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“Explore your computer” is sound advice. Exploring is a great way to learn and should be practised by everyone whether a novice or an improver.

Nobody is an expert on all aspects of computers so that covers everybody. There are always corners yet to be explored and I've been pressed into exploring a few recently.

I now have Windows 7 on my desk-top, but for some reason the computer now refuses to boot up! That is not quite true as it will start and perform beautifully when it feels in the mood. (It is nothing to do with the new operating system because it fails before the operating system is loaded.)

I've checked the cable connections and re-seated all the internal components and even replaced a couple of internal cables to no avail.

In one of its working sessions I tackled the problem of the wireless keyboard that decided in a random fashion whether or not to type a letter when I pressed a key.

To cure that I downloaded an updated driver from the manufacturer's web site and installed it quite easily in spite of the process needing a couple of computer re-starts.

No improvement achieved, so that is another problem (sorry – learning opportunity) to enjoy when the boot-up learning opportunity is exhausted.

When that happens I should be able to get my email system up and running.

Just to add to the fun my laptop has suddenly gone on a go-slow strike. A snail would seem a whippet in comparison. I have no idea why. Someone has taken it away to investigate for me and is making some progress. It could be a conflict between recently installed security software. Or the installation of new email facilities. Time will tell.

Timing the changes over the holiday was a good move as I hope to get it all sorted before it becomes a serious inconvenience.

It has the makings of an interesting new year for me. May you enjoy yours as well.

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