

BRIGHTWEBS TIPS

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Gerri's Computer Newsletter

When and If you decide to get a new computer

Well, I finally decided to upgrade my system, since it was getting slower and slower and the hard drive was getting fuller.

I did what many of you may do, I bought an older system from a family member. It was still three times faster than mine, and I also bought a huge (160 GB) hard drive, so I can save as many photos or songs as I want.

Just like people who buy a new car every two years, whether the old one is working or not, so some people upgrade their systems often. If these people are trusted family members, the computer they're parting with may be all the computer you need. Ask around and see if someone's about to upgrade.

You can move your display properties, such as that favourite screen saver, folder and taskbar options, and Internet browser and e-mail settings from your old computer to the new one with the Settings and Transfer Wizard.

The wizard will also move specific files or entire folders, such as My Documents, My Pictures, and Favorites.

To open the Files and Settings Transfer Wizard in Windows XP go to **Start / All Programs / Accessories / System Tools** then click "Files and Settings Transfer Wizard".

The Wizard will walk you through the process. If your old computer doesn't have Win XP, you'll be prompted to create a Wizard Disk on a floppy or a CD.

You don't have to do this before you get your new computer, but if someone else is setting up your system, make sure they run this wizard to get all your settings.

You'll still have to install your programs separately. The wizard gets things like your email and address book.

And I'm happy to report that the Windows XP Settings and Transfer Wizard works just as it's supposed to.

DON'T USE THAT RESTORE DISK UNTIL YOU HAVE TO

Many of you have found out the hard way (as I did, on a former friend's computer) that the System Restore Disk given to you with your HP, Dell, Compaq, Toshiba and a number of brand name systems actually gives you a fresh start by totally wiping your hard drive and reinstalling your Windows. That means it's like a new clean computer, but if you haven't backed up your mail file or address book or your data, they're generally GONE forever. So if the tech on the phone is telling you to put in your system restore disk, ask them "how do I back up my machine first?" and don't believe them if they tell you it isn't necessary.

• GERRI'S FAVOURITE FEBRUARY LINKS

- <http://www.livinginthetropics.com/usedbyus.shtml> is a list of free software that offers protection from nasties
- <http://local.google.ca> is a new search offering on Google which lets you look for stores and stuff in your local area
- <http://www.senioryears.com/travel.html> has a lot of good travel links and more with a seniors' focus.
- ♦ <http://www.crazyfads.com/> has a list of the biggest fads from particular decades. Find your favourite.

TABBED BROWSING—A nice feature in Mozilla's Firefox is the addition of tabbed browsing. You won't appreciate it until you've used it a bit, but it allows a number of open browser windows in one frame. To access it (in Mozilla Firefox) click on CTRL-T and you can switch back and forth between a number of open windows and easily see which tab you're on by the URL on the address bar. Try it and see how handy it is. Here's a link for more info:

<http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/tabbed-browsing.html>

