

How are your New Year resolutions faring? Walking more? Been to the gym? Eating less?

Now is the time to review the wording to see if there is an escape clause. No? Shame. Never mind. Learn from your mistakes and do a better job of drafting new ones next year.

Formulating mine for 2013 was perfectly straightforward – they are exactly the same as they were last year.

I said I would sort out my filing system before I bought any new kit.

I sort of kept that one as I haven't bought any new kit – but then, I haven't sorted out my filing system either. I already had the storage capacity and I have made some progress. I have used it to make copies of my files for safe-keeping. The kit has four hard drives and includes its own internal software that ensures that if any one (or two) of the drives should fail, I simply slot in a replacement and the kit restores the files from the duplicates it automatically keeps internally.

This means that my files are safe from loss even if they are not in apple-pie order. The kit is not cheap, but I do have peace of mind. The disruption caused by losing important files is horrifying – but you already know that, of course. In the meantime I am struggling to get the organising job done.

Normally I am so organised that friends jealously comment on it and wish they could be the same. I explain that I have to work at being organised simply because I am so naturally disorganised that if I didn't I wouldn't be able to find anything at all.

To get the benefit of all this effort to be organised I need to establish my home network (another 2012 resolution). Unfortunately I am not a computer whiz kid (neither whiz nor kid if it comes to that) and I haven't got around to nagging the right person to help me sort it out. It should be easy to get my XP laptop to network with my Windows 7 desktop. Everybody, including Microsoft, says so, although several have tried and failed to set up my machines satisfactorily.

None of the above stops me from using and enjoying my computers and I will be like a dog with two tails when my home network is fully up and running.

I did not set myself a deadline to complete my 2012 resolutions and they expired on 31st December. Now they are soooo last year. I still have over eleven months before I am in danger of breaking this years resolutions and hope springs eternal...!

In the meantime I shall put my mind to seeing if I can find a simpler way to solve all my little computing difficulties. Hmmm! Extra hard drives are so inexpensive these days.

