Cry for <u>H</u>elp

Computer Tips & Tricks for the novice to the advanced.

On-Line Groceries

I have been asked to write a column on the pros and cons of on-line grocery shopping. Without commenting on whether this is right for you, or whether it satisfies the 'Buy Local' ethic, I will detail here the issues of buying groceries over the internet.

On-line shopping can be daunting, especially for the inexperienced computer user. There are lots of screens to navigate through which can sometimes be a bit overwhelming.

Conversely, there are also some user friendly aspects that will make this attractive for others. Once you register on the internet with your preferred supermarket chain, you then scroll through the thousands of product items and add them to your virtual shopping cart. The web site keeps a running total of your dollars spent.

The first time you do this it will probably not save you much time compared with going to the supermarket, however as you get familiar with where things are and how to 'search' for particular items, the time will reduce. You are also able to save your list for future review or to use as a starting point for next time. Depending on who you select, some even make it easy for you to locate the specials. Payment is either over the internet (using that low limit credit card) or FPos on delivery. Also, check their damaged goods policy, they normally accept your word if something is damaged or out of date. Delivery is either next day or soon after, you merely nominate a block of time that you are home to accept delivery. If you have ordered alcohol, then the receiving person will also need to have photo ID. This system won't suit everyone, to start with you need to be a 'shopping list' type person, but at least you know about it.

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