

How many websites are there on the Internet? Nobody knows the answer because it is a moving target. More are set up every hour and some become obsolete. Estimates vary wildly and go up to 200 Million. Someone worked out an average of over 150 pages on each site. That means upwards of 20 Billion web pages. And growing.

If you want your own website it is not going to make a lot of difference to the total, so go ahead.

The club members heard previously that you need to be clear about  
why you want one;  
what you will put on it;  
who will your audience be and what should it look like.

The club's website [www.penarthcomputerclub.co.uk](http://www.penarthcomputerclub.co.uk) contains links for downloads of free software to enable you to create a simple website. Chris used the software to show how easy it is to use once you grasp the way all the pieces hang together.

Set up a group of folders on your own computer within a folder such as 'My Websites' to hold the resources and files that you want to use (the content can be few files to start with and more added later).

The "Nvu" software helps to create the pages as you simply type in the information and save the pages to your Resources folder(s). These are your LOCAL files, stored on your computer.

As he created sample pages, Chris explained some of the website design 'ground-rules' for success.

\* Make life easy for the reader by establishing links for simple navigation between pages.

\* ALWAYS have a button that allows the user to go back to the previous page – or to your home page. If you forget this facility you will upset your visitor.

\* Keep the pages easy to read.

\* By all means use pictures, but be sure to reduce the file size to a sensible minimum to save time during the loading of the page. Casual visitors will not hang about.

\* Use a reasonably constant style of page layout. Visitors will get fed up with having to work out where everything is on each page and just give up.

The pages can be viewed in your web browser and adjusted and improved before being uploaded to a web hosting service.

For this Chris used another free software package called "Core FTP Lite". This manages the UPLOAD of files to your website. Your website hosting now contains REMOTE files as an exact copy of your LOCAL files. (There may be more local files that you have not yet uploaded.)

To change something on your website simply edit your local files and upload the new version to overwrite the REMOTE version. Try it.

As Chris mentioned several times – you are not going to break anything. Honestly!

*The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April. Dr Brooks will be giving an update on how computers can help family history research. Visitors always welcome. For more information ring Howard on 029 20708439.*

## **In Brief**

### **Computer Club**

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