New Horizons Proprietary Computer: the HP8200

The computer is behind the doors at the bottom of the TV stand. It runs either Windows 7 Professional or Ubuntu Linux 16.04. Although both systems should start up without a password you may occasionally be asked for one. For both systems it is one word with indicated capital letters, as below:

Password: **NewHorizons**

Unless you are an Apple fundamentalist or you just want to use your own laptop; you just need to bring along a flash drive or external hard drive with your information on it; plug it into one of the 10 USB ports on the computer; and fire up your chosen Operating System. Both Windows and the Ubuntu have software which will handle movies, still photographic slide shows; and all Microsoft Document files. A graphics card in the computer ensures resolution equal to that of your original. There is no need to attach any cables; the machine is permanently attached to the TV with its dedicated cabling. The keyboard (kept on top of the computer) is wireless and includes a **trackball and mouse** keys. The trackball works but is somewhat erratic.

Software

*Video and Movies***:** Both systems use **VLC**. Under Windows, **Quicktime** is also available.
*Photographic Slide Shows***:** Windows uses **Faststone**; Ubuntu uses **gThumb**
*Documents***:** Both systems use **Open Office 5** for Documents, Power Point and Excel.   Under Windows **MS Office 2010** is also available.
Internet: There is no Internet Connection!

Video Operation

1. Turn on the TV with the remote control.
2. Open the cabinet doors and plug your flash drive or external hard drive into one of the 4 USB ports on the front of the computer or the 5 empty ones on the back.
3. Turn on the computer by pressing the button on the front marked with the **yellow** dot.
4. On the TV remote press the **Input** button and set input port to "**HP8200**".
5. On the TV remote press the **View Mode** button and set the display to "**dot by dot**".
6. The computer will automatically boot up with Windows 7. If you want Ubuntu Linux you have 20 seconds to use the **arrow** keys on the keyboard to quickly "**down**" arrow to the Ubuntu entry on the initial menu (with the purple background) then press **Enter** on the keyboard.
7. Use the **AV Mode** button on the TV Remote to choose preset colours for the TV display.

Sound Operation

1. Both Windows and Linux are set to direct sound output to the Pioneer Amplifier (**Amp**).
2. Turn on the **Amp** and set the **Input** to **CDR/TAPE.**
3. There is a row of 5 small black buttons under the **Amp** display. The centre one is labelled **Advanced Surround**. Use it to cycle through a number of preset values for speaker and tone variations. The **Drama** setting seems to work well for a video. Adjust the **Amp Volume**—around 45-50 for whole room.

Turn over the page for Notes on Usage

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Notes

Movies and Videos: There are more than two dozen different ways to "package" video files. They are termed "formats" and "containers".   **Windows Media Player** and **Quicktime**, in line with the proprietary policies of both companies, pretty much restrict the formats and containers they accept to those that the two companies have developed or that have become so widespread, they can't ignore one or two of them.   VLC software supports almost all major video formats, many more than the Apple and Microsoft players do. In addition third party players such a **VLC** or **Mplayer** have more features such as support for streaming formats and subtitle search and download. I have selected **VLC** as have millions of others who find the proprietary players far too limited.

Audio Files: If you have an audio recording to play, **VLC** will handle it as well.

Slide Shows: Both **Faststone** and **gThumb** will display your slide show. **Faststone** is available only for Windows. If you have organized your photos other than by file name (as most systems automatically order them) you will have to reorganize them which you can do using **Faststone** only; **gThumb** does not allow reorganization.

Documents: Like videos, documents come in many different formats, most created by proprietary software and unreadable by the competition. A few such as the ubiquitous .pdf format have been liberated so that there are many programs which can handle it in full or in part. **LibreOffice 5** is superior to nearly all other document handling programs. It includes the handling of text documents, spreadsheets, presentations, data base creation, pdf files, etc.; in short, all the functions of Microsoft Office and then some. And it does it all using any one of a couple of dozen formats including those from Microsoft Office to which you can set it so that it always operates in Microsoft formats. It will even handle a .pages file which Apple has tried to make unusable by any program other than their own; the output is readable but is spread over dozens of pages! Do you have old Wordperfect files? **LibreOffice** will display them perfectly for you and allow you to save them in any other format it handles. However for those of you who must have **MS Office**, I have included the software on the Windows 7 system.

All Software: All software loaded on these systems is **Open Source** with the exception of **MS Office**. This means it is legitimately free to use, free to change if you are skilled, and free to sell provided you include all the source code with each sale so that skilled others can make their own changes. Such software is usually covered under a legal contract, the most common known as GNU General Public Licence, which stipulates the above conditions as well as many others; the GNU contract covers the entire Ubuntu Linux operating system and most of its application software. **LibreOffice** is distributed under the Mozilla Public Licence v2.0, a similar legal contract.

Other Software: If you have suggestions for any other software, please let me know and I will endeavour to load it on one or both of the systems.

Contact me at: *Oakley Rankin: merhaba@telus.net 250-335-1606.*