhaps the largest collection of videos online. This website is where businesses, governments and ordinary people like you and me, upload their own videos, so that anybody else might find the video and watch it. You may use their search engine and type in your desired keywords (words pertaining to the subject you're interested in).

Be cautious, as YouTube does not censor the search results and some videos may be irrelevant if not offensive. Simply proceed with caution.

But it is also a wonderful place to go for a pick-me-up. Click on the Funny category, and you're bound to find a video that will make you smile. When you want to learn something, there's bound to be a video to give you information on your topic of choice. Click on the Browse button, and you'll see the categories to choose from. There's sure to be something of interest to you.

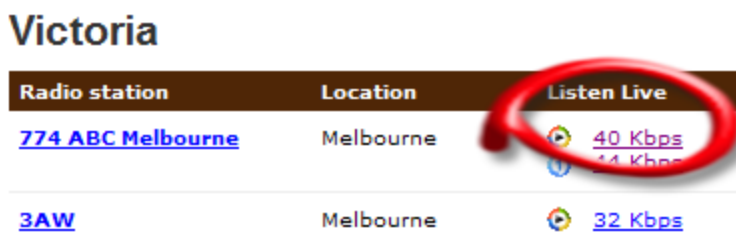
Missed the news last evening? Some TV networks allow their shows to be viewed online. Search for your favourite TV show and see if their website mentions whether the episodes may be found online so you may watch it at your convenience.


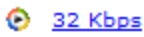
### 3. Music and Online Radio

Did you realise that some of your favourite composers and bands have their music available online either for free or for purchase? Did you realise that your favourite radio station may have streaming radio online, which means you may listen to your radio station through the Internet from anywhere in the world, even if you've gone outside the broadcasting area.

#### Online Radio Broadcasting

How might you go about finding your radio station online? Start with your favourite search engine and enter in the station call numbers and letters. Visit the radio station's website and look for a link or picture that says 'listen now', 'listen live', 'online streaming', and the like. Or visit this site to see a list of all the websites that offer online streaming audio: <http://www.australianliveradio.com> Scroll down through the list, find the station you'd like to listen to and click on the link next to the little button that indicates the program that will play the audio.



Radio station	Location	Listen Live
<a href="#">774 ABC Melbourne</a>	Melbourne	 40 Kbps 14 Kbps
<a href="#">3AW</a>	Melbourne	 32 Kbps

To start the radio sound streaming, oftentimes your computer must have some sort of music software like Quicktime (both Mac and PC) or Microsoft Windows Media Player (for PC) or iTunes (both Mac and PC). Some sites have you choose which software you have stored on your computer whilst other sites are "smart" and find what software is available on your computer already. Either way, if you try to begin live streaming radio and it doesn't work, you may not have the proper software, but most computers do.

#### Online Music Purchases

CDs are less popular now that people are purchasing the next step up from walkmans and Discmans - MP3 players and iPods. Basically, instead of having a cassette or disc to insert into a portable music player, MP3 players and iPods allow the owner to download music from their computer onto the portable music player. This makes music purchases online much more necessary.

There are quite a variety of sites from which to purchase music. The largest music purchase site is iTunes.

<http://www.apple.com/au/itunes/> Download the program, and it will connect with your Internet so you may shop for your favourite hits, purchase them, and instantly download them for playing on your computer or personal music player. ~around AU\$1.29 per song.

<http://bigpondmusic.com/> Some music is free, most around \$1.50 per track.

Or why not listen to, our national anthem from the Australian Government site?

[http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/symbols/docs/anthem\\_vocal\\_solo.mp3](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/symbols/docs/anthem_vocal_solo.mp3)

NOTE: **To download** the MP3 (save a copy to your computer), click on the following link: <http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/symbols/anthem.cfm#download> then RIGHT-CLICK on either of the two MP3 file choices. The other files in the list are words, music or even the full score for you to print out.

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#### Files for download

- [Australian National Anthem - Full score - PDF 482KB](#)
- [Australian National Anthem - Vocal score - PDF 238KB](#)
- [Australian National Anthem - Words and music - PDF 173KB](#)
- [Australian National Anthem - words sheet - PDF 21KB](#)
- [Australian National Anthem - brass band score - PDF 316KB](#)
- [Australian National Anthem - brass band in parts - PDF 615KB](#)
- [Australian National Anthem - audio track - solo - MP3 2MB](#)
- [Australian National Anthem - audio track - choir - MP3 2MB](#)

**Note:** For more information on PDF files and their use see the [PDF Help](#) page on this site.

#### Anthem DVD and CD

Australians can sing along to a vibrant orchestral arrangement of the Australian National Anthem with an audio-visual presentation of the Anthem.

## 4. Blogs



### What's a Blog?

Blog is short for Web Log ... blog.

Simply put, a blog is a diary that's displayed online for all to see. Obviously, it's not meant for personal reflection for an audience of one – but it can be. A blog is one's way of showing the world how one views the world, sharing one's thoughts and impressions publicly.

A blog is a website that is comprised of entries, called posts, and it displays the most recent post at the top. Blog posts may contain text, colour, photos, links, videos, music, and more. When reading a blog, you may click on a post to read the full entry. When someone has a blog, they are referred to as a blogger.

Bloggers usually write a short reflection with a link that brought up those thoughts. For instance, Aunt Shirley, the blogger, saw a news article online that got her thinking about her favourite fruit shop and why she likes them so much. On her blog, she'll write a post that might contain in it a link to the fruit shop's website, her thoughts on what makes them the best, a picture of their logo, and perhaps even the fruit shop's location.

### How Do I Learn More?

If you want to learn more about what a blog is, watch the "Blogs in Plain English" video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NN2I1pWXjXI>

# 5. Social Networking Sites



## What Exactly is Social Networking Online?

Social networking online involves three main things:

- 1- keeping in touch with friends
- 2- meeting new people
- 3- sharing your interests through updates, photos, links, and more

A social networking site is a large website. What's so great about it is that the members of the network each get to maintain their own web page within that site.

## I Get My Own, Personal Web Page?

Yes. Social networking sites are simply made up of different people's individual web pages onto which each member of the network shares about themselves.

The web page you receive in a social networking site is your own personal billboard, and depending on the website, you have what is called a **profile**, where you can write details about yourself – only if you choose to. And you also have another area, called a **Wall**, or a **Page**, where you share information.

You may put as little or as much information on your profile or on the billboard as you desire. Be aware that your personal profile can be viewed by every other member of the social network. But it is entirely up to you to determine how much information other members of the network can view.

There are privacy settings that you can set to your own preferences – make it so that only people you choose can view your updates, or it can be open to everyone.

The fun of a social networking site is that each member's personal billboard, or page, is always changing because they enjoy adding new **updates** to it.

So if you're going to a party this weekend, you may write that on your page. Then after the party, you may write how you liked it and even share photos from the party.

## So How Do I Connect With Other Members?

You connect with other members of a social networking site by clicking on a button to add them as your 'friend.;

Let's stick with the imagery of a billboard. If each individual member's page is a billboard, then the social network is a system of roads upon which everyone can travel and view those billboards.

Well, if you know someone's name, you can type it in and search to see if they are members in that social network. Once you find someone you know, then click on a button to add them as a 'friend' on your network. A request will be sent to them to 'Accept' or 'Decline' you as a 'friend'.

Once accepted, you'll both always be able to view each others' member information, by going along the highway (going to the website) and checking out the billboard (their profile and page). Then, because you're friends you can comment on each other's updates.

## What Sorts of Ways Can I Share Information?

A social networking site is like one blended salsa mixture of all the media technologies available on the Internet. We'll list some of the simpler things social networking sites offer. Don't get overwhelmed; we just want you to know what you can do. The best part about social networking sites is that, whilst you can do so many things, you may choose how much and what you want to do.

Most social networking sites combine many technologies. In Facebook, you may share photos, share favourite links to pages on the World Wide Web, live text chat with other members, message back and forth like email, send invitations to online events, and update your status to tell others what you're doing.

For instance in our example earlier, you were going to a party;

- You told your friends by doing an **update** of your Page, your Profile, or Wall.
- Then because Aunt Shirley is one of your Friends who saw that update, she put a **Comment** on your update about the party, mentioning that she was going and asked if you wanted a lift.
- You wrote back (added a **Comment**) saying thanks anyway, but you were going with Adam.
- And because Adam is also on Facebook, and he's one of your friends, he saw that update. But he didn't need to comment.
- After the party was over, you added some **photos** on an **Update**.
- Both Aunt Shirley and Adam saw those photos, and each added a **comment** that they also had some photos on their own page, they wanted to share.
- You went to their Pages (their billboards) and saw their photos and added your own **comment** on their updates.

## Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/> The most popular social networking site by far. Millions upon millions of members around the globe post updates and share about their lives every day. Free to join.

## About My Age



The online community  
for over 50s

- It's **FREE**, it's **FUN**, it's **EASY TO USE**
- Have your own unique web page and stay in touch with family and friends.
- Make new friends and reunite with old ones.
- Create a journal, upload photos, participate in forums, and stay informed on issues for over 50s.
- Voice your opinion on featured articles.
- Listen to live radio in your state.
- Noticeboard and events calendar for activities in your local area — **find a friend to accompany you to events.**

<http://www.aboutmyage.com/home/> The Australian online community for over 50s. As apparent, your grandkids won't be a part of the network, but it's a fantastic venue for meeting new friends and socialising with your peers. Very user friendly and a less overwhelming network to join if you simply want to learn what social networking is all about before jumping into the Facebook ocean. Free to join.

## MySpace

<http://www.myspace.com/> Another popular social network. Free to join. The members who make the most of MySpace have monthly paying accounts that give them more flexibility with their profiles.

## Bebo

<http://www.bebo.com/> USA-run, but a rather popular social network among Aussies. Free to join.

# Part Five Summary

Now you're equipped to enter the world of media interactions available online. We hope this short overview has given you some confidence and knowhow to take advantage of these wonderful technologies.

Part Five covered media and social networking.

- First, we introduced you to picture media by giving you instructions on how to upload pictures onto your computer, how to upload them onto the Internet, and we gave you a few recommendations for online photo printers.
- Next, we briefly touched on the video sharing community online, suggesting YouTube as the main collection of short videos worldwide, mentioning that newscasts and some TV shows may be available to view online.
- We talked a bit about music and online radio as well as making music purchases online.
- We quickly covered what a blog is.
- Finally, we covered social networking websites and gave you a feel for how the networking sites combine a host of technologies such as photo sharing, videos, email, chat, etc.

Social networking sites are so expansive and offer so much in the way of technology that we'll have to offer our Web on Wheels members a series dedicated entirely to it.

We hope you've enjoyed our Intro to the Internet series. Stay tuned for more fantastic computer series brought to you by The Web on Wheels.

This concludes Part Five of the 'Intro to the Internet' series.

If you would like more help, or one-on-one coaching, please call Viv on: (03) 9787 7500 or email: [info@thewebonwheels.com.au](mailto:info@thewebonwheels.com.au)