

Do you have attitude? Not the 'in your face' aggressive kind, but the right approach to life's challenges. It is said that everyone hates change. It can certainly be a bit of a pain, but it depends on your attitude towards it.

Two instances spring to mind. Whenever a client brought to one of my bosses a job that involved applying an expertise we didn't have, he didn't turn it away, he grasped it as an opportunity to learn something new, and we made the effort, supplied the result and expanded the range of services the firm could provide. I learnt from another source that, when faced with what most people would consider a problem, life is easier if one treated it as an inconvenience and adjusted one's mindset to suit.



Both these ideas have immediate relevance these days as so much change is taking place in so many aspects of life - especially in the digital worlds of computing and communications. Do we welcome the chance to learn new skills or ignore the developments and hope that they pass us by?

The answer might depend on the perceived effort required to obtain a satisfactory reward (i.e. skill). The snag with this line of thinking is a tendency to exaggerate the effort and diminish the value of a reward that has yet to be experienced. It might be the other way around.

Familiarising yourself with a new machine is usually rewarding because the new machine is quicker and more powerful. Learning your way around a new operating system and new applications will take longer for the benefits to become obvious. We are used to reminding users that the first things they learn are probably not the best way to do things and to seek out more options to find more efficient methods. It's the right attitude.

Computer manufacturers are in competition and need to produce improvements to stay in business. They need to convince customers that new products are better. To get a more detached view it is worth reading independent reviews and customers' comments. The sheer numbers of users and the pace of development means that there will be many users taking the new stuff on board because their old kit simply has to be replaced. The press will quickly be reporting general impressions and you can take advantage of users' experiences.

Do not fear the new advances, but pay attention to the benefits that will come your way. You might not need more than you have, but if your machine is getting too old or the applications are no longer supported you will be happier if you welcome the improvements even at the cost of having to work harder for a while.

When all is said and done, think about your attitude and act accordingly

The next meeting is on Tuesday 26th March at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth 7.30 for 8.00. Kevin S will be showing how to use Powerpoint. See our website at penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.