

Become your own producer on YouTube



John Deans

A lot sure can change in 10 years. Back in 1999, I paid well over \$2,000 for a decent laptop and now that same good laptop is around a grand. All backups were done to tape and now the vast majority of them are pushed to external hard drives.

This time 10 years ago, I was worried about the possible Y2K effects at the end of the year. Luckily since my industry did such a good job updating and upgrading all the two digit integers to four digits, we prevented software from crashing at years end when 99 became 00.

As 2009 starts off my new worry this decade is what our country's currency will be by years end now that our nation's largest bank, Bank of America, and the world's largest financial entity, CitiGroup, are basically insolvent.

Ever since that late September Sunday night when I saw Lehman Brothers go bankrupt and our broker Merrill Lynch got temporarily saved from ruin by Bank of America and the taxpayers, I have been scouring electronic media sources for better and more proactive news sources.

I found a gold mine of exactly what I was looking for at YouTube.com. Back in the fall of 2006 I wrote about the free video posting and hosting service which enables you to upload video and basically broadcast

yourself on the Internet. They have gone a step further and enabled registered users to configure their own online video channels.

YouTube channels are basically free Web pages that users can personalize, upload numerous videos, and have a running

comment blog contributed to by their viewers. Other registered users can post comments and leave commentary videos on the channel they are watching. This is quickly becoming the "talk radio" of the Internet replacing radios and telephones with Web cams and computers.

I did have to sift through some of the extremists and nut-jobs to find some reliable and sensible broadcasters delivering insightful observations and realistic predictions on this once-in-a-lifetime economic event. The YouTube channel name I have been following is called Vision Victory (visionvictory) run by a successful private investor/entrepreneur named "Daniel."

His rational and fact-filled YouTube channel broadcasts are both daunting and fascinating due to his dozens of previous videos made several months ago contained predictions that have since come true.

I was amazed how accurate this guy was when I first watched him back in October with his videos made in March 2008 that were predicting a September 2008 financial meltdown

when came to fruition.

The financial predictions for the remainder of 2009 made by Daniel at YouTube's Vision Victory Channel are chilling and I recommend you view them by searching for visionvictory at YouTube.com.

Daniel's channel is now approaching 6,000 subscribers has had well over 425,000 viewers over the past several months.

After spending so much of my time on YouTube I decided to set up my own channel to provide my clients, friends and family an online video version of my column subjects. So I configured the Country Computer Consultant YouTube channel with the username of "ccconsultant" and began producing some 10-minute videos discussing topics like protecting your computers from viruses and other technology issues similar to this news paper article.

YouTube allows me to set the background and content parts to my channel Web page, thereby giving it a custom look and feel. Over the past couple of weeks I already created nine videos, had over 190 viewers and even a few subscribe to my "ccconsultant" YouTube channel. Subscribing gives them immediate e-mail notification when I release a new video on my channel available for viewing.

Since YouTube began allowing 16x9 aspect ratio (wide-screen) enabled video uploads, I wanted to be on the leading tech edge and recorded my informational videos with my widescreen camcorder.

After I make my 10-minute video in hopefully a single take, I then chop off the dead time at the start and end of the digital video file and then upload it to the Country Computer Consultant channel at YouTube.

By my sixth produced and uploaded video I had the process down to less than 20 minutes, which is a fraction of the time it takes me to write and edit an article.

Besides recording in wide-screen I also wanted to be innovative in my background. It seems like every other YouTube private newscaster was sitting in front of his computer in the house with 75 percent of the screen filled with the face of the person.

Since I am not that pretty, I have been filming first by the window and lately outside

providing a scenic rural background.

My videos have cows and horses walking around behind me rather than a blank wall with my mug taking up the majority of the shot. Wind noise, braying donkeys and mooing cows can be a challenge, but it adds to the rustic and rural feel of the Country Computer Consultant.

The goal of this new YouTube channel is to provide short but information packed technical videos that my readers and online viewers can watch and learn from via the Internet.

If any of you out there are interested in starting your own YouTube channel, it is simpler than you think. To get started all you need to do is register for free at YouTube.com and start out by using a modest Web cam that can be purchased for less

then \$50 or may even already be installed at the top of your laptop's screen.

Bottom line: YouTube.com has enabled us private citizens to become our own media producers and news broadcasters via the Internet.

Take advantage of this shining example of our First Amendment right of free speech by tuning in to Vision Victory (visionvictory) for some financial insight or your local yokel just now getting his feet wet at Country Computer Consultant (ccconsultant).

Next week's column: Lowering your computing costs.

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