Crossing the Digital Divide (v88)

"HowTo Primero"

By Joseph Feigon

For the Observer

The collective conscience provides us with many benefits, often over-looked or taken for granted. One of the most fundamental aspects of life within our community of sentient beings (globally speaking) is speech. As our early ancestors created language, speaking became more than an alarm system, speech emerged as a vehicle to share knowledge. Many of us drive cars, but how many have the ability to build an engine, or create the refined metals and plastics that go into a modern car, let alone assemble the parts and fix the whole when something breaks? Not many, and yet, we all reap the benefit, in one way or another, of the engineers, scientists, mechanics, artists and financiers that contributed to the auto. In this example, the car is an application (as might be a bus, or heavy truck, or ambulance) used on a physical network of highways, byways and sideways.

The Internet is a global highway with very few tolls or restrictions. If you follow my columns, you may recall my discussion of Layer 7, the application layer. Language and speech can be spoken or written. The written word, without creative visual embellishments, is represented as "text". Text is comprised of ASCII characters. Text on the Internet is equivalent to a handwritten letter. Electronic text messages were one of the early applications that ushered the Internet revolution. "Email" as this utility was to be called, was the primary motivation for many to "get on the Internet", as it offered a means to communicate quickly and inexpensively with anyone almost anywhere without a (apparent) middleman.

Fast forward twenty years, email servers not only direct text messages, they support binary attachments (pictures, pdfs, Word, Excel, etc.) and well as multi-media files (videos, music, audio clips). The utility was not engineered to support large attachments.

You just got back from an awesome vacation, you've got pictures and videos to share with loved ones, and you don't know how to share volumes without rejected email messages.

You have a Gmail account setup, right? Open your Chrome browser, navigate to Google.com. On the top right portion of the Google.com "landing page", you will see five items, left to right, Gmail/Images/9-dots/Alarm/UserIcon or Gmail/Images/9-dots/Login. If you haven't logged in, do so now. Then, click on the 9-dot icon, you will then be presented with 9 of Google most often used FREE applications.

Step 1) Open your browser, use Chrome if you have it, LOGIN with your Gmail ID

Step 2) Navigate to Google.com, if it's open, click on the 9-dot icon, open Drive

Step 3) On the Left Hand Side of the Google Drive page, press NEW

Step 4) Choose Folder, name it what you like in the Pop-Up box, Press CREATE

Step 5) Double-Click to Open this newly created folder

Step 6) Drag and drop as many pictures, letters, movies as you want to share

Step 7) Once all files/photos/videos have been upload, click on the folder name above where the files were dragged into, you will see several options, click SHARE

Step 8) Enter the email address of the person you wish to share your stuff with

Step 9) Compose intro, press send, voila!You've now shared digital files securely, and your email content is small/light/fast and only text. You're using the tools designed for their respective job.

Google Drive is a secure file storage system, in which, no one has access to your files, unless you explicitly grant access to those files.

 Step 10) If you're on a PUBLIC computer, don't forget to log out of Google (go back to Google.com, far right side, on the top, an icon or your image, click, SIGN OUT)

Control those things you can, and keep the surprises to a minimum!