

# Answers easy to find, but are they right?

**Tecbud (at) bellsouth.net Bill Husted writes for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.**

Article Last Updated; Sunday, August 02, 2009

*( as printed today, August 17, 2009 in The Villages Daily Sun - so much for the latest up-to-date news....)M*

"You can find the answer to any technology question on the Web - as long as you don't care whether it's right.

The right answers are out there scattered among a bunch of nonsense. But you have to know where to look. Even the best Web sites sometimes are wrong, so you also need to know how to double-check an answer to make sure it's correct.

Today I'll list some sites that have a good record for accuracy. Then I'll show you how to check the answers for reliability. Armed with this sort of information, you'll often be able to fix computer problems, make good buying decisions for HDTVs and other electronics, and just feel easier in general about your life around technology.

General technologyCnet.com ([www.cnet.com](http://www.cnet.com)): Almost every area of consumer electronics is covered here. If I had to narrow my recommendations down to a single site, this would be the no-brainer choice. You'll find reviews for digital cameras, computers, printers, automobile electronics, home audio ... you name it. Most impressive is that these are hard-nosed reviews that, unlike some you'll find, tell the bad along with the good.

Computers and networkingTom's Hardware News ([www.tomshardware.com/us/#](http://www.tomshardware.com/us/#)): The Internet, as you would expect, is overflowing with sites that offer advice on computing. But this one stands out. Leave a question here, and you'll often get an expert and precise answer. There's also a section about industry news that offers a peek at new trends and products.

Digital photographyDigital Photography Review ([www.dpreview.net](http://www.dpreview.net)): Photography is one of my hobbies. But I spent most of my life shooting with film cameras. There's such an assortment of digital cameras out there that I can't even begin to keep track of the best cameras in each price class.

This site offers truly exhaustive reviews of even the most obscure digital cameras, as well as pricing information. Whether you're just starting or have been shooting digital since the beginning, this is the place to go.

HDTVHDTV World ([www.cnet.com/hdtv-world](http://www.cnet.com/hdtv-world)): I've already raved about Cnet.com, and this is part of that same site. But I can't leave it off the list. You'll find clear explanations of HDTV, the hardware that makes it work, and tips on getting the most out of your set.

HDTV Info Port ([www.hdtvinfoport.com](http://www.hdtvinfoport.com)): A well-organized site with sections on antennas, HDTV basics and a buyer's guide..

Antenna Web ([www.antennaweb.org/aw/welcome.aspx](http://www.antennaweb.org/aw/welcome.aspx)): This is my most frequently recommended HDTV site. It offers customized antenna recommendations based on your street address or ZIP code. If filling in your actual address worries you, you can just list your ZIP code and still find the distance and direction to transmitting sites in your area, along with recommendations on the type of antenna you need.

Vetting the information Like I said, even sites like these occasionally will be off the mark. That's when you can learn from the great navigator, Magellan, and use triangulation. Ancient navigators (some current ones, too) use it to find their position by taking sights on the stars. The more stars used, the

more precise and accurate the position.

**Once you have an answer that seems reasonable, don't stop.** Check out a few more Web sites. See if the answers match. For instance, if you find rave reviews for the Husted Barndoor and HDTV company, do a Google search for that company. See what others - especially name-brand sites - say about it.

Answers to your questions are out there, but it may take some navigating to find them."

[http://www.durangoherald.com/sections/News/Columnists/Techno\\_Buddy/2009/08/02/Answers\\_easy\\_to\\_find\\_but\\_are\\_they\\_right/](http://www.durangoherald.com/sections/News/Columnists/Techno_Buddy/2009/08/02/Answers_easy_to_find_but_are_they_right/)

---