

# Evening with Artifcts® Genealogy Tech with Thomas Wednesday, 19 April 2023

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Technology has always fascinated me . . . a bit odd for this liberal arts guy . . . but for close to 30 years I made a career in the information technology field. Working in large international law firms with thousands of employees, I was the “template guy” (meaning I designed Microsoft Word templates), the “Outlook server guy” (meaning email servers), the “Trainer” (certified in Microsoft Office apps), and more. So when I transitioned in 2008 to a career in genealogy I knew what one of my focus areas would be: helping genealogists preserve years of work and research using the best available technology. And I try to do so in an easy-to-understand and approachable way.

## Future Proofing Your Technology

You may not have heard of the term “future proofing”, so here is my definition:  
*Ensuring that your current technology is periodically reviewed to determine its continued effectiveness . . . and to upgrade technologies so that your genealogy research is accessible by you and others in the future.*

Make sense doesn't it? But embracing a concept this future proofing technology is easy; committing to the change and putting it in effect can be difficult. Here are some tips of future proofing your genealogy research and making sure it is preserved for others to use for generations to come:

- **Take inventory.** Determine what you have and this includes hard copy as well as digital assets and online sites.
- **Include in estate planning.** Create a codicil to your will or make sure there are some form of instructions concerning your genealogy research.
- **Backup your data.** Backing up your genealogy data is a good habit for the living and it will keep all your info in one place for your executor.
- **Preserve non-digital and digital items.** CD-ROM discs degrade over time. Negatives and movie film can fade and fall apart. Transfer items to digital ASAP.
- **Have that conversation with family.** Be very clear about where your genealogy research is located, why it is important, and what you want done with it.
- **Post items online.** Consider starting a blog – even a private one – to preserve your family stories. Use social media if you feel comfortable. Do the same with a family tree on Ancestry or one of the popular genealogy sites.
- **Do stuff NOW.** Tell your own stories NOW. Write that genealogy book NOW. Interview family members NOW.

## Questions

**QUESTION:** Should I upgrade my computer to Windows 11? I received a notice about the upgrade, and it was also for an update to Windows 10. Is the notice legit?

**ANSWER:** Yes. I recently upgraded both my Dell desktop and my Lenovo laptop to Windows 11. The process was not as painful as the Windows 10 upgrade.

I DID NOT upgrade when Windows 11 was released. I ALWAYS wait until the “.1” version is released. Why be a bug fixer for Microsoft?

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11>

**QUESTION:** What is the best software for virus protection, including malware, for Windows based computers (free or \$)?

**ANSWER:** I no longer use McAfee or Norton products since they tend to run “heavy” meaning they constantly churn on your machine and hog resources.

I’ve used the free version of Avast, but for my business I use the premium version which has a yearly subscription price.

<https://genealogybargains.com/avast-offer>

**QUESTION:** What is the best overall genealogy software program to use with a Mac?

**ANSWER:** First, as I always say, don’t trust every review site you find on Google or other search engines. Very often the results are “gamed” ... meaning that ads appear first but look like review sites. And some review sites accept compensation from vendors for a good review.

These are review sites I trust:

- **CNET Reviews**  
<https://www.cnet.com/reviews/>
- **GenSoft Reviews**  
<https://www.gensoftreviews.com/index.php>

One of the best genealogy database programs for Mac users is **Heredis**. Many Mac users have raved about the features and ease of use.

- **Heredis**  
<https://www.heredis.com/en/>

**QUESTION:** What factors should I consider when choosing my personal genealogy software?

**ANSWER:** Again, I'll refer to the previous question about Mac genealogy software in terms of using certain review sites. One of the better comparisons for genealogy software is on Wikipedia:

- **Wikipedia - Comparison of Genealogy Software**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_genealogy\\_software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_genealogy_software)

Factors to consider:

- Ease of Use
- Cost
- Access - Online? Desktop? Tablet?  
Smart Phone?
- Features

**QUESTION:** I am looking for a document scanner. One that will scan an entire file as one PDF.

**ANSWER:** There are many choices available and just like genealogy software, it depends on what features and functions you need. My recommendation:

- **Epson Perfection V600 scanner**  
<https://amzn.to/3oGRvd6>

**QUESTION:** How do I set up a second monitor to use when doing genealogy research?

**ANSWER:** Setting up an additional monitor for your desktop computer can be difficult.

First, make sure you are using the latest version of Windows or Mac OS. Second, make sure your existing computer can accommodate a second monitor.

Best resources for understanding the basics of setting up and using a second monitor:

- **CNET Setting Up a Second Monitor** - YouTube Video  
<https://youtu.be/IOJNNrnXC7s>
- **Popular Science How to Set Up a Second Monitor for Your Computer**  
<https://www.popsci.com/set-up-second-computer-screen/>

**QUESTION:** Is there a way (or a program) that you can print out the names of all computer files on as well as the contents of its sub-directories?

**ANSWER:** Again, the answer depends on which OS you are using: Windows or Mac.

- **MakeUseOf 5 Ways to Print Folder and Directory Contents in Windows**  
<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/5-ways-to-print-folder-and-directory-contents-in-windows/>
- **MakeUseOf 3 Ways To Easily Print Out The Contents Of A Directory Or Folder [Mac]**  
<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/3-ways-to-easily-print-out-the-contents-of-a-directory-or-folder-mac/>

## **BONUS! Additional Resources**

### *Desktop & Organization*

- **The Organized Genealogist** **Thomas recommends!**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/organizedgenealogist/>
- **Trello**  
<https://trello.com>

### *Forms*

- **Google Forms**  
<https://www.google.com/forms/about/>

### *Genealogy Apps & Software*

- **Ancestry App**  
<https://genealogybargains.com/ancestry-app>
- **FamilySearch App**  
<https://genealogybargains.com/familysearch-app>
- **Family Tree Maker**  
<https://www.mackiev.com/ftm/>
- **Legacy Family Tree** **Thomas recommends!**  
<http://legacy.familytreewebinars.com/?aid=1990>
- **MyHeritage App**  
<https://www.myheritage.com/mobile>
- **RootsMagic**  
<https://genealogybargains.com/rootsmagic-offer>

### **Internet Browsers**

- **Firefox**  
<https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>
- **Google Chrome**  
<https://www.google.com/chrome/>

### **Microsoft Word**

- **How to Create Fillable Forms in Microsoft Word**  
<https://www.groovypost.com/howto/create-fillable-forms-in-microsoft-word/>
- **Microsoft Word Series - #1 Getting Started with Microsoft Word**  
<http://legacy.familytreewebinars.com/?aid=1017>

### **Technology Updates**

- **Buzz Feed**  
<https://www.buzzfeed.com/>
- **Feedly**  
<https://feedly.com/about.html>
- **The Verge**  
<https://www.theverge.com/>

### **VPNs**

- **Ensuring Network Security with a VPN (Virtual Private Network)**  
<https://www.dummies.com/programming/networking/ensuring-network-security-with-a-vpn-virtual-private-network/>
- **Namecheap VPN **Thomas recommends!****  
<https://genealogybargains.com/namecheap-vpn>

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