

TOM CROOKER INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2012, 11:45AM

The Forum will meet at 10:00AM starting February 22, until the start of the Spring Session on March 21. The Forum will meet at 11:45 from March 21 through May 9.

The Week that Was. The market was down slightly for the week after a bad Friday, the first down week of the year. Once again, Greece was the culprit for Friday's downturn.

Picking an Investment Advisor. Investment Advisors are used many ways. They can be given authority to trade and manage a client's portfolio. They can offer advice to the client, which he/she can follow or ignore. They can periodically analyze portfolios and suggest investment strategies. Or anything in between. Fee arrangements vary widely. Paul Howard (techie extraordinaire, without whom I could never turn on the docucam) uses an advisor. He will discuss how he uses advisor services, why he recently "fired" his advisor, and how he chose a new one and why he chose the one he did.

Stock(s) of the Week: Big Tech: Microsoft (MSFT) and Intel (INTC.) These two tech giants have many similarities: P/E, and dividend yield. The share price of both has been stuck in a narrow trading range for the past decade, but some signs that the prices breaking out with the recent tech rally. One difference is that MSFT is sitting on \$55 billion in cash (though most of it overseas) which could be put to any number of uses: acquisitions, dividends, share buybacks, new products, buying a few aircraft carriers. INTC is sitting on only \$15 billion in cash; ample for most large companies, but nothing compared to MSFT. Do either of these companies have better prospects? Buy both? Or say heck with it (and dividends) and buy Apple (AAPL) instead?

Maximum Gain, Minimum Risk. Maury will continue his discussion of the book.

Leo Brennan will be the Forum Moderator for February 15.

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