

Technology Corner

By Joseph G. Hodges, Jr.

Some Incredibly Useful Web Sites

Periodically the well known computer magazines, PC World and PC Magazine, publish an issue with a featured article of interest to us professionals. In the June 2010 issue, PC World featured an article entitled 52 Incredibly Useful Sites with a byline reading, “If you haven’t bookmarked all of these sites, you’re missing out on the best of the Web.” This was enough to peak my interest and cause me to want to explore just what was it that was so special about these 52 sites, especially as they relate to people who practice trustee and estate law and/or work in associated professional fields.

For obvious reasons, I did not find all 52 sites to be of interest. However, I did find a large number of them to be of interest, as well as some of the broader categories, such as shopping sites, dining sites and travel sites. As a backup, I asked my legal assistant to also review the same 52 sites, so that our final selections would reflect the best of both of our judgments.

With these preliminary remarks out of the way, let me now turn to what we considered to be featured sites. These will be covered in no particular order since they are equally of featured status.

Teux Deux is more than a simple to-do list program with a static list of pending responsibilities. It is a slick, simple and free online task manager that visually groups your upcoming chores by dates so you have a clear view of what you need to accomplish in the coming week. Of particular note is that the site’s interface works particularly well with the popular Getting Things Done method for enhanced productivity.

An equally productive tool is **Evernote**. It allows you to capture ideas, images or audio clips from your PC or phone, then sync them to the cloud for easy retrieval and organization. It works with handwritten notes, thereby turning your hen scratches into searchable text.



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This one is just for the busy traveler. Called **Wakerupper**, this is the way to get a wake-up call without having to stay in a two-star motel. This program lets you schedule wake-up or reminder calls to any phone for only five cents a call, complete with a snooze option. You can even type in remainder messages.

Want to manage your finances? For a complete set of money management tools try **Mint**. This free financial powerhouse comes to you from the people who make Quicken and TurboTax. It automatically syncs with your bank accounts, tracks spending and presents detained graphs.

When it comes to File Sharing and Online Storage, a handy tool to have as a single spot for all your important stuff is **Dropbox**. This tool gives you 2GB of free online storage and a utility that syncs that space with a folder on all of your desktop PCs as well as your phone.

If you spend most of your working days shuttling back and forth from one computer to another, Microsoft's **Live Mesh** might just be the answer, as it is about the easiest way to keep your important files in sync. It provided 5GB of free storage and gives you synced folders that you can access from any connected PC or via a Web interface.

Run your business from the Web? If so, check out the collection of **Zoho** online business tools. It comes with tools for inventory management assistance, accounting tools, human resources software and a CRM system. Moreover, for small companies, their applications are free.

Faxing for free with **FaxZero** is an ideal solution. It can be done as long as you don't mind an ad on the

cover page. If you need a professional impression, you can pay \$2 by PayPal in order to send up to 15 pages with no ads.

In addition to these specific software products, the PC World article also featured several products that featured programs in the Productivity, Entertainment, Media Sharing and Editing, Business, Shopping, Dining, Travel and Technical Services areas.

Featured Web Sites:

- **PC World Log on**
www.pcworld.com/logon
- **The Paperless Office—Pushing Paper out The Door**
www.nytimes.com/2008/02/10/business/10metrics.html?_r=3&pagewanted=2&sq=paper%20free&st=ny&scp=1
- **50 Web Resources for the Suddenly Solo Lawyer**
By Jim Calloway and Allison C. Shields July 2009
www.abanet.org/lpm/lpt/articles/ftr07092.shtml
- **ABA Probate & Property Magazine Index 2007 to Date**
www.abanet.org/rpte/publications/magazine/home.html
- **Point/Counterpoint: To Bill or Not to Bill (by Hour): Kill the Billable Hour by James S. Hardy —Don't Kill by Jason B. Wesoky (for CBA members only)**
www.cobar.org/tcl/tcl_articles.cfm?article_id=6649 (This article is also available from The Colorado Lawyer, 900 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203.)

CCH Learning Center Course... Boomer Planning

Boomer Planning provides an overview of major considerations boomers will face as they near retirement. Many of these considerations have been concerns for past generations and will be concerns of future generations. Other concerns have developed only lately and therefore involve a unique problem of carrying little precedent for guidance. In addition to covering the main points for all boomers to consider, this course explores three "hot" tax issues that have been in the news recently:

- How to minimize tax on what is many boomers' largest asset—their home;
- How to preserve employment-generated retirement savings either through a regular pension, a 401(k) plan, one or several IRAs, or a combination of vehicles; and
- How recent legal developments surrounding the rights of individuals in same-sex relationships have had an impact on the tax aspects of their retirement planning.

For more information on this CCH Learning Center course, please visit <http://cch.learningcenter.com/partners/cchcpe/>, product #43218001.