

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE ALAMO PC ORGANIZATION

# PC Alamode

TECH ISSUE

www.alamopc.org  
September 2007  
\$4.50

The phenomenon of Facebook  
part II  
page 36

Backing up a computer:  
Cloning vs imaging  
page 38

Fix that Fan  
page 44

Exploring Windows Explorer  
Part I and II  
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# Alamo PC Organization

Alamo PC Organization is a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase its members knowledge and effective use of personal computers through presentations, instructional programs, other membership services and access to the expertise of other members.



To register for a Class, Study Group or Sr. Comp classes call:

Registration number **210.736.0080**

If you **didn't receive your issue** of *PC Alamode* or have questions about your **membership** e-mail:

[membership@alamopc.org](mailto:membership@alamopc.org)

If you have questions about Alamo PC call:

Learning Center number **210.736.0700**

If you have comments about classes call

Linda Bianchi **210.226.2460**

If you have questions about advertising call

Joseph de Leon  
send e-mail to [editor@alamopc.org](mailto:editor@alamopc.org)

Please send change of address and other correspondence to:

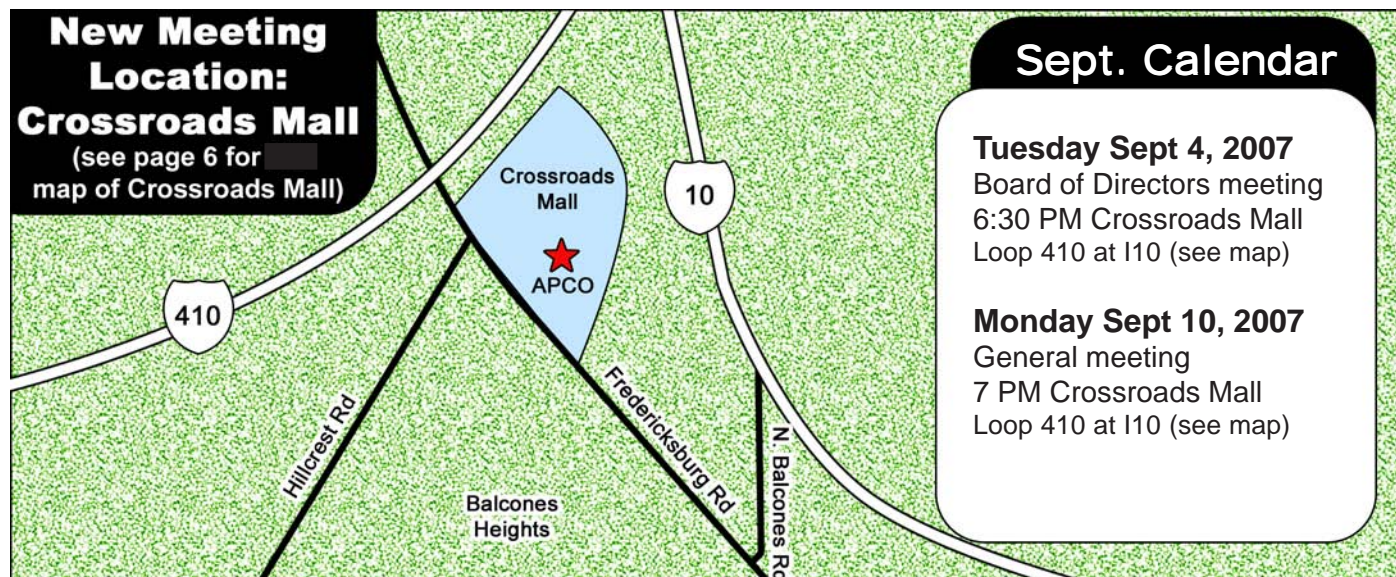
**Alamo PC Organization**  
**PO Box 65180**  
**San Antonio, TX 78265-5180**

## Meetings

**Monthly program meetings** are normally held the second Monday of the month. Meetings are held at the Crossroads Convention Center (across from the Learning Center) located in the lower level of Crossroads Mall, Loop 410 at the intersection with I-10 starting at 7:00PM. Open to all members and the public.

**The Board of Directors meets** normally on the Tuesday prior to the monthly General Meeting. The BoD meets at the Alamo PC Learning Center located in the lower level of Crossroads Mall, Loop 410 at the intersection with I-10 starting at 6:30PM. Any changes will be announced via the Voice Mail/Hot Line (736-0700) and on the Calendar of Events. Open to all members.

**New Meeting Location:**  
**Crossroads Mall**  
(see page 6 for map of Crossroads Mall)



## Sept. Calendar

**Tuesday Sept 4, 2007**  
Board of Directors meeting  
6:30 PM Crossroads Mall  
Loop 410 at I10 (see map)

**Monday Sept 10, 2007**  
General meeting  
7 PM Crossroads Mall  
Loop 410 at I10 (see map)



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# PC Alamode

(501 (C) (3))

## Featured this month

The Phenomenon of Facebook, Part II  
 Backing up a computer: cloning vs imaging  
 Backups made easy  
 Fix that fan  
 What is PCI Express  
 Exploring Windows Explorer  
 Exploring Windows Explorer, Part II

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**PUBLICATION SUBMISSIONS:** Please check with the editor regarding submitting ads. **Deadline for submissions is the first of the month preceding publication.** e-mail to:

editor@alamopc.org

Joseph de Leon, Editor, PC Alamode

editor@alamopc.org

### Ad rates effective January 2005

Rate frequency.	1 x	3 x*	6x*	12 x*
	<b>Per insertion</b>			
Full pg. (7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " w x 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " h)	\$274	\$260	\$246	\$238
Half pg. (7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " w x 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " h)	144	138	130	121
Half pg. (3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " w x 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " h)	144	138	130	121
Quarter pg.(3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " w x 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " h)	74	72	64	62
Bus. card (3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " w x 2" h) **	43	41	39	37

\*Consecutive months

\*\*To be paid in advance

## product reviews

Computer Crimes  
 Software Review: OpenOffice.org  
 Software Review: I Can Animate  
 Software Review: Zoo Tycoon 2

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### Board of Directors

President	Bill Klutz	532-9122 (Home)	president@alamopc.org
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Communications	TBD		communications@alamopc.org

### Executive Service Officers and other important numbers

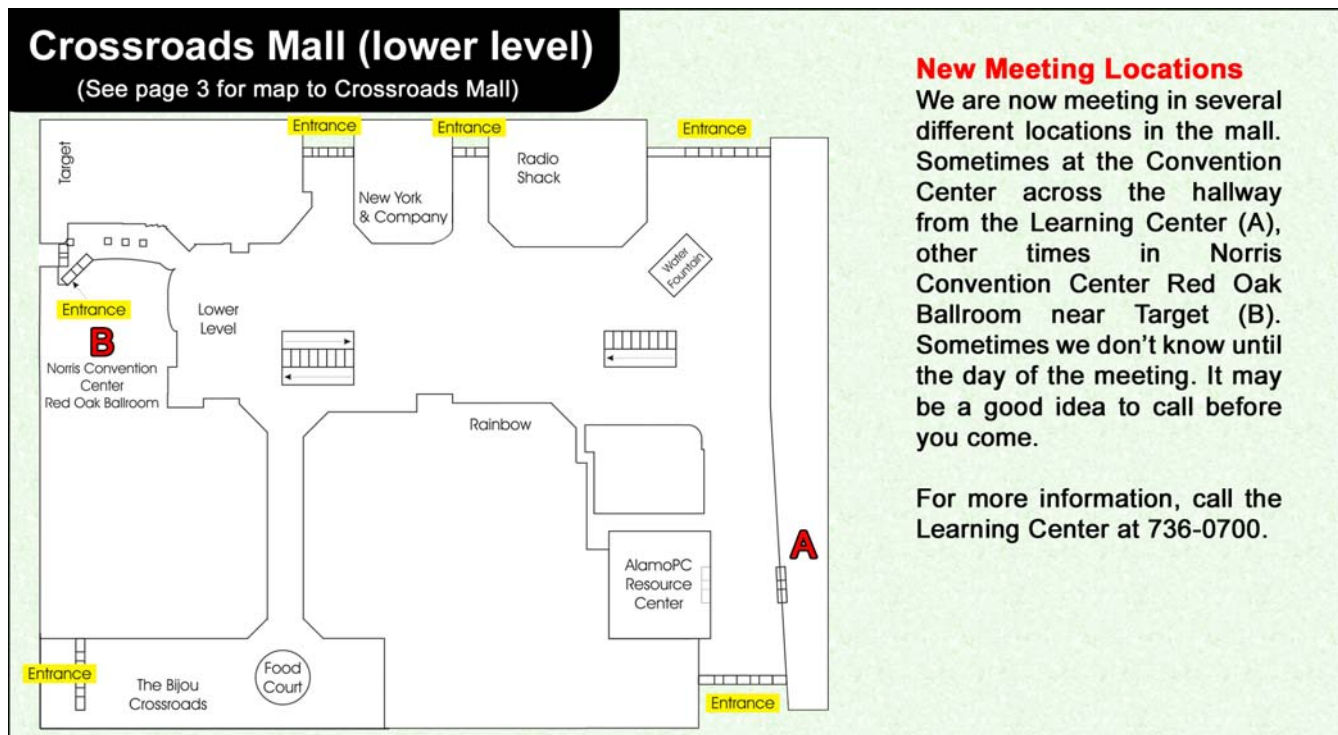
#### Learning Center, Crossroads Mall

736-0700

FAX 736-0032

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For Study Groups and Classes, phone: 736-0080 or 736-0700



## PC Alamode Links List



### Better Googling

<http://www.sreetips.com/google.html>

When it comes to search engines, most savvy users swear by Google and use it to start their Web hunts. Columbia University professor Sree Sreenivasan shares suggestions for Googling tools, along with alternatives that you should try.



### ImageAfter

<http://www.imageafter.com/>

This image directory offers free high-resolution images of objects, places, animals, mechanics, insects, signs, circuits, plants, etc. All stock photos can be freely downloaded and used in your commercial or personal works.

## enter

Summer is coming to a close and children are entering school. It's a great time to curl up with your computer and learn a new program. Better yet, come to the Alamo PC Computer Learning Center. It's a great place not only to learn the latest software, but to meet like-minded people and even get your computer fixed.

The APCUG asked me to let you know about a photo contest all member organizations may participate in. Yes, Alamo PC is a member, so check out the details on page 10.

Even though this issue is dedicated to tech issues, don't forget to read part II of Courtney Jewett's series on Facebook, the social networking website for students. In this installment, Courtney explains why students obsess over Facebook.

**Joseph de Leon, Editor**

[editor@alamopc.org](mailto:editor@alamopc.org)



**Joseph de Leon, Alamo PC**

Joseph has worked in the graphics industry for 9 years and teaches graphics and web classes at San Antonio College.

# President's Message

Bill Klutz

## "September" - Labor, Grandparents, Elections Continue

This month marks several things of interest to many: 3rd - Labor Day (summer and vacations are pretty much over; work resumes for parents at their job site and children have resumed school); 9th - Grandparents Day (another commercialized day for individuals whom we should remember much more often); 23rd - Autumn begins (the leaves begin to change colors and start to fall).

At the August General Meeting, Vandell Norwood, President of Corona Visions (a local electronics recycler, primarily of computers and related items), provided a talk and film presentation on the human and environmental impact when old, unwanted electronics items are not properly recycled. Essentially, third world countries are becoming a dumping ground, with impacts that may become a global concern and/or problem. The meeting was held in our Learning Center, and seemed to be well received by about 60 individuals who were present. Because of the importance to the environment, and the need to have as many informed about this problem, we may schedule him again and try harder to get a larger audience for him to address. It will certainly cause those who hear (and see) the message, and are responsible, to make sure that unwanted electronics are disposed of in a manner that will minimize the impact on the global inhabitants and the environment.

Our September General Meeting is scheduled to have an AT&T representative talk about the future of video (analog to go away soon), plus services and products that AT&T has available, compared to other companies offerings. Some future products and services may also be addressed. This should be of interest to individuals who have services, especially mobile services, or who are contemplating acquiring AT&T services and/or products. An AT&T representative is also scheduled for the October General Meeting and will focus on mobile comm, plus the iPhone and its features/capabilities. Check the website or Learning Center for the latest information, but plan to come and bring some friends.


Elections Process Continues: The election process for Oct 2007- Sep 2008 (Floor Nominations/ Election Committee Names - Submitted NLT Jul 9th [Gen Meeting]; Bios - posted to website ASAP & included in Aug ALAMODE; Voting - Aug 1 until midnight Aug 31; New Board Members identified ASAP - Names available to members ASAP in Sep [Website & at Gen Meeting Sep 10th] and included in the Oct 1 Alamode) will continue. Since no names were forthcoming, no bios will be needed. The remainder of the process will continue, however, the voting portion will only take place to allow individual members the opportunity to provide "write-in" names. Individuals will be contacted to see if they will serve and names will be appointed to vacant board positions based on number of submissions [highest to lowest], and only after individuals currently serving in positions about to expire have had the opportunity to indicate they will continue to serve.

I continue to ask current members to consider what this organization has to offer, what it has done for you, and what it can do for others. You are our best source of free advertising. Perhaps by thinking about it, you will be prompted to renew your membership and provide some much needed support, at various levels in the organization - marketing, advertising & sponsors, software for evaluation, general meeting set-up & tear-down, trade shows, learning center volunteer, class teacher, etc. Please remember for this organization to survive WE must each continue to be a supportive member, through renewals and participation at some level.

Continue to consider some of the following items available to members (and please talk to others about them): free class benefit - enroll in one or more of the classes; the "Wish List" - if a class you would like to have isn't on the list, make it known to the people at the Learning Center so they can put it on the list of classes that people have requested; one membership for the family - entitles one family member to vote, but it entitles each family member, in the household, to enroll in free classes during, the time the membership is current, "The Dr. Is In" - Friday AM hands-on help with computer problems, at the Learning Center; monthly presentations about current issues in the computer hardware and software; etc.

We continue to review member requested classes to determine if and when a new area of study should be scheduled. If you have a suggestion, let the Director of Education know <education@alamopc.org>. That is how several classes have been started, including the one in the next paragraph.

Don't forget about our popular Digital Camera & Photography classes (4 different levels, each repeated once during the year). Picture opportunities are available throughout the year, not just during holidays. After taking one or more classes, every picture day should be considered a "Photo Holiday," and produce good results.



100% gray cotton golf shirts with pocket and embroidered full-color

**Alamo PC logo**

Available at the Learning Center in a wide variety of sizes.

**\$20.00**

Call the Learning Center at 736-0700



We are still trying to improve member retention, although new members have almost been sufficient to offset non-renewing members. (At present, almost all of our new members are derived from "walk-in traffic" at the Learning Center.) We want membership to continue to "grow" through each member renewing and trying to encourage others to join. (Please remember that you can help someone to join through the online process. They don't have to come to the Learning Center.) If you do not choose to renew, send a comment or two as to "Why?" to [membership@alamopc.org](mailto:membership@alamopc.org), with a copy to me ([president@alamopc.org](mailto:president@alamopc.org) or privately [wlklutzjr@juno.com](mailto:wlklutzjr@juno.com)). I appreciate all communications, especially those on how we can improve the Alamo PC Organization and increase member interest!

As, I have said before, the future of OUR organization will always rest in the hands of its members. Whether WE continue (or not) depends on OUR interest and involvement. But, it primarily depends on membership renewals and/or financial support. Without those, we will not be able to meet our financial obligations and 'business decisions' will have to be made that will affect everyone."

I look forward to seeing members and guests at the September General Meeting. I am not sure if it will be in our Learning Center (LC) or a Norris conference facility (hopefully across from our LC). Check the website for the latest information.

## September Program

Bill Klutz

The September General Meeting is scheduled to have an AT&T representative talk about the future of video (analog to go away soon), plus services and products that AT&T has available, compared to other companies offerings. Some future products and services may also be addressed. This should be of interest to individuals who have services, or who are contemplating acquiring AT&T services and/or products.

Our October General Meeting is scheduled to have an AT&T representative focus on mobile communications, plus the iPhone and its features/capabilities. This should be of interest to individuals who have mobile services, or who are contemplating acquiring AT&T mobile services and/or products.

Check [www.alamopc.org](http://www.alamopc.org) (the Alamo PC web site) for the latest information on presenter and meeting location, or talk with one of the Learning Center desk personnel (210-736-0700/0080), but plan to come and bring some friends.

### Visit the Alamo PC Learning Center

## Media Center

**Learn all about computers with hundreds of books and dozens of video tapes. Enjoy our large selection of techno-fiction. A comfortable seating area is available. Call (210) 736-0700**

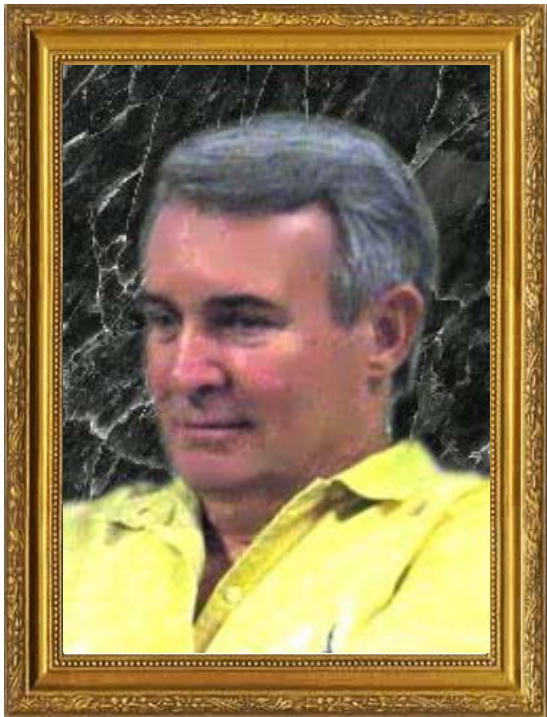
### Student Practice Lab

**Polish those new skills** - A specific time period for students taking Alamo PC Courses to use Computer Lab (Classroom One) to practice their class assignments. Students may also make up missed class days, if the instructor has provided the course material to the individual. Seating is limited and on a first come, first serve basis.

**Call (210) 736-0080, or (210) 736-0700**

# Volunteer of the Month

## John Northrup



## APCUG Announces Three Big User Group Contests for 2007

Time is getting close to submit those prize winning Photos, Newsletters and Websites. Don't miss these great opportunities to get some recognition for your group.

That's what it is all about. If your UG has a great newsletter, website, or members that enjoy taking digital photographs, September 1st is the date to get those entries in. The procrastinators will have until October 15, 2007 deadline, to get their entries in. Submittals after the October 15th deadline will be disqualified.

The results of the competition will be announced at the APCUG's Annual Convention, January 3 – 6, 2008 in Las Vegas; you do not need to be present to win. After the convention, the results will be posted on <http://www.apcug.net/> and set out via NOOZ and Reports. All submitted Digital Photos will be on display at the conference. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and a Certificate of Participation. The winning website and newsletters will also received the appropriate 2007 contest logos for use on the group's newsletter and website.

Please give the widest possible publicity for APCUG Digital Photo contest. It is open to all UG members. See the complete contest rules and criteria for Photo Contest, visit the APCUG website.

Website Contest: submit your club's website URL by completing the .pdf form on the APCUG website. Questions regarding the contest can be submitted to: [websites2007@apcug.net](mailto:websites2007@apcug.net)

Newsletter Contest: submit 3 of your newsletters in .pdf format to [newsletters2007@apcug.net](mailto:newsletters2007@apcug.net); if your newsletters are on the web, you can submit the URL for each. If they are password protected, please provide a password for access or hard copies.

Mail your hard copies to:

**2007 APCUG Newsletter Contest**  
**c/o Melvin Weekley**  
**1951 47th Street #61**  
**San Diego, CA 92102**

## The Doctor is In



**Each Friday from 9:00am until 12:00 noon**

**Diagnose your software and hardware problems**

**Trouble shoot major applications**

**Run tests**

**Solve Operating System mysteries**

**For information call 736-0700**



**Owner must stay with computer during repairs**

ComputerFest is a collection of local and statewide dealers under one roof offering rock-bottom prices on all your computer needs. All of our dealers are independent wholesalers, so each conducts business separately. Most of the dealers will accept credit cards, but with cash you can usually get the best deals. And new products are almost always backed up with a warrantee, so you and your wallet can always feel comfortable with your purchases.

## What you can find at the show:

New Complete Systems  
New Hardware  
Newest Software Titles  
Printers, Monitors, Scanners  
Ink-Jet Recharge Kits  
Imaging Devices  
Internet Services  
Used Hardware  
Multimedia Upgrades  
Shareware  
Diagnostic Equipment  
Cables & Connectors  
Bare Bone Systems  
Computer Related Books  
Refurbished Systems, Monitors

### Location:

Live Oak Convention Center  
8101 Pat Booker Road  
San Antonio, TX.

### Show Dates:

Sept. 29, 2007  
Dec. 8, 2007

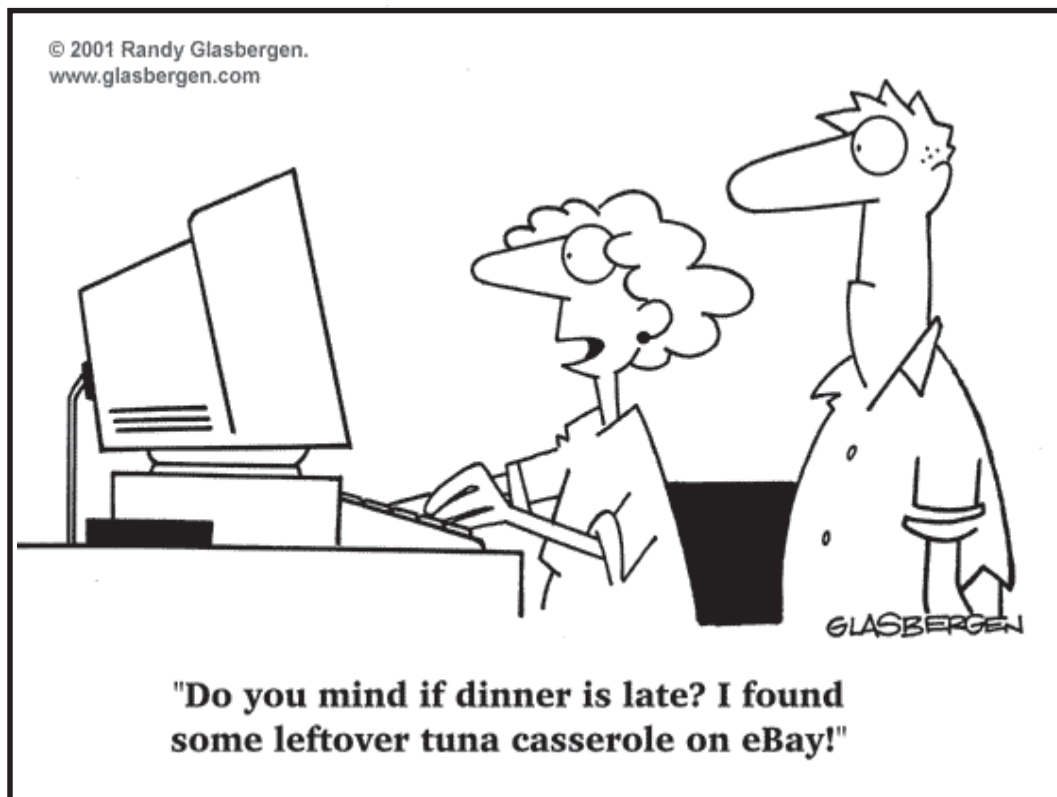
more info at <http://www.pcshows.com/>





# Funny Bytes

Ken Nash & Randy Glasbergen





## From the Deals Guy

### Bob (The Cheapskate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click <Bobclick@mindspring.com>. Visit my Web site at <<http://www.dealsguy.com>> for past columns and some interesting articles.

I read this interesting article about using a USB flash drive on the road instead of lugging your laptop along (plug the USB flash drive into someone else's computer) <<http://www.informationweek.com/hardware/ShowArticle.jhtml?articleID=199906066>>. A few of the applications available are mentioned, and even the possibility of using an operating system on the flash drive, but a USB flash drive won't boot on just any computer. Some user groups have already had demonstrations on this unique technique. Best of all, after you use your special USB flash drive on another computer and remove it, it leaves no tracks because all of the applications you use are on your flash drive as well as your data.

### What's Going On?

When my monitor's on/off switch started acting up, I decided to leave my computer on full time, although I could have used a surge protector strip to control it. I have friends who leave their computers on 24/7 and say they prefer that method because most failures happen when you boot up. Lately, I started having a problem with the screensaver not working and my monitor seemed to be active all the time. However, I noticed that Zone Alarm was occasionally telling me about blocking an unknown action, so I began to wonder if something was working from time to time internally, therefore not letting the screensaver work.

I decided to run Spybot to see how much stuff it would find, and was surprised to see it find 117 items to remove. I had run it not long ago and it found 5 items, normal in the past. Then I noticed that I had never installed AdAware so I downloaded and installed it and let it scan the HD. What a surprise when AdAware found 158 more items after Spybot had already scanned the drive and removed 117 items. I spend very little time on the Internet so I still wonder why so much crap is on my HD lately.

I was even more surprised when the screensaver started working normally after cleaning all that junk off, but that tells me that even though I have a firewall, and a router, which also has a firewall, somehow the malware has found my HD anyway. Also to my surprise, my browser history was now gone. I try to be careful about Web sites and checking my e-mail. I guess there was more than I realized running in the background. Maybe I should unplug the Internet connection when I'm not on it. By the way, my computer runs better now, although something warned me a new program was trying to install in my startup group, which I declined.

### Was I On TV? Maybe!

We had an interesting experience when my wife and I were called to go over to Daytona Beach and work crowd control at the Speed Channel booth <<http://www.speedtv.com>> for two days during the week of the NASCAR Pepsi 400 race. It was fun and if you were watching their two-hour program called Race Day, you might have seen us (wearing security uniforms) without knowing who we were. We were behind the fence (with Home Depot advertising slipcovers on it) for the crowd control during the telecast and we noticed the boom camera looking our way at times. A person holding up an undesirable sign was sometimes a problem. Home

*Continued on page 14*

## The Doctor is In



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**Owner must stay with computer during repairs**

Depot was the sponsor and had their own distinctive stage that the audience could surround. Kenny Wallace was the surprise guest that day. By the way, Coca Cola just signed a new contract with NASCAR for that race so it's safe to assume it will no longer be the Pepsi 400.

### Consumers Get Financial Help In 2009

I read an article in Twice Magazine (picked it up at the wireless show) about the government program that will help people purchase a new converter for their old TV if they can't afford a new digital TV by February 17 of 2009. I found it interesting and informative. <<http://www.twice.com/article/CA6428026.html?q=Digital+Foci>>.

### Help From My Readers

Last month I ran a product for creating a PDF file, but the free version used a sponsor page. I received a message from Ira Wilsker (APCUG board member) telling me about this one; "Look at CutePDF Writer which is FREE <<http://www.cutepdf.com/>>." They do offer the Pro version for \$49.95. I met Ira at an APCUG event when I first started writing this column, and he gave me some good tips.

### Scrub That Registry Well!

Wise Cleaner has released Wise Registry Cleaner 2.8, a freeware tool that enables you to clean the Windows Registry safely and quickly. Each time you install an application it writes a few entries in Windows Registry, but when the software is uninstalled, the entries often remain in the registry. Over the years, your registry accumulates entries from the software you no longer use. To achieve top performance again, simply clean your registry. Wise Registry Cleaner will scan your registry for incorrect and obsolete entries and let you fix any found issues to make your computer run at the peak speed it's capable of. The scan is quick thanks to the enhanced scan engine, and after a short time, you can see a list of issues that need to be repaired. You can view each issue individually and bring up its detailed description to help figure out how to deal with it best, then repair it or leave it unchanged.

The program will automatically back up all changes done to the registry, so that if there is anything wrong, you can undo it easily with a click. If you are a non-techie user and know little about the Windows Registry, you can rely on the program's Artificial Intelligence and let it repair issues automatically. New to version 2.8 is enhanced security, improved multi-language support, an ability to report when some entries cannot be removed and some other features.

Wise Registry Cleaner 2.8 runs on Microsoft Windows 9X, NT, 2000, XP, 2003, and Vista including X64 version. Additional information on the product, its manual, as well as the freeware downloadable version is available from <<http://www.wisecleaner.com>>.

Direct download link: <<http://www.wisecleaner.com/soft/WRCSetup.exe>>

E-mail: <[support@wisecleaner.com](mailto:support@wisecleaner.com)>

### Organize All Of Your Feeds

ExtraLabs Software unveils Feed Editor 4.5, a fully-fledged RSS editor that offers you an easy way to create and maintain RSS feeds and podcasts. ExtraLabs Software has announced the release of Feed Editor 4.5. Designed for the Windows OS, it enables you to create, edit and publish RSS feeds and podcasts surprisingly quickly and easily. It includes support for various RSS formats, podcasting support, a WYSIWYG HTML editor, an XML editor, an RSS Feed preview, an FTP upload and publishing capability, automatic date management and the ability to convert CSV or HTML to RSS.

To create a new RSS feed, you can use a New Feed Creation wizard to guide you through the RSS setup process in a step-by-step fashion. Included is a built-in WYSIWYG HTML editor that allows you to edit a feed. You can format the text, apply styling and insert images and hyperlinks. "Feed Editor" can generate a feed from a CSV and HTML file. Once a feed is ready, you can preview it and publish online using an FTP upload facility.

Read more about Feed Editor at: <<http://www.extralabs.net/feed-editor.htm>>

Evaluation version free: <<http://www.extralabs.net/FeedEditorSetup.exe>> (2.1 Mb)

Feed Editor 4.5 runs under Windows 95/98/Me/2000/NT/XP/2003 and costs \$39.95 (USD). User Group members get a 30% discount. Follow this link for registration: <[http://www.regnow.com/softsell/nph-softsell.cgi?item=13371-1&ss\\_coupon=EXTR-3G8L](http://www.regnow.com/softsell/nph-softsell.cgi?item=13371-1&ss_coupon=EXTR-3G8L)> or use this coupon: EXTR-3G8L. Registered customers are entitled to free lifetime updates and premium technical support. Discounts for volume buyers are available. Additional information on Feed Editor 4.5, as well as its 30-day evaluation version is available from <<http://www.extralabs.net>>.





## Privacy and publicity

### John Brewer, Computer Club of Oklahoma City

John Brewer practices law in Oklahoma City, is a member of the Governor's and Legislative Task Force for E-Commerce, and enjoys issues relating to eBusiness and cyberspace. E-mail him at <[johnb@jnbrewer.com](mailto:johnb@jnbrewer.com)>

One often hears the term, "right of privacy," used during conversation. But, what does it really mean, particularly in relation to the Internet. Wikipedia states that "Internet privacy consists of privacy over the media of the Internet: the ability to control what information one reveals about oneself over the Internet, and to control who can access that information. Many people use the term to mean universal Internet privacy: every user of the Internet possessing Internet privacy. Internet privacy forms a subset of computer privacy. Experts in the field of Internet privacy have a general consensus that Internet privacy does not really exist. Privacy advocates believe that it should exist."

It is generally accepted that William L. Prosser, a noted authority in the field of legal torts (at common law, a tort was a civil wrong, other than a breach of contract, for which a legal remedy existed), identified four distinct causes of action for invasion of privacy in a law review article written in 1960. Prosser specified these causes of action as 1) appropriation of a person's name or likeness for commercial benefit; 2) unreasonable intrusion, or intentional interference with a person's interest in solitude or seclusion (either in his/her person or private affairs); 3) public disclosure of private facts; and, 4) publicity which places a person in a false light. This article will be concerned primarily with the first cause of action, also known as the right of publicity.

Consider the following hypothetical set of facts. Jane Doe is a party to litigation. The opposing party hires an expert witness to testify on some issue in the case. The expert is frequently used by parties in this type of litigation. The expert has a web site that lists all the cases in which the s/he has been used. The cases are identified by the names of the parties, the style of the case, and the name of the party that hired the expert. Is the web site a violation of Jane Doe's right of publicity? It is easy to find the web page because Internet search engines have indexed the web site.

One authority states that the right of publicity is recognized in eleven States by way of the common law and that eighteen States have enacted statutes that address the right of publicity. I am particularly concerned with the status of the law in Oklahoma since that is where Jane Doe resides.

Oklahoma has two statutes. The first pertains to the use of a "deceased personality's name, voice, signature, photograph, or likeness, in any manner, on or in products, merchandise, or goods, or for purposes of advertising or selling, or soliciting purchases of, products, merchandise, goods, or services, without prior consent." The second statute pertains to living persons. Since the web site of the expert is for the purpose of selling a service, then such use is in violation of Oklahoma's right of publicity statute. IMHO

There is an easy fix, the expert can simply redact the name of the party who is not the client. The effect of the web site remains the same and the non-consenting party is protected.

The other States that have statutory rights of publicity provisions are: California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The U.S. Supreme Court recognized the right of publicity in a 1977 case styled, *Zacchini vs. Scripps-Howard Broadcasting Co.* Justice White wrote the majority opinion and stated, the "Petitioner's right of publicity here rests on more than a desire to compensate the performer for the time and effort invested in

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the act; the protection provided an economic incentive for him to make the investment required to produce a performance of interest to the public.”

The Zacchini case has an interesting set of facts. The syllabus of the opinion states that Zacchini performed a 15-second "human cannonball" act, in which he is shot from a cannon into a net some 200 feet away, [and] was, without his consent, videotaped in its entirety at a county fair in Ohio by a reporter for respondent broadcasting company and shown on a television news program later the same day. Zacchini then brought a damages action in state court against respondent, alleging an "unlawful appropriation" of his "professional property." The Ohio Supreme Court, while recognizing that petitioner had a cause of action under state law on his "right to the publicity value of his performance," nevertheless, relying on *Time, Inc. v. Hill*, 385 U.S. 374, rendered judgment for respondent on the ground that it is constitutionally privileged to include in its newscasts matters of public interest that would otherwise be protected by the right of publicity, absent an intent to injure or to appropriate for some non-privileged purpose.

That Court stated that “the First and Fourteenth Amendments do not immunize the news media when they broadcast a performer's entire act without his consent, and the Constitution no more prevents a State from requiring respondent to compensate petitioner for broadcasting his act on television than it would privilege respondent to film and broadcast a copyrighted dramatic work without liability to the copyright owner, or to film or broadcast a prize fight or a baseball game, where the promoters or participants had other plans for publicizing the event. *Time, Inc. v. Hill*, supra, distinguished.”

“The broadcast of a film of petitioner's entire act poses a substantial threat to the economic value of that performance, since (1) if the public can see the act free on television it will be less willing to pay to see it at the fair, and (2) the broadcast goes to the heart of petitioner's ability to earn a living as an entertainer. The protection of petitioner's right of publicity provides an economic incentive for him to make the investment required to produce a performance of interest to the public.”

“While entertainment, as well as news, enjoys First Amendment protection, and entertainment itself can be important news, neither the public nor respondent will be deprived of the benefit of petitioner's performance as long as his commercial stake in his act is appropriately recognized.”

It is important to note that State law could vary the right of the news media to broadcast the event (subject to the provisions of federal law in the areas of copyright and trademark).

Jane Doe's facts may not be as interesting as those in Zacchini but the expert can make a determination as to the application of the Oklahoma right of publicity statute after he receives a “cease and desist” letter.

## News Brief

### Olympus unveils crush-proof camera



Olympus's 7.1-megapixel Stylus 770 SW can stand-up to 220 pounds of pressure without any damage. It can also be frozen, dropped or drenched. \$380

[www.olympusamerica.com](http://www.olympusamerica.com).



# The PC of the near future

**Rob Rice, Computer Club of Oklahoma City**

Rob Rice is a computer specialist working in Anchorage, Alaska. Rob can be contacted at <articles@isp.com>

As I stand with both of my feet planted solidly in middle age, I am finally getting used to the fact that I will never have a futuristic house or a personal flying saucer. The comic books of my childhood lied to me. The dogmatic predictions that in the 21st century I would have a team of robots that would do all of my manual labor have not come true. But perhaps the bitterest pill that I have had to swallow is the fact that I have no personal rocket belt. This I refuse to let go of and will hunt down the vermin that crushed my dream through an obvious conspiracy!

So what does the future hold? Who knows, I obviously don't! However, I can tell you what the near future holds, let's say within a matter of months. In fact, the good old PC is poised for yet another renaissance. I can say by summer of next year the desktop PC will be greatly different from the PC of the last five years. Some of the limitations of that old PC that have been with it from the start will be gone. What follows are a few of the changes that you can expect.

## The Monitor

Flat-panel screens have lost a little of their "gee whiz" appeal over the past two years as prices drop and they become more common. But what you might not know is that you can expect flat panel screens to decrease in cost more rapidly thanks to new technology. When we think of flat screens we are usually referring to plasma screens. Plasma screens work somewhat like fluorescent lights as they use electricity to excite gases which give off a glow. What is changing is that LCD, or Liquid Crystal Display, screens are replacing plasma. In an LCD screen an electric current passing through a liquid crystal solution which in turn causes the crystals to align and prevent any light from passing through. The light is typically supplied from the rear of the screen by a backlight. These screens are more economical and less prone to burn in than plasma. Moreover, several variations from such companies as Intel and JVC look terrific and look to be the future of displays. But don't count the old conventional cathode ray tube out just yet. Still the most affordable, new technology is shaping the front and the rear of these good old stand-bys into thinner and flatter devices.

So where is the gee whiz in all of this? Well, last year Sharp introduced the Actius RD3D notebook computer. It uses Sharp's TFT 3D LCD technology, which makes it possible to view 3D images without using the traditional red and blue glasses or any type of glasses or special visor. It can be easily switched back to 2D viewing for standard applications such as spreadsheets or email. The Actius RD3D technology makes possible a range of new applications providing three-dimensional images with an enhanced level of detail. You can expect to see this technology and similar attempts at 3D for the desktop PC. And if you are wondering as to whether your favorite game can be played on it, follow this link for a list of games with Value and Compatibility ratings on a scale of 1 to 5. One is considered the highest rating. The VALUE score rates how much extra value is derived from running the game in 3D/stereo. The COMPATIBILITY score rates how compatible the game is with 3D/stereo: <http://www.sharp3d.com/partners/NVIDIA.asp>.

## The Box

One word will define the box of the near future, "Smaller". The Small Form Factor, or SFF, has been around for a while and is really catching on. These computers are smaller than a box of crackers and really are versatile little machines with the horsepower to do just about anything. But the bigger, more traditional size box is not going anywhere just yet, but

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## David's Essential Domains



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it may be shrinking. The reason is the good old ATX form factor motherboard is on its way out and is being replaced by the smaller BTX board.

### The Board

The BTX form factor motherboard will have three sizes, the standard BTX, which will be the largest, and then Micro and then Pico. The main drive behind the BTX form factor is heat dissipation. The new graphics chips and video cards produce a lot of heat and the BTX will help dissipate this heat. Moreover it will incorporate PCI Express, a new system bus that will replace PCI.

PCI was introduced by Intel in 1991. Since this time PCI sound cards, video cards and modems have replaced the ISA bus based cards. PCI Express will follow a similar path and replace the PCI hardware--with the exception that PCI express will have some backwards compatibility as far as software is concerned. It will be cheaper to produce, faster, and with lower power consumption as well. Oh, and the cards will be hot swappable, meaning you can add and remove cards without shutting down the system. This is something I am really excited about! And don't worry about your old PCI cards; the initial PCI Express slots will be able to take them and run them as conventional PCI cards.

Two other names that you will come across, that is if you have not already, are PCI-X and HyperTransport. PCI-X, which is short for PCI extended, is a backward-compatible and speed-enhanced PCI bus that works with existing PCI cards. HyperTransport is a high-speed, high-performance link for integrated circuits on a motherboard. Developed by AMD it is developed for specific applications and should not be in competition with PCI-X. And, if this were not enough change for you, then try this one on for size, your future motherboard will most likely be 64, and not 32 bit, but more on this later.

### The BIOS

One of the greatest changes that we will see will be in the BIOS. From its earliest days the PC has relied on the Basic Input-Output System, or BIOS to get the machine to boot. The PC of the near future might or might not rely on this system, but will certainly see changes in the way it operates and its intended use. I say may or may not because companies are implementing different strategies and have different goals. For example, Phoenix Technologies Ltd., San Jose, Calif., a manufacturer of computer basic input-out system chips, has developed the Core Managed Environment BIOS chip which includes additional utilities for diagnostics, self-healing hardware monitoring capabilities, security protection, virus protection, emergency network access, remote desktop installations and system recovery. Another thing that Phoenix is trying to sell its customers, and by customers I mean Dell, Gateway, Compaq, etc., is digital-rights-enabled BIOS. The software is designed to track software and authenticate it and thus prevent copying or possible copyright infringements. The computer owner, who in this case is apparently NOT the customer, will have no choice as to whether this protection is implemented or not.

However, Intel is also busy developing a new BIOS for its next generation of Itanium 64-bit computer chips. Called the Extensible Firmware Interface it does away with the DOS, legacy standard used by today's BIOS chips. Below is Intel's description of the product:

The EFI specification defines a new model for the interface between operating systems and platform firmware. The interface consists of data tables that contain platform-related information, plus boot and runtime service calls that are available to the operating system and its loader. Together, these provide a standard environment for booting an operating system and running pre-boot applications.

The EFI specification is primarily intended for the next generation of IA-32 and Itanium® Architecture-based computers, and is an outgrowth of the "Intel Boot Initiative" (IBI) program that began in 1998.

The EFI specification has the support of American Megatrends (AMI), who is a direct competitor of Phoenix Technologies.

### The Chip

When it was released, Windows 95 made a big deal out of its ability to do 32-bit computing, yet Microsoft wisely kept the ability to run the older 16 bit applications and therefore insuring Windows 95's success. Folks didn't have to throw away their favorite programs, something they would have been faced with if Microsoft had made Windows 95 exclusively 32 bit; like Windows NT, OS/2 Warp, and Macintosh System 7 already were.

Now, chipmaker AMD has made a processor that is 64 bit but is backwards compatible with 32 bit operating systems, like Windows. More manufacturers will learn how to take advantage of the Athlon 64 and as processor speeds continue to climb expect your life to get even faster.

AMD already has 64-bit processors on store shelves, but wait, if moving to 64 bits were not enough for you then how about dual core processors? These are two separate processors on a single chip. In this way manufacturers can increase CPU performance without increasing clock speed. This will continue to change the traditional way we have been thinking of processors, that is judging performance by its MHz and Gigahertz ratings.



## Internet Part XII

### Bill Beverley, Alamo PC

Bill is retired military and an intermediate computer enthusiast who has been an APCO member for seven years. He has contributed for the past six years.

**D**angers continue to grow on the Internet. It is a rare day that does not bring a new threat for your computer. Furthermore, this malicious software is growing in sophistication. You must take the time to protect yourself. Anti-virus. There are tens of thousands of malicious programs circulating on the Internet. These include viruses, worms, Trojans, dialers and other monsters. To counter these programs, use anti-virus software. You must buy this software, install the anti-virus program of your choice, and then get updates for it. Free anti-virus programs are available through the Web.

There are also many anti-virus programs available for sale on the Web or at computer stores. If you have problems with the anti-virus program, a paid program will probably offer more support. Three good programs are Symantec, McAfee and Panda. Firewalls. A firewall performs two duties: It hides your computer from automated attackers and blocks outbound transmissions if something awful takes root on your computer. When going on the Internet, you are on your Internet Service Provider's network. Without a firewall, these programs can find and attempt to communicate with your computer.

Your Windows system should not respond to unsolicited communications. Many people use and recommend ZoneAlarm. The personal edition is free and works very well on most if not all computers. Anti-spyware. This threat is generally not as serious as that posed by viruses, worms, and Trojans. The terms spyware and adware are often used interchangeably. In general, spyware tracks your Web surfing and reports your interests to a computer on the Internet. Adware sits on your computer and feeds you unwanted ads. Both are intrusive and undesirable.

Spyware also can direct you to its own lame search sites. It can take over your Internet browser and limit where you go on the Web. It can also change your home page, or paint your monitor with the pornographic images. Anti-spyware protection is two-fold. You need programs that will keep most spyware pests from taking root. You may also need other programs to annihilate spyware that collects on your computer. Windows Update. It is critically important to keep your copy of Windows updated. There is an automatic update feature in XP. To activate that, click Start, Control Panel. Double-click System and select the Automatic Updates tab. You also can update manually in all versions of Windows. Open Internet Explorer and click Tools, Windows Update.

Let Microsoft scan your computer and download any updates marked critical or security. Updates are essential. An unprotected computer will be attacked within minutes on the Internet. Rules of the Road. People are often their own worst enemies when they get on a computer. Following these rules will keep you out of trouble.

1. Don't open spam. Many threats are delivered through spam. Just delete it.
2. Never open an unexpected attachment. If you do, you almost certainly will be attacked by a malicious program. Even if it appears to come from a person you know, check first. Other people's addresses are easy to steal and use as return addresses.
3. Do not respond to unsolicited offers on the Internet. If an ad on a Web page says you have spyware on your computer, ask yourself: How do they know that? The answer is: They don't. They're trying to sell you a product that may well do more harm than good.
4. Don't go for free offers that suddenly appear on the Internet. They almost certainly carry spyware. Free programs often are offered on the Internet. Some are well worthwhile. But many carry spyware. That's how the authors get paid. Check the terms and conditions before installing programs.
5. Do not buy products with which you are unfamiliar. There are many products that claim to protect you from spyware. Some work, some don't. Some will put spyware on your computer. Internet hoaxes hurt everyone. Sometimes when real worms hit, so much e-mail traffic is generated from warning people to avoid the worm that watchdogs do more damage than the worm itself! If somebody sends you a message that contains any of the following examples, just delete it.

\*A horrible virus is going to bring down the Internet. \*Send a copy of this message to ten of your best friends, and for every copy that's forwarded, gets \$10. \*Microsoft (Intel, McAfee, Norton, Compaq, whatever) says you need to download something, not download something, go to a specific place, avoid a specific place, etc.

If you think you've stumbled on the world's most important virus alert, keep these three important points in mind:

• **It could be a hoax** Chances are very good that you're looking at a half-baked hoax that's documented on Symantec's hoax page <[http://www.symantec.com/enterprise/security\\_response/threatexplorer/risks/hoaxes.jsp](http://www.symantec.com/enterprise/security_response/threatexplorer/risks/hoaxes.jsp)> or McAfee's hoax page <<http://vil.mcafee.com/hoax.asp>>. Check it out before you click the Forward button.

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• **Check it out** If it's a real virus, all the major news agencies will carry reports that (even if they're inaccurate!) are far, far more reliable than anything you get through e-mail. Check out CNN< <http://www.cnn.com>> or your favorite news site before you go way off the deep end.

• **Don't contribute to the panic** If the Internet world is about to collapse, clogged with countless e-mail worms, the worst possible way to notify friends and family is via e-mail. Pick up the phone, and inform your friends/family. Try hard to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. If a friend forwards you a virus warning in an e-mail, send him/her a copy of the preceding points, ask this person to tape it to the side of his/her computer, and beg him to refer to it the next time he/she gets the forwarding urge.

## Panoramas

If you like photography this site <[www.labs.site.com](http://www.labs.site.com)> may be for you. It displays a new technology from Microsoft. Microsoft's software analyzes large groups of photos. It matches up particular parts of photos to recreate a three-dimensional space. It is something else! You've got to see it to believe it. I can't wait until this kind of technology is available for home users. But, until then, I'm content playing around on Microsoft's site. Note: You'll need to use Internet Explorer to view this site.

## Photographs

There are plenty of sites on the Internet for finding photographs. But finding the right photograph for your needs can be difficult. It's even more difficult if you have to search through many sites. That's where Yotophoto <[yotophoto.com](http://yotophoto.com)> comes in. It is a search engine dedicated to finding free-to-use photographs. You can search by theme or by license type. Even though they're free to use, there are restrictions. You can also search by dimension or picture shape. A favorite is the search by color feature. It is breathtaking to see groups of pictures with the same color. One complaint about the site is it's a bit confusing at first. It's still in beta.

## Search Engines

Google <[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)> is well known by most computer users who seek information. However, there are a variety of Question & Answers (Q&A) Internet Web sites which have come and gone over the years. Several of them featured volunteers who stand ready to answer questions. Today competing with Google with pure numbers and entertainment value are: Ask MetaFilter or AskMeFi <[www.ask.metafilter.com](http://www.ask.metafilter.com)>. AskMeFi features an eclectic Q&A feature that touches on just about any topic. Another potentially interesting Q&A site is Yedda <[www.yedda.com](http://www.yedda.com)> which incorporates personalization features to bring relevant questions to your version of Yedda's home screen. Enter your interest during registration, and you'll see questions related to those topics every time you log on. Yedda also alerts users to unanswered questions which, based on their profile, they might be able to address. Yet a third site worth a look links questioners in real time, without waiting for Web site posting. Qunu <[www.qunu.com](http://www.qunu.com)> works with Instant Messaging software to connect folks who just want to help other people. The free service relies on kind hearted strangers to walk each other through computer related questions. Users seeking help can post a query, which Qunu matches to an expert user who described himself using some or all of those same keywords.

## Telephone Numbers

Sometimes you just need to speak to a human when you call one of the major companies. That's where ivrhacks, <[www.ivrhacks.com](http://www.ivrhacks.com)> comes in to help you. It gives you shortcuts for interactive voice response systems, so you can skip prompts and get to a human.

## Web Form

A Web form is a way to hide your e-mail address from spammers. However, Web forms are no guarantee against spam. Their programs automatically fill and submit Web forms with spam. Simple tricks can fool or block those programs. The most popular defense against Web form spam is a CAPTCHA, which is a completely automated public Turing test to tell computers and humans apart. It poses a challenge that is easy for humans, but difficult or impossible for computers. The typical CAPTCHA displays an image of distorted text. Readers are prompted to enter the text in a form. The distorted letters are unreadable to most spammers' character recognition programs. Example tests are posted at the CAPTCHA Project Web site. You can add a CAPTCHA to your Web form. Use tools such as ProtectWebForm (free), Motobit Software's Captcha ASP script (free) or Lanab BotDetect (\$60). An image-based CAPTCHA will likely put a stop to Web form spam. Text-to-speech screen readers may be stumped by the images. That means blind or partially blind visitors will have trouble with your Web form. If that's a concern for you, consider using a text-based CAPTCHA. Ordinary text is easy for screen reader programs. Text-based CAPTCHAs usually use a question. For example, "What is the seventh word in this question?" The reading comprehension required is beyond the average computer. Several variations could be randomized with your Web form. You could also use a spam filter at the receiving end. Even if your CAPTCHA occasionally fails, spam will be caught as it reaches your e-mail account. Start with a free program like Spamato, xTerminator or MailWasher.

Many public hotspots provide unsecured wireless Internet access. Be careful, because the guy with the tall latte at the next table can easily access your laptop files if you're not careful. Use a firewall and buckle down your file access. There's no need to be paranoid about connecting to a public hotspot, but vigilance is diligence. Just follow these security recommendations: 1. Don't leave your computer or device unattended. The worst security is a stolen laptop. 2. Don't loan your computer or device to someone unfamiliar to you. 3. Watch for over-the-shoulder viewing of your login, credit card number, or other personal information. 4. Properly log out of Web sites instead of just closing your browser or typing in a new Internet address. 5. Passwords should be a combination of letters and numbers and they should be changed frequently. 6. Keep passwords and account numbers secure; don't store them on your computer or device or share them with anyone. 7. Don't send confidential information using Web-based e-mail or instant messaging that uses clear, unencrypted text. 8. Finally, remove or disable your wireless card if you're working offline and you aren't planning to connect to a hotspot. Remember this advice and use it the next time you connect to the Internet through a public Wi-Fi hotspot.





## Odds and ends

**Pim Borman**  
SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc.

The best things in life are free, and Microsoft's SyncToy is one of them. It is a simple and effective little utility to let you synchronize folders in different locations.

For several generations of MS Windows the "official" Microsoft way to synchronize folders has been to use a virtual Briefcase. I never figured out how to use the involved and cumbersome process. As easy as it is to synchronize and update a Web site on the computer with its online version, using an FTP program such as CuteFTP, it should be just as easy to synchronize my photo folders with their backups on an external hard drive.

SyncToy will do the job quickly and easily, using an intuitive interface. It is also handy to synchronize genealogy data with backups, as well as letter folders and other documents. SyncToy is one of the Microsoft Power- Toys, free utilities programmed by MS programmers, but not officially supported.

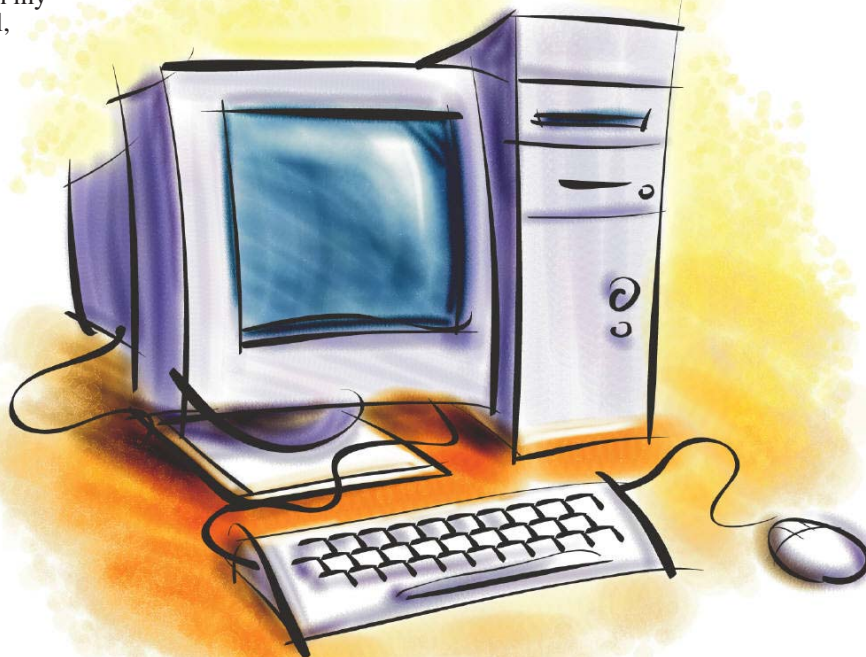
They are available for free download at <http://snipurl.com/7r9b> (or do a Google search for "powertoys download") and include such utilities as TweakUI that gives access to system settings not exposed in the Windows XP default user interface, including mouse settings, Explorer settings, taskbar settings, and more. Also Power Calculator with which you can graph and evaluate functions as well as perform many different types of conversions; Virtual Desktop Manager to manage up to four desktops from the Windows taskbar; Taskbar Magnifier to magnify part of the screen from the taskbar; and several others.

### Too Much Protection?

While I was writing the previous section, I tried to visit [snipurl.com](http://snipurl.com), a free site that lets you convert those endlessly long URLs to more manageable size. I've used it several times in the past, but today, using the Firefox browser, I just drew a blank screen. Using Firefox with Ubuntu-Linux on my laptop, I had no problem accessing [snipurl](http://snipurl.com), and that way I obtained the shorter URL for the PowerToys download site. Eventually I found that it was ZoneAlarm that had blocked my access.

It is a dangerous world out there on the World Wide Web, and we are constantly reminded to install protective guardians to keep us safe. We need a firewall, to start with, preferably a hardware version (a router) as well as a software sentinel. An anti-virus program is vital and we need anti-spyware to keep bad guys from learning our secrets. Unsportsmanlike phishers must be prevented from stealing our savings under false pretenses, and if we want to enjoy our browsing experience, we need to fight off annoying pop-up windows.

The trouble is that everyone is getting into the act of protecting us, constantly stepping on each other's toes. ZoneAlarm PRO includes, in addition to its operating system and network firewall, anti-spyware and identity



*Continued on page 22*

theft protection, game mode, and more. AdAware and its AdWatch feature keep an eye on spyware and suspicious activities in the Windows Registry. The Firefox and Internet Explorer browsers compete with additional security features.

I uninstalled the new Internet Explorer version 7.0 because it kept interfering with legitimate programs. Microsoft has made a major effort to improve security with a long list of new features in its forthcoming Windows Vista. I shudder to think what that will add to the protection confusion. In the end, it gets difficult to know who is doing what to whom.

You can never have too much security, except when it starts to interfere with legitimate programs that are blocked because something seems suspicious. If all those guardians would only let us know each time they block something, and how to bypass it, life would be so much simpler. Too much to ask, it seems.

Dare I mention that none of this applies to Linux?

### **Broadband Speed Revisited**

In the late 80's, before the Internet and fast connections, I did online patent literature searches on a tight budget in databases charging upwards of \$5 per minute online. Search strategies had to be carefully designed off line, with only the titles and authors of target records to be returned before quickly disconnecting again. The results were carefully scrutinized, and only those of interest were subsequently uploaded to retrieve abstracts of the articles. Those articles of special interest, based on the abstracts, were ordered as hard copies from various libraries. Using a 2400 baud modem, capable of transferring something less than 10 kilobits per second (kbps; a baud is not the same as a bit per second), the whole process was expensive and took a long time.

These days home desktop computers hooked up to various broadband systems can go online at speeds up to 6 Mbps, and we are still complaining that they are too slow. No matter how fast the connection, factors beyond our control interfere with fast downloads and uploads. Sharing a cable node with a neighboring game enthusiast may be the cause. Often, congestion on the Web at certain times of the day slows your connection to a crawl, in which case stopping and restarting the download may instantly bring results. A Web site providing a popular download may restrict the speed of individual connections to avoid overloading its server. And, as mentioned in my column last month, the Dynamic Name Servers of your service providers may be slow converting URLs to the numerical codes actually used by the Internet.



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# Home Office: The E-Mail Rules--Manage the Medium

By Steve Bass, Contributing Editor, PC World. Copyright 2001, PC World, reprinted with permission.

Like getting e-mail? Cool, I'll forward you some of mine. Be careful what you ask for, though. I send roughly 22,000 e-mail messages a year and receive more than twice that amount. How do I know? Eudora, my e-mail client of choice, tracks all my e-mail use, reporting, for example, that about 3500 of the messages I received last year had attachments, of which I read only about 60 percent.

I have e-mail secrets: tips to make it easier to read, and pointers for handling attachments. They're yours--and if you e-mail me, please promise to use them.

## E-Mail That's Read All Over

Unless you're vacationing on a desert island, your time is tight. So is mine. If you send me a long message and I don't know you, I probably won't read it--especially if it has an attachment. Lengthy messages from friends I read when I have the time. (Okay, so I scan them. Sue me.)

My point? If you want your messages read, consider your recipient. That's what these rules are all about.

**Think short:** Limit the message to three paragraphs, tops, each with no more than four sentences. If you must include more, introduce points with short previews--for instance, "Deadline? Did I miss it?"

**Stay plain, Jane:** Avoid the fancy formatting, flowery backgrounds, and gaudy colors that new versions of e-mail software allow. Many people still use e-mail programs that support plain text only. Also, what's cool on your monitor may look like hell on mine. And geez! That extra coding increases download time when my notebook's using a 56-kbps dial-up account.

**One person, please:** If you're sending an e-mail to a large group of people, hide the recipient list to keep the file size down. It's all right to use your e-mail app's carbon copy (cc) feature if you need to let everyone know who else is getting the message, but otherwise use the blind copy (bcc) feature. Address the message to yourself (or leave the "To:" field blank, if your software allows it) and bcc everyone else.

In Outlook Express, select View and check All Headers. In Outlook, choose View and check Bcc Field. In Netscape 6, click the To field and scroll to Bcc. Eudora's the easiest--just fill in the "bcc" field.

**Clean it up:** Forwarded messages are usually overloaded with annoying angle brackets (>), extra spaces and carriage returns, and uneven word wrapping. That's one reason why I don't read them, and you shouldn't be surprised if the messages you forward aren't read either.

You can scour the e-mail you forward to get rid of the gobbledygook. All it takes is a quick cut and paste into The ECleaner freeware utility that's available at our Downloads library. ([http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,6492,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,6492,00.asp)) The ECleaner can be accessed from Outlook 2000's Toolbar; I keep it on my Windows 98 Quick Launch Toolbar.

In order to use ECleaner on your Outlook 2000 toolbar, you'll need download their add-in. It's located at <http://members.tripod.com/schin26/ecaddin.zip>.

Unfortunately, The ECleaner doesn't remove the e-mail headers in the original message, so you need to delete them manually before forwarding. (AOL users have to work harder. AOL doesn't show you the forwarded message's sloppy formatting, so copy the message into a text editor, clean it up, and paste it into a new AOL e-mail.)

## Risky Attachments

Every e-mail I send or receive that has a file attachment carries built-in risks. Viruses and Trojan horses are the most obvious, but file size is another. I found this out after I accidentally tied up an editor's \$2-per-minute dial-up account--for 40 minutes--with a huge attachment. (Not smart.)

Unless you know the person, don't attach anything--images, programs, or Internet movies--to an e-mail. If you must, and if the file's larger than 100KB, be sure you get the recipient's permission first.

You can save yourself grief by setting your e-mail program not to accept attachments over a specific size. And always play it safe--before opening a file, save it to a convenient folder and scan it for viruses. There's no space to do so here, but I'll provide step-by-step details for these filtering and scanning procedures in my May online newsletter at [http://www.pcworld.com/resource/newsletters/index/0,sub\\_source,PCW\\_XD,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/resource/newsletters/index/0,sub_source,PCW_XD,00.asp).

BinHexed? Thanks, No.

Occasionally I receive e-mail with an attachment that looks like it's been sprinkled with sawdust, but it has probably only been UUencoded, MIME'd, or (cover your ears) BinHexed, rendering it seemingly indecipherable. OnTrack's free PowerDesk Windows Explorer replacement can make those messages intelligible. Find it at our Downloads library.

*Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. Write to him at [steve\\_bass@pcworld.com](mailto:steve_bass@pcworld.com). Check PCW's current edition at [www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp) and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at [www.pcworld.com/bass\\_letter](http://www.pcworld.com/bass_letter).*





# Optimizing Windows XP

**Shane Hicks, (certified certifiable)**

Shane uses a PC. E-mail him at <shane@vpwn.com.>

Even though Windows Vista is now on the street, many are choosing to remain on Windows XP. One of the problems these users are encountering (as they have for a long time now) is system slowdown. There are ways to maintain your system so that it responds to your satisfaction.

## 1. If it's not broke, don't upgrade it!

Your system most likely came with several applications pre-installed. These were designed for your operating system. If you find yourself constantly upgrading to the latest versions, you're going to find that the system requirements have increased and your system no longer runs the software as quickly as it once did. On top of that, many applications are linked to an Automatic Update site that monitors your application. If they're "phoning home" constantly, they can slow your machine. You might think about turning Automatic Updates off for these applications. If your system is displaying problems, or you need the new features from the latest version of the product, surf over the vendor's web site and download the updates for yourself.

## 2. Tell Windows how to think!

Windows swaps files it's using between main memory and a pagefile (cache) on the hard drive. Accessing the hard drive is slower than accessing main memory. You can increase system performance by changing the way that Windows manages its memory use. If your system has sufficient RAM (say 1GB or more), you can make Windows use all the RAM before it goes to the hard drive. This requires a Registry change. Go to `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Memory Management`. Change the setting in `DisablePagingExecutive` from a 0 to a 1. Once this is complete, restart your system.

## 3. Lose some weight by getting the FAT off!

If you've not upgraded from FAT32 to NTFS, now's the time. It's faster, more secure, and more reliable. If you want to take advantage of NTFS but don't want to reformat your FAT32 partition and start all over again, you can convert your FAT32 partition to NTFS with the following Command Prompt command: `convert <drive letter> /fs:NTFS`.

## 4. Restore performance by restoring disk space!

There are several functions of Windows that can chew up your hard drive. The first is the use of System Restore points. There are several views out there. Some use as much disc space as the can for Restore points. Others go with as little as possible; while some turn the feature completely off. I've had limited success getting the System Restore to actually recover (or get rid of) what we were attempting to fix—so I'm one who turns it completely off. You can change the Restore settings from the System Restore tab, in the properties of either My Computer or the actual desktop.

Hibernation also takes up a good amount of space. In fact, by default, Hibernation will allocate its recovery file to the amount of RAM that you have in your machine. So, if you have 2GB of RAM, there will be 2GB of hard drive space taken up on your machine. If you don't use hibernation, or you find little use for its quick startup optimization, you can disable this feature by altering the power configuration on your system.

## 5. Conduct a basic cleanup!

Windows includes a tool to assist you in cleaning some of the muck that slows your machine down. Run Windows Disk Cleanup to remove unnecessary files. You can even use the Advanced Features of Disk Cleanup to manage and delete the Restore Points from your system.

See if these tips don't help you squeeze a little more performance from your system. If you're still not satisfied, it may be time for a hardware upgrade!

# The Switcher



...the ongoing tale of a Man and his Mac  
**How can I look through these Windows (files)?**

Shane uses OS X. E-mail him at <mac@vpwn.com>.

Okay. So, Apple computers can now run Windows natively. But we all know that you didn't buy a Mac so you could run Windows. The problem remains: you still have to deal with a bunch of Windows-related files that you need to open inside OS X.

The most common problem files are those created using Microsoft Office. Of course, the expensive solution to these problems is to buy a copy of Microsoft Office 2004 for Mac. Even with this software, though, you'll run into problems if the fonts used in the Windows version don't match the fonts you have on your Mac. PowerPoint becomes just as much a problem if the author of the presentation embeds unsupported graphics or movies into the slide show.

If you don't want to spend the money on Office, you can open Word and Excel files with software you may already have. Apple's TextEdit can open simple Word files. If you happen to still have a copy of Apple Works, it can open Word and Excel files. You can also purchase iWork '06, which includes applications for opening Word and Excel files.

For those that like to operate on an even tighter budget (like \$0.00), you can always check out a copy of NeoOffice. This software is developed by Patrick Luby and Edward Peterlin. It's FREE for download at <http://www.planamesa.com>. This software will open Word and Excel documents, plus it supports other vendor's products (like Corel). It can also open PowerPoint presentations, but has problems with formatting.

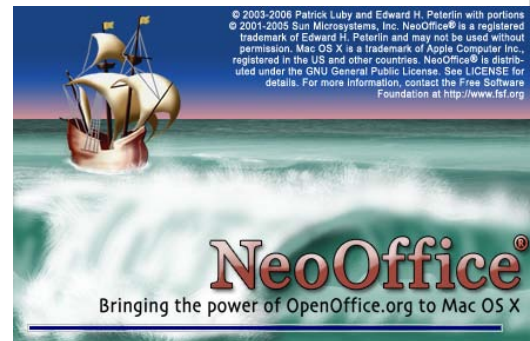
Microsoft Access files are an even bigger challenge. There's no easy way into these files. If you're working with databases on a Mac, you're probably using FileMaker. One option to accessing Access files is to purchase FmPro Migrator from .com Solutions at <http://www.fmpromigrator.com>. This isn't a perfect solution, as the migration often requires further data tweaking once complete—but it'll get you on your way.

There are also a number of other Windows applications that create non-natively readable formats for the Mac. These include programs such as Microsoft Works, WordPerfect, etc. One tool available to help translate these files is DataViz's MacLinkPlus Deluxe 15, which can be found at <http://www.dataviz.com>.

While Mac and Windows handle many common media formats the same way, there are some formats that each can't support out-of-the-box. For the Mac, files such as PCX or WPG are examples. One option for viewing these formats is Lemke Software's GraphicConverter X (<http://www.lemkesoft.com>). It supports 190 image formats and can export 80 of these formats to Mac compatible files.

Movie and audio files can really trip your Mac up. Such files as AVI, DivX, or WMV choke QuickTime. While both Windows and Mac can play MP3 files, music encoded with Microsoft's WMA format won't play in iTunes or QuickTime. There are options to using these files as well. First, you can try VideoLAN's FREE VLC media player (<http://www.videolan.org/vlc>) which decodes a variety of formats. If you want a more feature rich product (that can convert files to Mac formats), you can try Flip4Mac's WMV Player Pro (<http://www.flip4mac.com>).

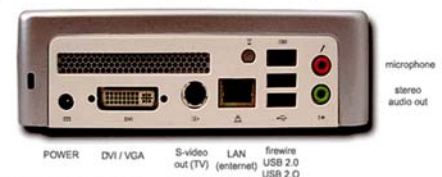
*Continued on page 26*



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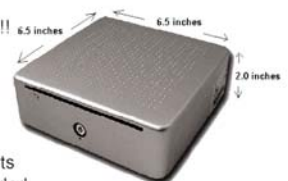


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If your desire is to play Windows files from within QuickTime, there are a couple of utilities that can help you here as well. The FREE DivX for Mac (<http://www.divx.com>) installs a native DivX component on your system. Flip4Mac also has a FREE Windows Media Components for QuickTime program. Thirdly, you can check out Perian Project's FREE Perian (<http://perian.org>), which adds support for many media formats.

Once you have these tools installed, you'll have to make the proper file associations on the Mac so that your system knows which tool to use in opening the files. To do this, select the desired document and bring up the Info window. Choose a host application from the Opens With pop-up menu and click on Change All. At that point, your Mac will open any file with the same format with the selected application.

*Note: The information for this article was found using columns from MacWorld and by researching various vendor sites.*



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## CSS

The Lazy Webmaster

### Susan Ives, Alamo PC

Susan Ives is a former president of Alamo PC. She archives these columns on her Web site, <www.susanives.com/>. If you visit, you can cut-and-paste the code instead of retyping it from the magazine – the ultimate in lazy Webmastering!

**C**ascading Style Sheets, or CSS, are an HTML coding option that allows webmasters to apply display styles to each page of a web site by setting up templates. HTML was invented to structure information, not to make it pretty. The tag <H1>, for example, means the most important headline. It also creates the biggest text. If you use <H1> to make a trivial thing big, you have committed a terrible HTML faux pas. I do it all the time. CSS separates style from structure - its purpose in life to make things pretty.

If you've ever created a Web page using Microsoft Word and then looked at the resulting HTML code, you've seen CSS is all of its complicated glory. I have a book on CSS - indeed I do. It's sitting there on the bookshelf just waiting until I have a free week to memorize it.

But the true beauty of CSS is that it's not an all-or-nothing proposition. You can use the bits of it you want without having to learn the entire package. And that's exactly what I do.

#### Highlighted text

College students use yellow highlighter pens to mark important information in their textbooks. You can do the same thing in HTML using CSS - make text look like it's been run over by a highlighter. This is a two-part process. First, nested in the <HEAD> tag somewhere (I shove all of this stuff in below the <TITLE> tag) enter this code:

```
<style type="text/css"><!--.HL {background: yellow;color: black;} --></style>
```

You can substitute the hex codes for the colors: #ffff00 for the yellow highlight and #000000 for the black text. You can also change these colors to whatever ones you prefer.

When you want to highlight a string of text, you use a modified <FONT> tag: <font class="HL">type text here</font>

To see this in action — and to learn some variations on the code — open this popup window.

#### No underline on links

Here's another trick: get rid of the underlines under your hyperlinks. This is a dangerous move - people expect links to be underlined and may become confused if they are not. However, this might fit your design and is easy to change if it befuddles visitors. Just add this line nested somewhere within the <HEAD></HEAD>tags:

```
<style>a{text-decoration:none}</style>
```

#### Change Scrollbar Colors

This trick has no redeeming value except to astound people. The normal scrollbar is in shades of gray, unless the visitor to your Web page has installed a Windows theme that overrides this default. You can make the scrollbar any color you want. Nest this code within the <HEAD> tag:

```
<STYLE type="text/css">
BODY {scrollbar-3dlight-color:#B8860B;
scrollbar-arrow-color:#000000;
scrollbar-base-color:#F5F5DC;
scrollbar-track-color:#FFFFFF0;
scrollbar-darkshadow-color:#006400;
scrollbar-face-color:#F5F5DC;
scrollbar-highlight-color:#006400;
scrollbar-shadow-color;}
</STYLE>
```

*Continued on page 28*

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You can use either hex codes or color names. The parts of the scrollbar are obscure: the most important are the face color (the rectangle that moves up and down) and the base color (the background track.) Arrow is the little up and down arrows; dark shadow is the far right edge and shadow is the next color in from that. Highlight color is a sliver along the left edge of the scrollbar face.

To see this in action — and view a labeled chart of the parts of the scrollbar — open this popup window.

### Format Text in a Table

I use tables a lot and in a radical departure from my usual lazy ways, I hand code them. A nasty feature of tables is that each element - each `<TD>` tag - has to be formatted separately. You haven't truly suffered until you've typed `<FONT FACE="Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif COLOR="black" SIZE="-1"></FONT>` 100 times. Well, never again. CSS has a shortcut - the `<TBODY>` tag:

```
<tbody align="center" style="font-family:verdana,arial,Helvetica,sans-serif; color:black; background-color:yellow; size:-1">
```

If you want the entire table to be formatted this way, insert the `<tbody>` tag right after the `<table>` tag and insert `</tbody>` at the end just before the `</table>` tag. You can also use `<tbody>` for a row `<TR>` or even a cell `<TD>`. Just include the attributes that you want changed: if you don't want to change the background color, leave off that bit.

### Is This Too Easy?

Yes, this does seem too easy and in one way it is. CSS doesn't work with older browsers - it was fully implemented in ver. 4 of Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer. Things may display oddly in Netscape - always check your coding in that browser. For most of the tricks I've described here, it won't matter. If the scroll bar doesn't change color your whole site won't collapse. Older browsers will just ignore what they don't understand.

CSS is, I suspect, worth learning. With it you can create one style sheet and have your entire Web site feed off of it. It makes your pages load faster and saves your time, especially when you want to revamp the look of your site. One of my goals is to master CSS, but in the meantime, I'll borrow what I need and ignore the rest.

## News Brief

### Take the show on the road



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The Graphics Guy

# Pop-up Nav Menus in Fireworks

**Paul Vaughn, Alamo PC**

Paul Vaughn is a freelance graphic artist, writer and web designer who has yet to object to anything smart. If you would like to see the Graphics Guy address a specific topic, email Paul Vaughn at <paulv@mac.com>.

I use Adobe Photoshop, and its companion program ImageReady, for a lot of different tasks. The combination will do a lot of the retouching, compositing and general Web graphics work I need, but one thing that you can't do easily is to create pop-up menus for a Web site. You know what I'm talking about, those menus that drop down when you mouse over a button on some sites. ImageReady can make the buttons with rollover effects, but drop-down menus are not readily available. For this task I like to turn to a Photoshop competitor, Macromedia Fireworks MX 2004.

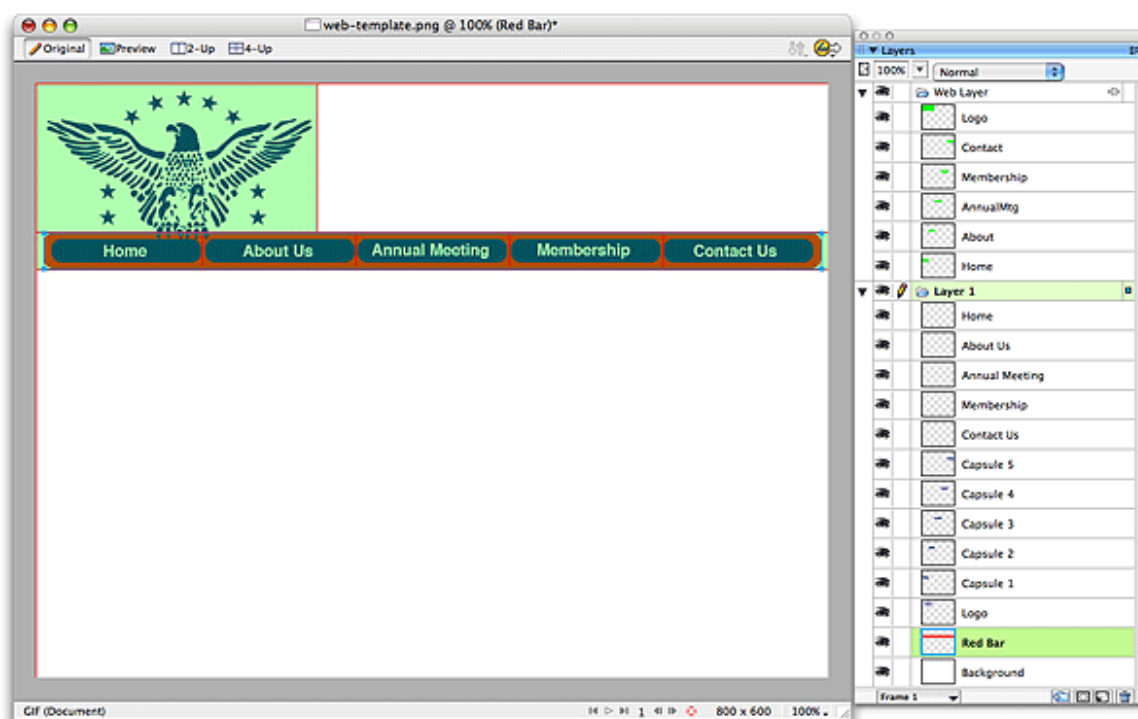
If you use Macromedia's Dreamweaver to create Web pages, you already know what kind of handy tool it is. Fireworks works hand-in-glove with Dreamweaver; Macromedia even bundles them together, with Flash and FreeHand, in their Macromedia Studio MX 2004 suite.

Fireworks is a great program for working with Web graphics. For my example, I created a simple Web page template with a navigation bar in Photoshop. Each button on the bar is a separate layer and I saved the file as a Photoshop PSD file to preserve the layers. You can then open this file in Fireworks, although you will need to thereafter save it in Fireworks' native format, PNG (Portable Network Graphic). The Fireworks PNG file will also preserve the layer information as well as all of the Web-related effects we are about to add.

Now is the time chop up the image into slices. This is a way of subdividing the design to allow different areas to have varying functionality. Just like in Photoshop or ImageReady, you use the Slice tool to box off the individual buttons and the logo. You can make the slice exactly as big as the buttons or they can encompass more of the nav bar. I like to do this to keep from having a lot of little images in an oddly formatted table.

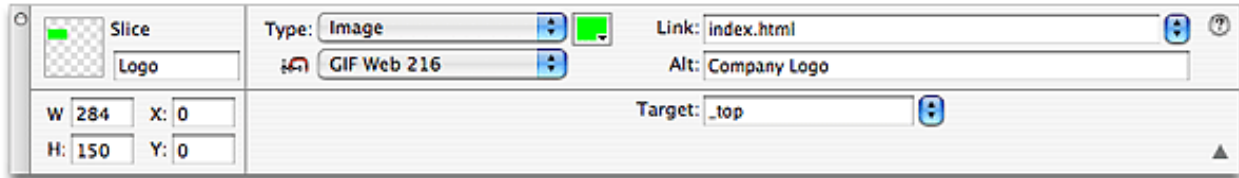
Once you add the slices you will see a green overlay on top of the sliced areas and a new layer for each one under the Web Layer area of the Layers palette (Fig. 1). At this point you can take the time to name each slice layer if you like to be organized about things, but you can leave the default names if you choose. You can now select any of the slices with the pointer tool edit things like link information and alternate text in the Properties palette.

Figure 1





This is where you can name the slice if you did not using the Layers palette, adjust the size of the slice numerically, set the file type and compression options (the pop-up menu next to the C-clamp icon). Here you see the Properties for the logo slice (Fig. 2) which I want to link back to the main page if you click it. In the Link box I typed index.html, but I could also use an absolute address beginning with http and spelling out the full domain name. You should enter some Alt text. This is the text that shows up in the browser if the image is not downloaded or the viewer is on a slow connection. This is also a great place to put some keywords for search engines. The Target field lets you specify an HTML Frame or spawn a new browser window (\_blank). If you don't use frames, you can leave this blank.



Use these same settings for the 'Home' button and then we are ready for the cool part. We are going to add a pop-up menu to the 'About Us' button so that we can have multiple choices listed under the button. Select the 'About Us' slice and then from the menu bar pick Modify > Pop-up Menu > Add Pop-up Menu to get to the Pop-up Menu Editor. There are four tabs in the dialog box for you to fill out.

In the Content tab (Fig. 3), add the Text you want to appear in the menu, the page to which it is to Link and, optionally, the Target. The plus and minus buttons at the top allow you to add or remove menu entries, the icons next to them enable you to indent some menu options. When you have these filled in to your satisfaction, click the Next button to move to the Appearance tab (Fig. 4).

Figure 3

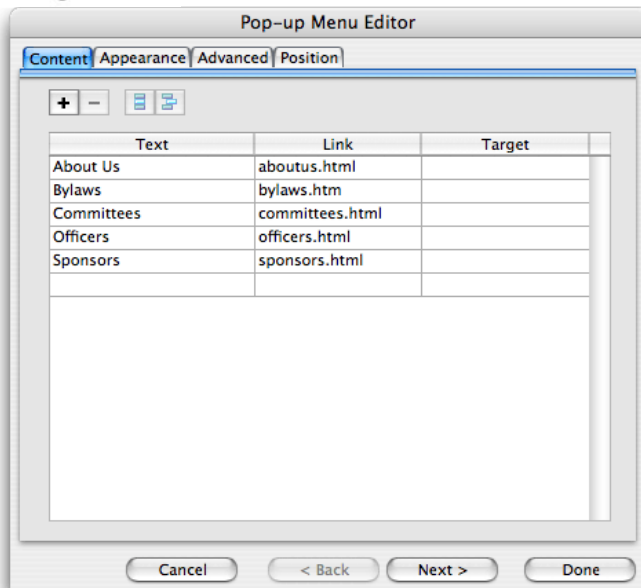
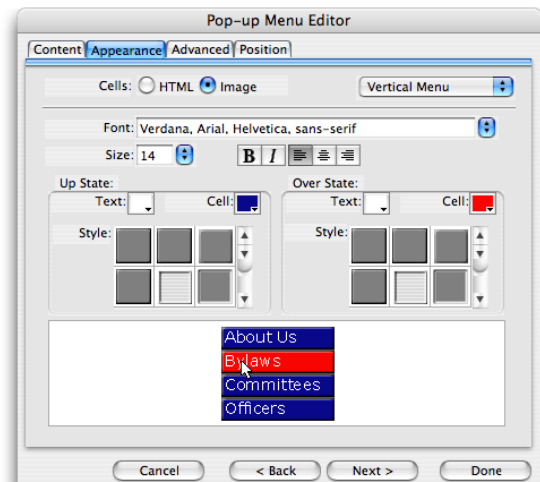


Figure 4



Here you can choose whether you want the menus to be styled using HTML tags or to use an image for the states of the menu. The image option does increase the download time slightly but looks much nicer and lets you apply some nice emboss effects. This area is also where you set the font and size of the menu text as well as the color of the normal and over states. You can also choose whether the menu pops vertically or horizontally. When you are finished, hit Next and move on.

The Advanced tab (Fig. 5) gives you settings for borders, spacing and padding. You can set border colors and widths and a couple of other details. You can leave these settings untouched if you don't want to futz with it.

Figure 5



The last tab is Position (Fig. 6). This governs whether the menu pops down or up, left or right. Click one of the icons and then the Done button. Now when you have the slice selected, you will see an outline of the menu position. You can click this with the pointer tool and move it as needed. I chose to center mine under the button.



Figure 6

Once you have set up each button as needed, you can preview it in your Web browser of choice by selecting File > Preview in Browser (F12) (Fig. 7). When you are satisfied with your work, go back to Fireworks and export the page as HTML by choosing Export from the File menu. In the Export box, select Save As HTML and Images and the other options as shown (Fig. 8).

While Adobe Photoshop is the best program for a lot of Web work, gems like Macromedia Fireworks MX 2004 offer useful features missing from Adobe's programs. If you are interested in Macromedia Fireworks, download the 30-day demo from Macromedia's Web site ([www.macromedia.com](http://www.macromedia.com)). Look for the Free Trials section of the site and click on Studio MX 2004.



Figure 7

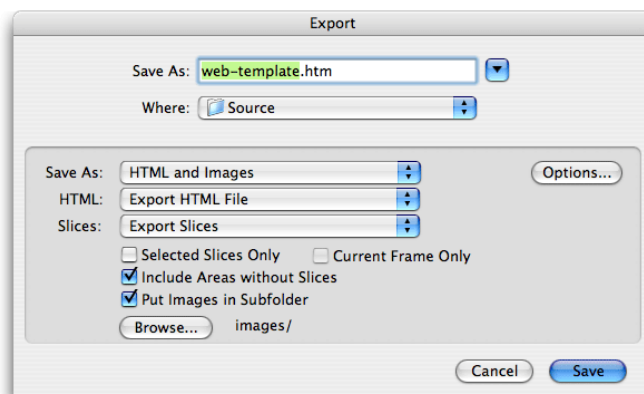


Figure 8

Ron is a member of Space Coast PC Users Group. Instructions in this column were created on a Windows 98 system. E-mail Ron at <ringram728@earthlink.net>

skipped over some areas which may be of equal value to you.

The first option in the Task Launcher, a portion of which is seen at the left, is E-mail and Internet. In the right column you can see the list of things you can do on the Web. Clicking on any of these while connected to the Internet will open the related program. For example, clicking on the first option, Address finder, and then Start this task, opens the MSN Maps and Directions Program. You see there are three tabs from



which to select. If you have a source from which to paste an address, use that tab. Otherwise, just type the





desired address into the space provided on the first tab. I typed in a hotel address in Houston where my son hid out from Rita. Very quickly the map appeared, pin-pointing the location as just west of I-610 and the Galleria. Of course, being a Microsoft program, you are also offered (for a fee) a more extensive program, Streets and Trips 2005 with GPS locator.

As with Map Quest you may request driving directions. These are usually good enough that you can dispense with the maps and just follow the directions.

The third tab, Find a Place, allows you to locate a place in Australia, Brazil, Europe, in a World atlas, or North America, the default.

Business Finder Works in the same way as Address finder.



#### Car rental on the Web

Use this handy wizard to reserve a car. Choose your pick-up and drop-off points, rental dates, car size, and accessories, and request special rates.

 [Start this task](#)

Car Rental on the Web takes you to Expedia.com with a complete selection of choices as seen in the graphic above. Expedia also provides the next service, Currency Conversion. Pick any currency of interest, convert to or from American dollars.

Concerned about your growing debt situation? Money Central.msn.com will help you find out how much you're paying each month and whether your ratio of debt to income is acceptable or too high.



#### Encarta Online, search on the Web

Get quick, easy access to information on a fascinating variety of topics. Search more than 16,000 articles and links to World Wide Web resources.

 [Start this task](#)

Need some quick facts? Don't have your encyclopedia handy? Just click on this option to have immediate access to the MSN Encarta encyclopedia online. Type anything you wish in the search box. If Encarta doesn't find what you're looking for internally, it will suggest other pertinent sites.

Getting into Genealogy? Beginner or old hand, the MSN Groups site is worth a look. There is a listing of 3336 groups, from all over the world. One nifty feature is the option to change the display language. I haven't quite figured out how it works, but gather that some

groups are displayed in their native language. You may be able to change that display to English.



#### Family history on the Web

Discover facts about your ancestry, get genealogy advice, and chat with other researchers.

 [Start this task](#)

Mixed in among the 44 or so choices here you can find links to your email client or web browser. I must say that it did a much better job going to Outlook Express than to Mozilla Thunderbird, even though both choices are offered. Perhaps if I had fewer messages stored in my inbox it would have worked better. It quit on June 17th with a total of 1148 messages. I know, I should clean it out more often!

It's difficult to describe all of the options available to you from just this one list. In addition to the few I've mentioned, you can check on financial things, such as Rent or Buy Analysis, Vehicle Payment Calculators, various Stock Market sites, Tuition Savings Calculators, and a Retirement Expense Calculator.

One that I found of particular interest is the Place finder on the Web (World Wide).



#### Place finder on the Web (World Wide)

Find any place anywhere in the world. Just enter a geographic name or point of interest to get a map.

 [Start this task](#)

MSN Maps, you may type in the name of any place in the world, and they will pop up a map. I have a cousin who lives in northeastern England. I knew the name of the town was Middlesbrough. I typed in that alone and immediately had a detailed map of the vicinity. This could be of great value to genealogists when seeking an accurate location of your ancestral roots.

Those of you who are into digital photography can find a number of useful sites, whether you're looking for picture frames, photo gifts (such as T-shirts with personalized photos on them), photo greeting cards, or tips on improving your skills.

As always, the best way to learn these things is to jump in and give them a try. I've only scratched the surface on this one small area included in your Works program. We'll keep looking at it in future articles. I hope I'm not boring you with too much detail, but believe many of you find this approach helpful.

# Dumb Things to Avoid While Using Your Computer

*by Vinny La Bash, a member and regular columnist of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc., Florida, vlabash@comcast.net, www.spcug.org*

To paraphrase a recent TV commercial, we all do dumb things, but doing them with your computer doesn't have to be one of them. Most of us know that our computers work better when they are plugged into an active electrical outlet, but ask any service technician how many times he or she has encountered that situation, and you may be surprised at the answer. Every one of us, no matter how experienced, has done at least one dumb thing with our computers. Maybe you pressed a wrong combination of keys and changed a setting you didn't mean to disturb. Maybe nothing much happened or you ended up crashing your system.

Whatever does or doesn't happen, paying attention to what you're doing combined with a dash of forethought can prevent most dumb mistakes. David Letterman has his top ten lists. I offer my top six. My list will do little to entertain you, but it will help you to be smarter about using your system.

**Dumb Computer Mistake # 6:** Failing to install or keep your anti-virus and anti-spyware programs up-to-date.

Some people think that keeping these programs current is too much trouble. Others quibble because sometimes they have to disable their anti-virus program to install another application. Don't be misguided. Viruses and spyware can gum up your system to a point where your machine can be rendered useless and inoperable. You could be a victim of fraud or risk turning your machine into a "zombie" where a third party can use your computer for criminal activities. Innocent people have been arrested and charged with downloading child pornography. They had no idea that their machines were compromised for illegal purposes, yet they found themselves in deep trouble.

**Dumb Computer Mistake # 5:** Indiscriminately installing freeware and shareware you find on the internet.

If you are guilty of this it's only a matter of time before you get infected with a piece of sloppily written software that will cause your system to behave erratically or crash. If you follow dumb with dumber by installing pirated software, don't ask me for help.

**Dumb Computer Mistake # 4:** Share your files and peripherals with the immediate world.

Turn off file and printer sharing. Unless you do this you could open your computer to access by using a public wireless hotspot with your laptop. Even if you don't use a laptop be aware that Windows, by default, has administrative sharing for the root of each drive. You can turn this feature off in the Systems Administration portion of the Control Panel.

**Dumb Computer Mistake # 3:** Browse through the internet without a firewall.

People new to computers are most likely to make this mistake. They tend to be entirely unaware that they need a firewall because nobody told them what a firewall is or why they need one. This lack of knowledge exposes them to every virus, worm or malicious hacker in the computer universe. Fortunately, this exposure can be easily corrected. Many modems and routers have built-in firewall protection. Personal firewalls can easily be downloaded from the web. Go to [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com) and download one of the best all around network security programs in existence. The best part is that this excellent program is free to the general public.

**Dumb Computer Mistake # 2:** Picking weak passwords.

Every hacker in the known universe understands that many people use their children's or grandchildren's name as a password. Cracking that kind of security is as easy as breathing. Don't use a family member's birthday or social security number as a password either. It's the kind of information that is all too easy to obtain. Don't create passwords from a dictionary. Hackers have programs which automatically compare passwords against dictionary entries.

Passwords should be at least 8 characters long, and be a combination of upper and lower case characters and numbers. The common objection is that they are hard to remember. That also makes them hard to crack. Create a phrase that you can easily remember and use the first letter of each word along with logical numbers. For example, "Our vacation in Jamaica begins on the fifth day of August" becomes OviJbot5do8. A password like that is impossible to guess and is not found in any dictionary.

**Dumb Computer Mistake # 1:** Never backing up your data or system files.

Even if you never do any other dumb thing while computing, failure to back up your data can negate everything else if you lose important information. There are too many things that can go wrong for you not to be backing up your data. Hard disk crashes, fire or water damage, tornados, hurricanes, magnetic interference, and theft are just a few of the many things that can damage or destroy data. Backing up data can be time consuming and inconvenient, but losing your data could be catastrophic.

There are many strategies you can use to protect your data, but any strategy is better than none. Don't think that merely copying your data files to an external disk constitutes backing up. Make copies of your essential data to three CDs or three sets of CDs. Keep one set at home, but in a different room than where the computer is housed. Keep another set at the office if you work for a living. If you're retired ask a friend to keep a set for you. Do the same for your friend. The third set of disks should be kept in a secure place like a safe deposit box.



# Writing Inside and Out

*Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group*

I have a comfy spot on both sides of the fence. I get the pleasure of writing for a magazine that's big enough for me not to worry that I'll say something dumb. PC World provide tons of background support—first, second, and technical editors, copy editors, fact checkers, and even attorneys.

At the other end of the spectrum are user group newsletters. Writing in PIBMUG is more freewheeling. I can write about any topic, something that strikes me on the spur of the moment. (PCW wants a four month stack of story topics.) And unlike PC World, I don't have anyone watching my language, fretting over (and often removing) my voice, and roping me into a set amount of space. PC World's Home Office column is roughly 650 words, less the "Where to Buy," the spot where I supply details so the reader can get in touch with the companies I write about.

The 650 limit is a killer. If you do any writing, you know it's more difficult to write short, especially if you have to cram in humor, content, product justification and examples, one or two links, and the essential takeaway. The rule—and you'll see this in practically all computing magazines—is giving the reader something to do after finishing the column. I got lucky when they asked me to do the Home Office online version.

All the leftover material from the print edition—and there's always plenty—found a new home.

One other thing you might take for granted in a user group newsletter is the size of the article. When I put the Prompt together, I choose from countless articles, worrying about content but not size. For instance, you'll find "The Plain Truth about Casual Software Piracy" on page six. It's long but compelling reading, and something you'd never see in a commercial magazine.

Many of you don't enjoy writing, yet need to do it for work. So I thought I'd supply a few tips, things that will help make you sound better in letters, e-mail, and reports. (BTW, you're right—this is the takeaway...)

- Talk into print: When I write, I try to take what I imagine I'd say to you and put it into words. I do it by quickly typing what I think, trying not to filter anything. (Filtering—or editing—comes later when I look over what I wrote.)

- Write like you talk: You've probably noticed that I use lots of contractions—for instance, you'll, we've, let's. It's pretty casual and the way I speak. My guess is many of you do the same. I can visualize Joe Bohannon saying, "well, sure, but I'm not going to do that." And that's the point—that's exactly how he sounds and it'd sound ideal in print. Get the idea?

- Write short sentences. I think readers have an easier time digesting short chunks of info. They'll also be more inclined to read—and understand—what you say. If you can't do it, write longer sentences and later, when you review your work, divide the long sentences into two or three short ones.

- Write short paragraphs: They're the toughest thing for me to plow through. One trick is to stop every five, six, or seven sentences, take a breath, and start another paragraph.

- Be active: For the longest time I couldn't figure out passive from active voice. Once I had it, writing became easier. If no one's taking responsibility, it's passive. "Mistakes were made" is passive. "We all made a few mistakes," is an active voice. It's almost impossible to write in the passive voice if you follow the next bullet.

- Stay first: I write from the first person. It's always my viewpoint (yeah, I know, it's always about me). And that's the tone you oughta consider using. The reason is I can visualize you when I write and you can see me while you're reading.

## The Doctor is In



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# The Phenomenon of Facebook - Part II

## Facebook and the college student

By **Courtney Jewett**, a senior English major at Baylor University, who is pursuing a career in journalism.

**T**oday's college student is as familiar with Facebook as they are to Starbucks coffee, Grey's Anatomy, and the rising cost of tuition.

Students, who comprise the majority of Facebookers, are obsessing over the popular social networking site. Luckily, the endless hours spent on the site are proving to be well-invested.

Anson Jablinski, a sophomore at Baylor University, believes Facebook is extremely useful as a "place to keep track of friends as they spread out and attend various colleges." After keeping a tally of how often he logs on to the site, Anson realized he visits it about 16 times a day.

*Continued on page 37*

# facebook

Another Baylor sophomore, Elizabeth Lawrence admits that she lives on Facebook. “I check it practically every thirty minutes to every hour that I am on the computer, which is nine hours a day,” said Elizabeth. She considers Facebook part of her daily routine.

Like many students, Anson and Elizabeth check the ‘News Feed’ portion of Facebook, which updates them of changes made to their friends’ profiles. This feature allows users to stay informed in the lives of their Facebook friends.

While visiting the site many times a day may seem obsessive, being an active member of Facebook has its benefits.

It’s an excellent resource, as users can provide their contact information such as cell phone number, address, personal websites, e-mail, and hometown for their Facebook friends to see.

Students can use the site as a tool to connect with classmates, form study groups, or ask questions about coursework. Facebook provides ultimate connectivity, free of charge and available wherever one can find Internet connectivity.

Baylor Junior, Helena Sung, appreciates the social benefits of being a member of the networking site. “The ‘About Me’ section gives you some insight into what kind of person he/she is,” says Helena, “if you want to get to know someone better and have a better relationship with others, Facebook can be the start of connection.”

Student artists, writers, and musicians often use the site to showcase their talent. They can easily inform their friends about upcoming events, and ask for feedback on their work.

Users can add extra ‘Applications’ to their profile that are simply for fun and entertainment. For instance, students will send virtual gifts to their friends, or can buy a virtual drink for someone using the Happy Hour Application. Petlovers can even create profiles for their animals through the Dogbook/Catbook Applications. With all of the available applications, Facebook offers a great temporary escape from the stress of school.

In college, balancing one’s social life with one’s academics can be tricky, and certainly, this social networking site has the potential to add further complications. However, if students are able to reasonably limit their usage of Facebook, they can benefit from its advantages without allowing it to distract from their studies.



# Backing up a computer - Cloning vs Imaging

By Al Edmister, a member of the Napa Valley PCUG, California,  
[www.nvpcug.org](http://www.nvpcug.org), [AeinNapa@aol.com](mailto:AeinNapa@aol.com)

Backing up your computer has always been an important and some times confusing subject. As most people know by now backing up on the same HD only helps when the main file gets corrupted which really doesn't happen very often. It is of no help when an HD fails. I've had two fail. The first failure was soon after I bought the machine; the HD was defective. The manufacturer replaced it and, luckily, files could be copied. But all programs had to be reinstalled. The second time the HD motor quit. That was hard to find; HD motors are really quiet and who would think to put ones head into the box to listen. Anyway all was lost. Well, not all, because I had started keeping all my files backed up on a second internal HD so I had everything but an OS and programs. I bought a new HD and installed an OS and programs again then copied back my files. Very time consuming. There had to be a better way should failure happen again.



At one time I thought CD-RWs & 'READ ONLY disks would be the answer. In fact, I'm using this method with another computer which doesn't get much action or have big files. And it doesn't have space for a 2nd HD. To clinch it the UBS is a 1 which makes for slow transfers of big files. But, with not many transfers, no music or games, to make, a CD-RW system works fine for us as we only need to up date them occasionally and we keep photos on a remote computer and read only disks anyway.

*Continued on page 39*



I heard about RAID and found out that it requires a card on the mother board and two (2) or more HDs depending on the array. RAID has multiple HDs all running containing the same every thing; if one drive fails then, without shutting down, you remove & replace it with a clean drive and RAID recreates from the remaining drives. No downtime is the key advantage here. It can get expensive.

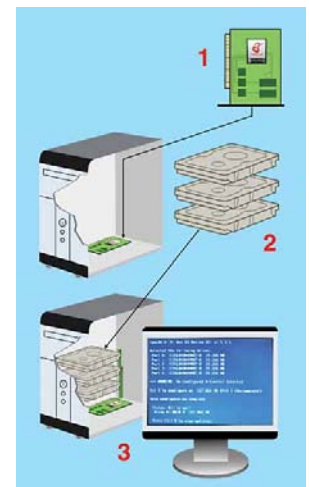
There are all kinds of RAID arrays. One of them is with 2 HDs & is called “striping” where info is written alternately to the disks. Makes for much faster read & write & is really helpful when doing videos.

I also heard about Zip drives. Never used them but I think they came into use before there was UB 2 and before large HDs. A Zip drive is removable and contains compressed files. It is handy not only for same computer back up and additional storage but as a system to transfer files from one computer to another. But you can’t get a ‘full’ back up.

That’s when I heard about cloning and imaging. Cloning of an HD vs Imaging it had not been settled, at least not for me, until recently. The following may not be everybody’s take but it works for me. Cloning is making an exact, complete, bootable copy; imaging is making a compressed bootable copy where the files are compressed versions of the original in a dedicated file format. It can then be used to create a working duplicate of the original on a blank HD disk. The clone or image can be externally USB connected or internal. A clone takes up less space on a disk than the original as does an image but more space is need for an image, at least when using True Image ! ver. 10.0 by Acronis (<http://www.acronis.com/>), because each time you do a back up it is what they call an incremental back up or a ‘slice’ and needs it own space. Programs like True Image can keep you automatically up dated on a scheduled basis or you can do an update when you feel it’s necessary and you have the time. Working on imaged files might be possible but I have no idea how. They are “just there” for use in recreating an HD.

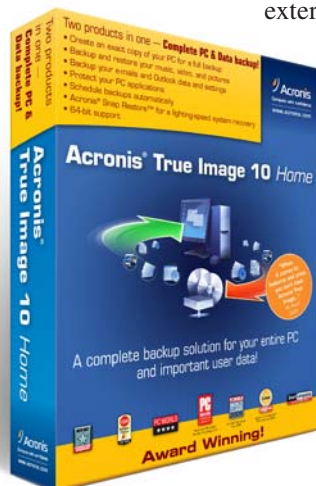
But I wanted a duplicate, bootable HD running as a D drive in case my C drive fails. That is, I want a clone of my HD not an image. I already had and keep via “save as” all my files on my D drive. I mean all! But, I did not have the OS or programs on it. Also, I wanted to switch D & C as disk now in D is bigger and better suited to be in the C position where I can put large temporary files. I have no need of partitioning, so neither drive is partitioned.

I tried Casper XP by Future Systems Solutions (<http://www.fssdev.com/>), a really good cloning program. Unfortunately for me, there is a conflict with the way Casper works & something in my computer that prevents it from functioning completely. This very likely is an isolated problem; but still, even with Casper’s built in history & status utilities I, & their tech, could not find it. I was impressed with their tech guy. I got prompt answers and personal help. He even called me the first morning after I had emailed a help request and I have his direct line number. Emailing the self-generated reports was easy and we were able to remove some old W98 fragments. But the conflict remained. We gave up. I gave my copy of Casper to Diane Prior.



**RAID** - A collection of hard disk drives that offers increased performance and fault tolerance.

I then went to True Image 10.0, which, at first I thought only did imaging. I gave it a try imaging my C drive to an external USB connected H drive. That took seven hours and I have yet to figure out the restore process works because their restore page doesn’t use the terms “source” & destination” but something obscure to me. Anyway I have an image on a removable drive ready if I should need it.



Note: In addition to the three products I used were Casper XP, Maxtor & the one by Acronis, but you can find several additional back up products by doing a GOOGLE search for backup programs. Among the 10,000,000+ entries on the words backup programs, I was reminded that Windows Backup System (part of XP) and Norton Ghost are both backup program available.

For the next part, I wanted a cloned back up running as a second HD as I intend to keep using “save as” as I go along rather than wait for a scheduled time. My work is important to me and even losing a few minutes of effort is not acceptable. I also wanted a bootable 2nd HD fully backed up (OS, all programs, settings as well as files) in case my C drive failed. Tucked away in True Image 10.0 is a button to go to clone, any disk to any disk. True Image 10.0 did the job and in less than an hour I had moved over 30 GB of OS, programs and files to a bootable drive.

I opened up my computer case; switched C & D and turned on the power. The cloned drive (old D) came up as if it were always there as a C drive. Everything was exactly as I had left it even the partially filled Recycle Bin. Great, now for checking out the drive in D, which now held my old C drive. No drive could be found. It just wasn’t there. I opened the computer & checked the connections & pinning; they were fine. I then went to [www.techguy.com](http://www.techguy.com) with the problem. Back came a reply to go to disk manager and send a screen shot. While there I saw that the drive had not been assigned a letter. Which I thought XP did automatically. I entered the letter D and went back to see what had happened. I was in business. All drives function as intended. I was as happy as a mosquito in a blood bank.

The future might be in flash drives already available as thumb or flash gizmos. They are getting bigger, over 2GB ones are available, and are great for transferring files. Hang one around your neck on a lanyard or just stick one in your pocket, these drives are smaller than a disposable cigarette lighter, so they travel well. No moving parts is a huge advantage as there's no mechanism to fail. Internal HDs might eventually be made similar to flash type drives. But before this can happen, they will have to be over 200GB to take the market.

There is a new wrinkle to cloning an HD that I just discovered and used. My 'new' computer, while a definite upgrade in speed, has space for only one HD which was an 80GB. That is actually big enough for my purposes but I wanted a second bootable HD for back up even though I'll have to run it as an external drive in a USB port. Therefore, recently I bought a 160GB Maxtor drive.

It came with the usual installation disk, but it included a feature I wasn't aware of until opening it. I put the drive into my external drive holder, plugged everything in and began with the configuration, then the disk copy. Forty minutes later, I had a cloned disk which I then put in my computer pinned as master and I am up and running again. This time it is on a 160GB (120GB available) and I have the old 80GB HD as a bootable HD in the external case as back up.



## News Brief

### Handy Keyboard Shortcuts

#### Windows key-M

Minimizes all Windows (good for when the boss walks into your cubicle).

#### Shift-F4

Automatically repeats the previous Find command in Microsoft Word.

#### Windows key-Break

Displays the Systems Properties dialog box.

#### Windows key-U-U

Turns off a Windows PC. The trick is to not hold down the Windows key; just tap it.

#### Ctrl-left mouse click

Opens a new tab in Firefox and IE7.

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# Back-Ups Made Easy

## A new solution for an old problem

By Carey Holzman, Co-host: [www.computeramerica.com](http://www.computeramerica.com),  
[www.careyholzman.com](http://www.careyholzman.com), [Carey@ComputerAmerica.com](mailto:Carey@ComputerAmerica.com)

**B**y now you're probably well aware of the importance of making copies of your valuable data (referred to as 'backing-up'). You've probably read numerous articles about ways to back-up your data and prevent disaster. The problem is, most advice offered on this subject is not truly complete and many of the 'solutions' offered are expensive and time consuming.

There are numerous ways you can lose your data in spite of backing-up regularly. How you back-up, what you back-up, when you back-up and where you store your back-up are just a few important variables that come into play on that miserable day that you require it.

Still, that's better than eight out of ten customers that approach me for PC repairs who do not have any kind of back-up. After all, any form of back-up is better than no back-up...but just barely.

First it's important that you understand the existing problems with the back-ups most people create.

1) External hard drives: There are many problems with backing up your important data to an external hard drive. Since most people keep their external hard drives next to, or in the same building, as their computer, any fire or flood will render both the PC and back-up useless. Also, if you are a victim of theft, the crook now has all of your data, and it's probably not encrypted or protected in any way on your PC or your back-up device. Since your back-up device is also a hard disk drive, there is a good possibility that it will fail and need to be replaced. Ironical since that is what you are protecting your data from. If you always leave your external hard drive hooked up to your PC for automated back-ups, then it is prone to viruses and other malware that may cause the loss of data that you are attempting to protect yourself from! Then there's the high cost of around \$150 for these devices.

2) Internal hard drives/RAID: Some people have a secondary hard drive or partition in their computer and simply back-up from one disk to the other. Here again, viruses and malware will render both drives useless at the same time. Fires, floods and thefts also leave you with no back-up source. This back-up is only useful if your internal hard drive fails. But as you can already see, hard drive failure is not the sole cause of data loss. Also, a RAID MIRROR (where one drive constantly mirrors what the other drive is doing) will not help if you accidentally delete a file. The RAID MIRROR will simultaneously delete that file at the same time.

3) Drive images: Some people believe an image or 'clone' of their entire hard drive onto an external drive or DVD is a good back-up, but it's not. If your computer has a serious component failure, such as a motherboard, or if your computer is stolen or lost in a fire or flood, you'll have to replace it. Once you restore your drive image, your new motherboard will most likely require different hardware drivers and Windows will most likely not start. All you'll get is the Blue Screen of Death. Sure, your data is theoretically fine and well, it's just too bad you can't get to it. Because full images copy everything on your hard disk, they tend to be very time consuming and, as a result, are not done often enough to be current.

4) Flash Drives: Flash drives are more reliable than CDs, DVDs or external/internal hard drives, but they are very slow and very limited. Flash drives are also prone to theft and being misplaced. Most people do not encrypt their data and, as a result, may have inadvertently just given some stranger all of their personal data simply because the flash drive fell out of their pocket somewhere or they can't remember where they left it.

5) Tape drives: Seriously? Does any consumer still use tape? Next to the floppy drive, it's the most unreliable way to back-up data and tape drives require a special reader and software to restore the data. In case of data loss, just get your back-up tape, reinstall Windows, reinstall your tape back-up device, reinstall your tape back-up software and then you can start to restore your data. That is, the data not damaged on the tape.

*Continued on page 42*



## What's Left?

Why will you need a back-up? What will happen? Will your hard drive fail? Will your PC be stolen or will your PC just stop working one day? Will you be involved in a theft? An earthquake? A fire? A hurricane? A flood?

We can't answer those questions without a time machine, but we do know that even in the best of circumstances, all hard drives eventually fail. It's not a question of "IF" but a question of "WHEN?"

If you only have one hard drive, then you only have one hard drive that can fail. Backing-up your data to another drive doubles your chances of experiencing a hard drive failure in addition to not guaranteeing your data will be there when you need it for the reasons listed above.

We also know that most data is irreplaceable. Whether it's a database of your customers, your personal finance, photos from your vacations or of family and friends, your music collection, your email, favorites and address book, once it's gone, it's gone.

Hard drive data extraction services can help recover data from a failed hard drive and even hard drives damaged by flood or fire. Expect to spend \$800 - \$2500 and expect to wait from two to four weeks with no guarantee which or how much data can be recovered.

## Say Hello To My Little Friend!

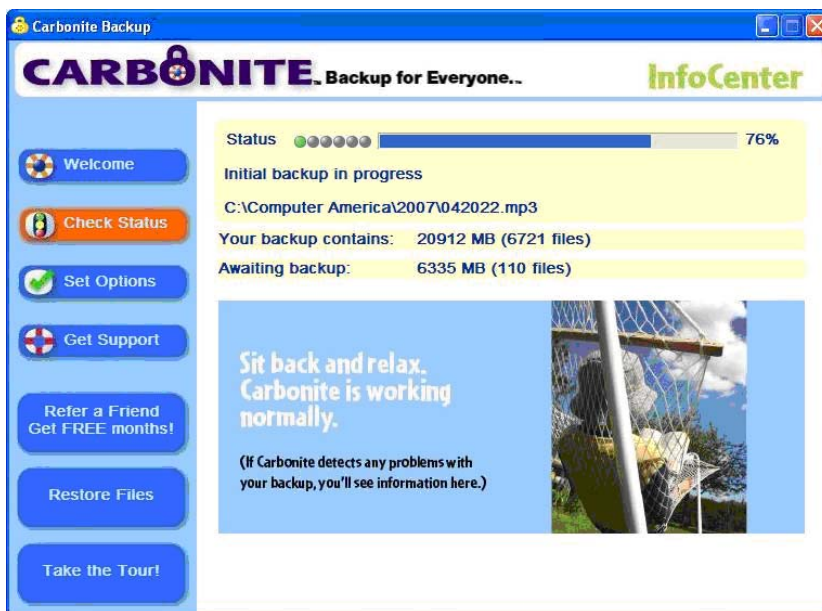
I wear a lot of hats as a computer talk show host, author, instructor, technician and business owner. I like to think that being a consumer advocate is a hat that firmly sits upon all the others. If you're familiar with any of my work, then you're well aware of my passion for free and helpful software and services. However, very rarely a product comes along that is not free, but is still such a bargain I am compelled to write about it.

Allow me to introduce you Carbonite.com. Carbonite is a small, downloadable application for Windows XP and Vista (Mac version coming soon) that uses your high-speed Internet connection to automatically upload your selected data securely, off-site and in background.

For \$49.95 a year, Carbonite offers UNLIMITED storage space. That's right, you can store as much data as you want. Installation is quick and easy. Carbonite's online backup service starts automatically and works quietly and continuously in the background while your computer is on and connected to the Internet.. If you've accidentally erased something, don't worry; you can restore deleted files with just a few clicks on your PC. If your PC crashes, just visit their website to recover your lost files.

Your data is stored safely - No one can see your data but you because your files are encrypted twice before they leave your computer using a combination of encryption techniques similar to those used by online banks and financial institutions.

*Continued on page 43*



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Carbonite online back-up software is always looking for new or recently changed files on your PC. The moment you add or modify files, Carbonite swings into action. Whenever your PC is connected to the Internet (at home, the office, a hotel or airport, etc...) Carbonite automatically and continually backs-up all your files (but not system files or applications by default.). And it will never slow down your PC or Internet connection.

Once you install Carbonite, simply tell it what you want backed-up and you never have to think about it again. Set it and forget it. It's not loaded with tons of bells, whistles and features because it's designed to be simple and do just one very important thing: keep your data safe.

Carbonite offers a free 15-day trial and no credit card is required to take advantage of the free offer. As if that wasn't enough, I have a secret for you: Use the code word "AMERICA" and your 15-day free trial is extended to 30 days! If you choose to purchase a year of Carbonite service, the code word will also extend your subscription an additional two months at no additional charge!

### Is This A Paid Advertisement?

Whenever I get passionate about a product that is free, no one asks me if I am being paid to promote it. I see customers everyday who lose data due to unforeseen circumstances and lack of a proper back-up. I like Carbonite.com and I use it myself. In fact, it's running and backing-up my data, securely and off-site, as I type this! I like this product so much, I've asked the folks at Carbonite to sponsor my radio show and to offer our listeners and readers a discount to help encourage proper, secure, automated, off-site back-ups.

Skeptical? Try it for yourself, free for 30-days! Read more about how Carbonite works here.

Most people with high-speed Internet connections barely use them. Since your Internet Service Provider is charging you the same, regardless of how much or how often you use it, why not take advantage of that and utilize your unused bandwidth for backing-up your valuable data?

I welcome your comments and feedback concerning back-ups and this article.

*Carey Holzman is the co-host of the nation's longest running, nationally syndicated radio talk show on computers, Computer America. Computer America airs Monday through Friday, 7pm to 9pm Pacific time, 10pm to midnight Eastern. To find a station near you or listen online, visit <http://www.computeramerica.com>*

*Carey is also the author of The Healthy PC, published by McGraw-Hill and is a freelance writer for numerous web-sites and computer-related publications.*

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By Jim Sanders, Editor, The Orange Bytes, North Orange County Computer Club, California, [www.noccc.org](http://www.noccc.org), [jsanders-that-ligasmicro.com](mailto:jsanders-that-ligasmicro.com)

Cheap (Sleeve Bearing) fans die young. Bet on it. The cheaper the system, power supply, cooler, etc., the cheaper the fan. A cheap ball bearing fan may be just as bad. When you hear that sleeve bearing fan (or a ball bearing fan for that matter) rattle, notice a fan is barely turning, or not turning at all, fix it!

As shown in photo #1 of a fan out of a power supply, get the fan out where you can work on it. On the side where the wires go into the middle, carefully peel back the label/sticker that covers the shaft area.

*Continued on page 45*





The round item in the middle of the sticker in photo #2 is a metal hole plug. The better fans have a rubber plug that seals well and is almost invisible at times. The really cheap fans don't have a plug over the shaft area. If the fan still turns without much effort, just oiling it may make it well again.

Apply a few drops of a good light machine oil such as, 3in1, Singer sewing machine, even ATF, but not the 30wt for your car engine, in the shaft hole. Sewing machine oil works well. Be careful not to get any oil on the surface where the label/sticker needs to be re-applied. This has to be put back in place to cover the opening and keep the oil in place.

If you get oil on the fan surface, it can be removed with acetone or MEK. If the label gets wrecked, I have found that on a clean surface a piece of black electrical tape works well. If you don't have a good applicator, see photo #3, use a toothpick.

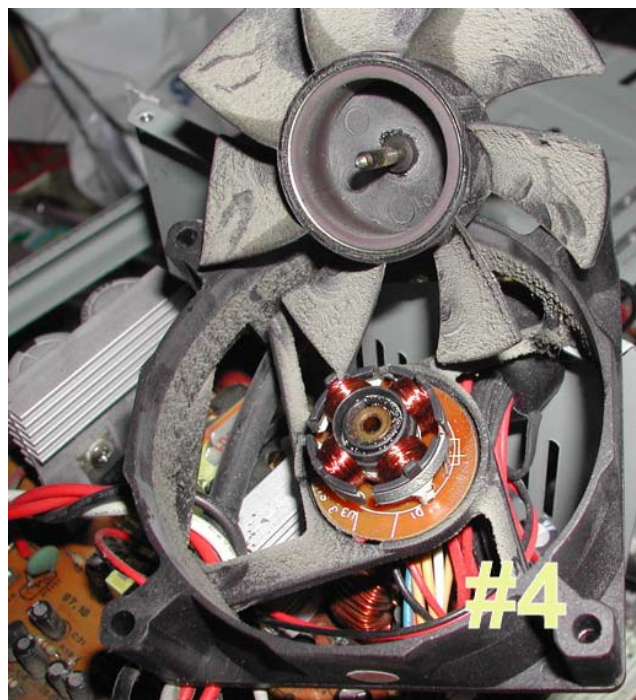
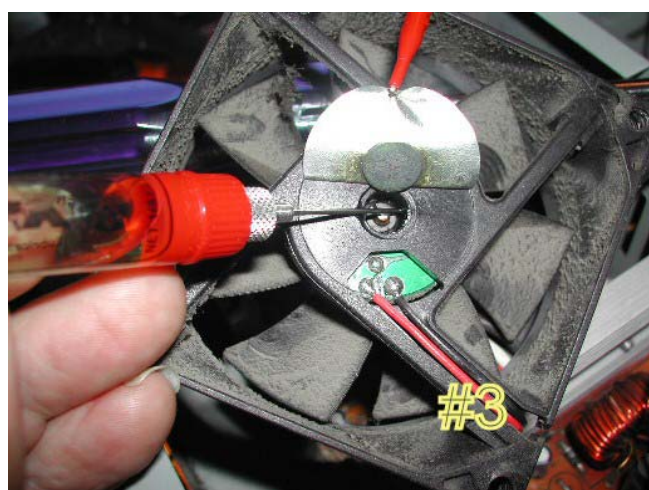
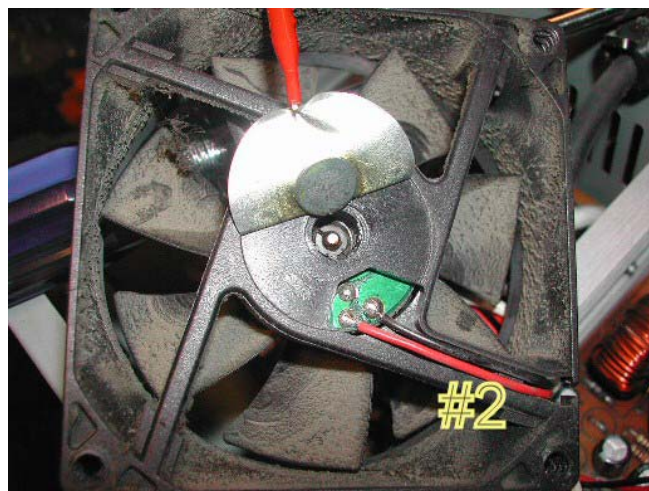
Spin the fan some to work the oil onto the shaft. Re-assemble and you are likely to have a fan that quietly moves air again. If the fan is so gummed up that it is hard to move the blades, you will need to remove the retaining ring (C-ring) on the shaft.

This allows the shaft to be pulled out of the bearing, see photo #4, so that both can be cleaned with a good strong solvent before oiling. I like the effectiveness of Methyl Ethyl Ketone or MEK. A pipe cleaner works well for cleaning the inside of the bearing, especially on the smaller fans.

Arguably, this is more work than it is worth, but it is not always easy to find a replacement fan.

The video card fans and the motherboard chipset fans can be near impossible to locate. Even if you find a replacement fan, oiling the fan before putting it into service maybe a good idea as manufacturers seem to be chintzy about the amount of oil in new fans.

PS - Clean the crud off the fan before you replace it. In fact, if you have access to an air compressor regulated at about 90 PSI, it is a great idea to take a blow gun attachment on the end of an air hose and blow out the entire system keeping the tip about six inches away from parts. The little duster cans are better than nothing, but really don't have the horse power to do a good job.





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# What is PCI Express?

By **Brian K. Lewis**, PhD, Regular Columnist, The Sarasota PC Monitor,  
Sarasota PCUG, Florida, [www.spcug.org](http://www.spcug.org), [bwsail@yahoo.com](mailto:bwsail@yahoo.com)

Let's start this off with an explanation of PCI (Peripheral Component Interconnect). These are the slots in the motherboard of your computer used for connecting peripheral devices directly to computer bus. Now you're asking what is the computer bus? Essentially, the bus is the electrical means for a peripheral device to connect to the computer's chipset. The chipset is the interconnection between the peripherals, the main processor and system memory. (Got all that?)

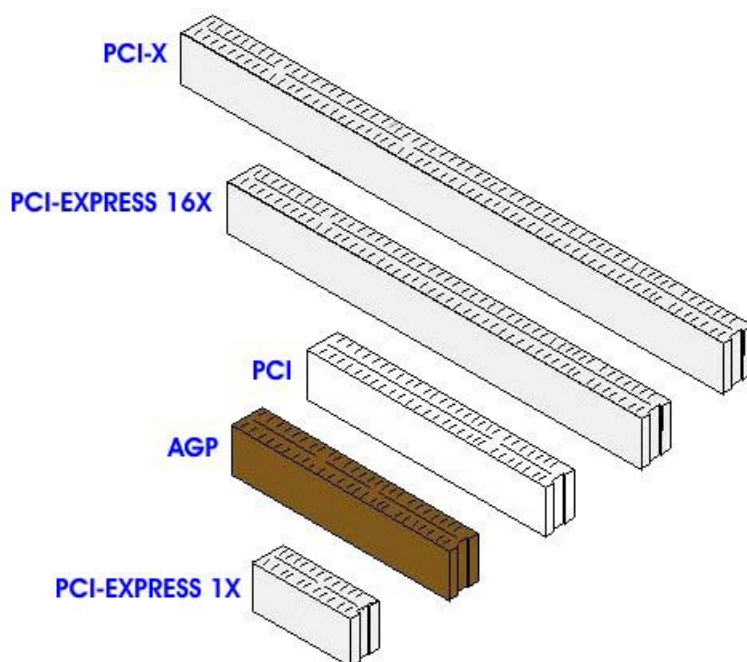
The original PCI bus released in 1992 had a maximum communication rate of 33 MHz. This allows data transmission at a maximum rate of 133 megabytes per second (MB/sec.). The bus is used by such things as the sound system, video card, network adapters, parallel and serial ports.

In the PCI system all data are transmitted in parallel. In parallel transmission many "wires" or connections are required for each PCI slot or integrated device. For example, if you have a 32 bit data transmission path from the PCI slot to the chipset, this requires 32 connecting wires just for data. Additional wires are required for control signals. With six PCI slots you can have more than 1,000 wires required for the connections. Each wire should be exactly the same length so that all the data arrive simultaneously. However, in a computer it is impossible for each wire to be exactly the same length. So as the speed of devices increased, data started arriving out of order. Therefore, the receiver had to delay until all the data were available before it could be processed. Another aspect of PCI is that all the devices share the bus at the same time so the actual data rate per device will be significantly less than the maximum rate. It's like having a speed limit of 65 miles per hour on a multi-lane highway. When all the traffic lanes are full, everything slows down. Think Chicago or Atlanta in rush hour!

Shortly after PCI was introduced, the arrival of 3-D video cards made PCI obsolete for graphics purposes. That resulted in the development of the AGP slot in the motherboard for AGP video cards. AGP uses a separate bus and this freed up bandwidth on the PCI bus for other peripherals. The AGP-8X system can transmit data at the rate of 2.134 gigabytes per second (GB/sec.). In spite of the removal of the data intensive video card transmissions, the number of high-speed peripherals being added to computers quickly saturated the PCI bus and it remained a data transport bottleneck. Additional problems arise as communication can only be made in one direction at a time. Today, many communications networks utilize bidirectional traffic.

In 2004 the PCI Express (PCIe) bus started showing up on computer motherboards. This is quite different from the original PCI bus and in the strictest definition is not a true bus. It is described as a high performance, scalable, point to point serial bus. Now, that statement requires some further explanation as I'm sure it is not immediately clear to all of you. It certainly wasn't to me the first time I read it.

First, consider the "serial" relationship. In a serial device the data is transmitted in a single stream rather than in several parallel streams. This is like reducing a multi-lane highway to one lane in each direction. That should slow things down instead of speeding it up! But in PCIe the clue is that you now have a point to point relationship. That means the device is connected directly to the chipset and does not have to share bandwidth with other devices.





It is like having a high speed commuter corridor that bypasses all the slow traffic on the rest of the multi-lane highway. You may have multiple PCIe connections to the chipset. To prevent problems the connections occur through a system similar to a router. This router passes the data packets from each device in an ordered manner with a minimum of delay and contributes to the speed and accuracy of the transmission. Because this is a point to point connection with each device having its own pathway, this is not a bus under the strict definition of a computer bus. It is also important to note that PCIe transmission occurs in data packets.

The connections are in dual pairs so there is a possibility of a simultaneous bidirectional transmission. One pair is used for transmission and the other for receiving. As mentioned above, data is transmitted in packets, rather than in a continuous stream. Each packet contains an identifier so the data can be reassembled at the receiving end.

This allows the receiver to work with multiple inputs. The data is encoded in what is called 8b/10b. This means that eight data bits are packaged with two information bits in a ten-bit package. (See how much simpler it is to call this 8b/10b?) Also consider that this is the method used for data and voice transmission on the Internet. Hard drives have moved to an SATA interface that is a serial connection instead of the parallel IDE connection. Gigabit ethernet cards are also designed with a serial connection. More devices are moving to serial connectivity to gain additional speed and reliability.

The scalable part of the PCIe bus is in its ability to work with more than one pair of connections. These are called x1 (or times 1), x4, x8 or x16. The x1 version (two data pairs) can transmit the encoded data at a bidirectional rate of 500 MB/s or 250 MB/s in each direction. The x16 version (32 data pairs) can transmit at a rate of 8 GB/s. This is the combined bidirectional rate. The rate in one direction is half this figure. There is a second version of PCIe in the works, PCIe 2.0. This is expected to double the current transmission speeds and provide other benefits.

PCIe slots in the motherboard come in various sizes depending on the number of lanes they use for connection. These vary from the smallest connector for the x1 version to the largest for x16. It is the 16x version that is currently found on new motherboards which supports the latest graphics (video) cards. Unlike the AGP slots, the x16 slot can be used for peripherals other than the video card.

Another interesting aspect of PCIe is one means by which it achieves its high data rates. It is called “low-voltage differential signaling”. Another phrase that I had better explain a little more. As I mentioned earlier, connections occur in a pair of “lanes” in each direction. One of the lanes carries a “positive” image of the data and the other carries a “negative” or “inverted” image. The transmission of the data follows strict rules such that any noise that occurs will affect both lines. When the data is reassembled at the destination, the receiver collects both signals, inverts the negative back to positive and sums both signals. This effectively removes the noise from the signal.

PCIe is also backward compatible with PCI devices and software that uses PCI devices. The configuration space and programmability of PCI Express devices are unchanged from traditional PCI. In fact, all operating systems can boot without modification on a PCI Express architecture. Programs originally written for PCI devices can run unchanged on PCI Express devices because the PCIe layer is transparent to the application software. This provides benefits to users who don't have to upgrade software applications to work with newer hardware.

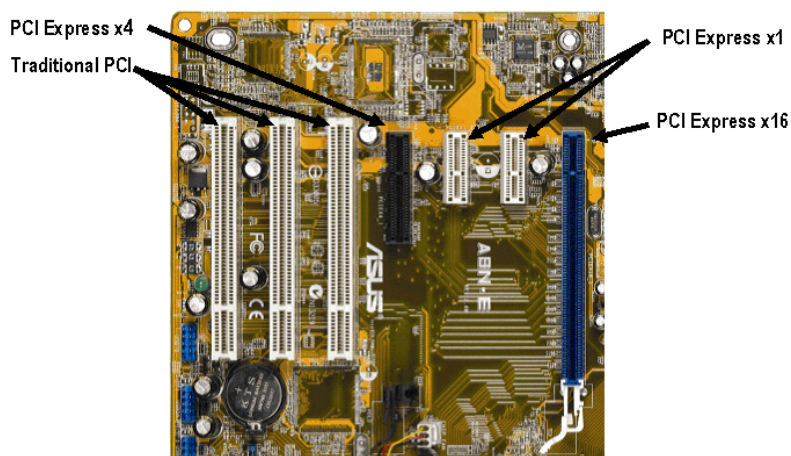
PCIe has another characteristic that greatly improves on PCI. It has an active power management (APM) system. When a PCIe link is not in use it does require that the link remain active so that the transmitter and receiver remain synchronized. It is the role of the APM to reduce the power level whenever the link is inactive. The catch is that when data needs to be transmitted there is a recovery time to allow full activation of the transmitter/receiver.

The longer the recovery time, the lower the power usage. Overall, the systems are designed for the lowest power usage with the shortest recovery time.

There is a gradual transition from the motherboard with combined PCIe/PCI slots to those that will have only PCIe slots as more PCIe plug-in cards become available. This will also affect the size of the motherboard and the ultimate size of the computer. The specification for the PCIe mini-card allows for a card half the size of a standard PCI mini-card. Most of these mini-cards may be destined for laptop computers. However, some desktop designs that take advantage of all PCIe input are far smaller than the standard desktop computer. Some of the new small box computers utilize these smaller motherboards.

So when you get your next computer you should now have a better understanding of the role of the PCIe slots it contains.

*Dr. Lewis is a former university & medical school professor. He has been working with personal computers for more than thirty years.*





# Exploring Windows Explorer

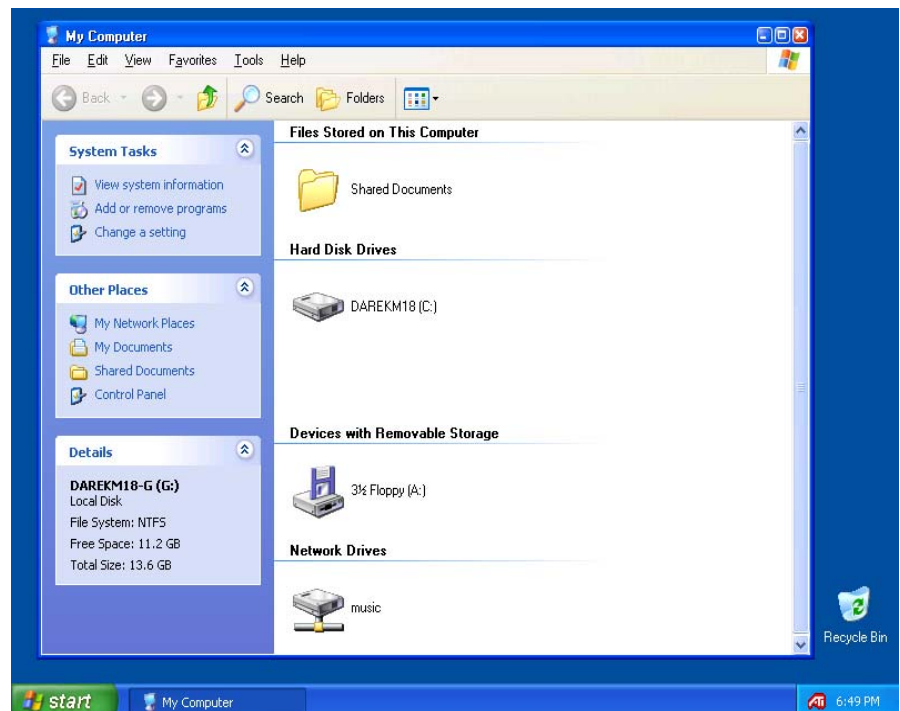


By **Jim Sanders**, Editor, The Orange Bytes, North Orange County Computer Club, California, [www.noccc.org](http://www.noccc.org), [editor@noccc.org](mailto:editor@noccc.org)

Everyone using Windows XP uses Windows Explorer all the time. Some use it in what I consider the true form. Some, because you use it under the title of My Computer. And all of us when we are using Internet Explorer, because Windows Explorer is an integral part of Internet Explorer. I continue to be surprised at how many people do not know that you can right click on the start button and go directly to Windows Explorer. I prefer that to the My Computer path because it brings up Windows Explorer with the left hand pane of the window displaying the tree structure of the files. It surprises me that many people who use the My Computer path don't know that they can bring up the tree pane by clicking on the folder button in the taskbar.

Something that is almost sad, is how many people live with the default settings of Windows Explorer. One of the first things that I do with a new installation of Windows XP, is to open Windows Explorer, go to the view menu and click on details. The next step is to open the tools menu, and click on folder options. When the folder options window opens, but what had a slump and wrong that a mile and the click on the view tab. Then click on display the full path in the title bar to place a checkmark in the box, click on show hidden files and folders to put the bullet on that line, click on a hide extensions for known file types to remove the checkmark.

Personally, I think Microsoft did new users in particular, a major disservice by having the last item set to by default. The resulting confusion of having two or more files with the same name, and not differentiated by the file extension, causes a fair amount of distress in users that are not sure which file to choose. I like to see the protected operating system files but you may be more comfortable leaving them hidden.



*Continued on page 49*

The last item to check is show control panel in my computer. Then click on apply, wait for it to finish, then click on apply to all holders, then click on OK and you're done.

As a result of the above actions the right hand window pane will now have four columns, name, size, height, and date modified. The sort will be set to alphabetical by name, numbers and special characters first, then A to Z. If you want the sort to be Z to A, click on name at the top of the name column. If you want the sort to be by size, click on size at the top of the size column and Windows Explorer will sort the folder by file size, smallest file first. To reverse the order, and place the largest file at the top of the list, click on size again.

The same procedure works with the type column and the date modified column. There is a faint divider bar between each of the columns located in the horizontal bar where the names of the columns are located. One of the easiest ones to find is one space to the right of the column heading Size. If you move the mouse cursor to that area you should see a double headed arrow appear. If you then click and hold the left mouse button, you can adjust the width of the edge of the columns. The width of the name column is often too narrow to show the complete file name. Having the complete path displayed in the address bar, is often useful when you need to copy and paste that path into other applications.

When you have a lot of files in a folder, there is a navigation shortcut in the name column that too few people seem to know about. When you first open a folder, the display will show any other folders (or what should really be called subdirectories) within that folder followed by files, starting with the letter A. If you need to get to a file that starts with a letter T, you might have to scroll through several hundred files to get there. There is a faster way. Click on the first file in the folder to highlight it, then type the first letter of the file that you wish to find. In this example the display would immediately jump to the first file that starts with the letter T. If you know what you are searching for, and can type quickly, you can follow the first letter with the second letter of the name and it will take you to that point instead.

I think initially setting all folders on a hard disk to the detail view is the best starting point and is best suited for the majority of folders. Windows XP allows you to customize the view of each and every folder and will remember what settings you assigned to a given folder. For instance, for folders that contain photos it is often more useful if the thumbnail view, or the film strip view, is chosen so that you can see what each picture actually is.

The advantage of the thumbnail view is that you can find images quicker than in the filmstrip view. The advantage of the filmstrip view is that you get a line of thumbnails across the bottom of the pane and a larger view of which ever thumbnail is highlighted. There are also mouse click arrow's that allow you to view the next or previous image. Don't forget that you can right click on any of the thumbnails and bring up a whole new menu of things that you can do with the image.

Everybody should learn how to do file housekeeping on their computer disk. Being able to move files from one folder to another, to copy files from one folder to another, to create new folders, and several other functions along those lines can help you keep your data organized. It should be noted that most of these functions can be accomplished in more than one fashion. For instance, if you wished to copy a file from folder A to folder B, you would first select the file by left clicking on it which will cause it to be highlighted. You could then open the edit menu by clicking on edit, then click on copy, then click on the destination folder, then click on paste in the edit menu, a copy of the file will appear in that folder.

Alternately, you could use some of the keyboard shortcuts. You could highlight the file, press and hold down the Ctrl key and then tap the C. key. This will copy the file to the temporary holding bin called clipboard. You would then highlight the destination folder, press and hold down the control key, then tap the V. key which will paste the file from the clipboard to the folder you highlighted. Another method is called drag and drop. In this method you move the mouse cursor over the file you wish to copy, left click and hold the mouse button, move the mouse to drag a ghost image of the file over the top of the destination folder and then release the left mouse button.

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# Exploring Windows Explorer

## Part II



**By Jim Sanders**, Editor, The Orange Bytes, North Orange County  
Computer Club, California, [www.noccc.org](http://www.noccc.org), [editor@noccc.org](mailto:editor@noccc.org)

**T**here are several ways to bring up Windows explorer. Click means left click unless preceded by the word right. In no particular order:

1. Click on Start, hover the mouse pointer over All Programs till the window with all options appears, click on Accessories to open the sub-window, then click on Windows explorer. On most machines, it will open with the My Documents directory/folder highlighted and expanded.
2. Right click on Start to open the options window, click on Windows Explorer. On most machines, it will open with the Start Menu directory/folder highlighted and expanded. This is usually down four directory levels with the path - Local Disk (C:)/Documents and Settings/(current user name for that machine)/Start Menu.
3. Click on Start, on the default XP menu, click on My Computer, this opens Windows Explorer in the Task Pane mode. This is also true if you click on My Documents, My Pictures, My Music, or My Network Places. For most people this means navigating down a path one directory at a time, then backing out one directory at a time with the left arrow in the green circle. If you have followed the advice in part 1, at least you can see the path to where you are at in the address bar. Very few people that use this mode make use of the history file provided by the little down arrows next to the left and right arrows. The history files can speed up navigation quite a bit, but in my opinion are nowhere near as efficient as having the Folders Pane visible instead of the Task Pane. Clicking on the Folders icon in the Menu Bar causes the full tree structure to be displayed in the left hand pane. That allows much more efficient navigation of the files on your disk(s).
4. Double click on the My Computer icon on the desktop - takes you to the same place as #3.
5. Depressing either Windows key (the ones with the MS flag icon and the word "start" on them) and then tapping the "E" key, opens Windows Explorer in the Folder mode with My Computer highlighted.
6. Depressing either Windows key, and then tapping the "F" key, opens Windows Explorer in the Search mode with the left pane asking: "What do you want to search for?" You then have the option of choosing several different categories of search including my most common choice – All files and folders.
7. Clicking on Start and then Search opens Windows Explorer in the same mode as #6.
8. Right click on start, then click on Search, opens Windows Explorer in the Search mode with the left pane stating: "Search by any or all of the criteria below." This is the same location you end up at if you choose path #6 and then click on – All files and folders.

But wait, if that's not enough ways to open Windows Explorer, there's more!



9. You can make Windows Explorer part of the start menu with the following sequence: Start -> All Programs -> Accessories -> right-click on Windows Explorer -> Pin to Start menu

10. You can put a Windows Explorer icon in the Quick Launch portion of the Taskbar with this sequence: right click Start, click explorer, click on the WINDOWS folder, in the right pane, scroll down to explorer.exe and right click it, when the option window opens, click on "create shortcut", place the mouse cursor over the new shortcut, depress and hold the right mouse button then drag the new shortcut to the Quick Launch part of the Taskbar. Release the right mouse button and click on "Move Here."



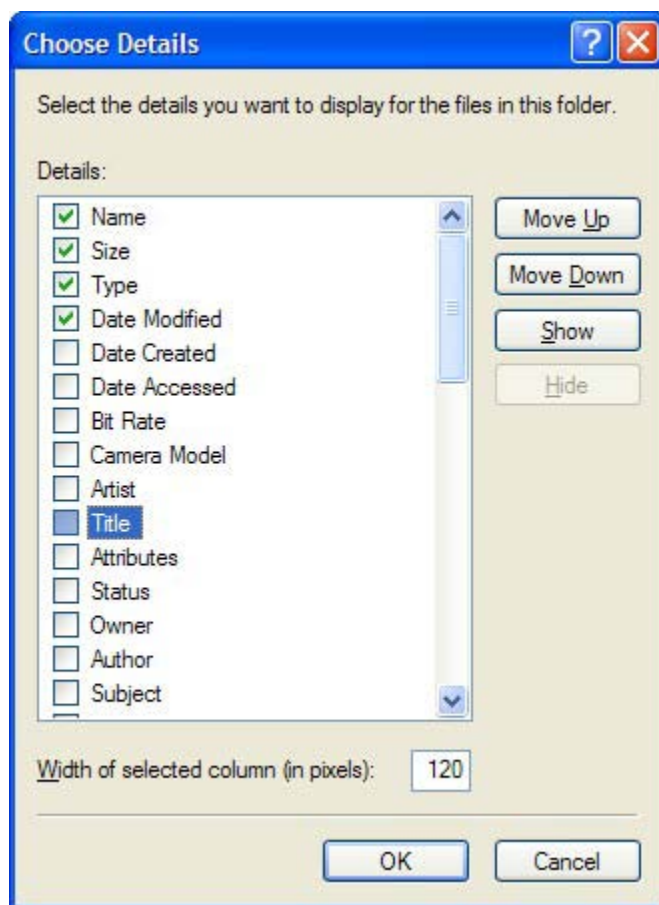
What!, you say you don't have a Quick Launch area, probably because the XP default for that feature is set to disable. You can fix that by right clicking on the Taskbar, hovering over the Toolbars entry till the options window opens, then click on the Quick Launch entry to set a check mark next to it and enable that feature. Once the icon is in place, a single click on the Windows Explorer icon will launch it.

11. You can put a Windows Explorer icon desktop with this sequence: right click Start, click explorer, click on the WINDOWS folder, in the right pane, scroll down to explorer.exe and right click it, when the option window opens click on create shortcut, then click and drag the new shortcut to the desktop. Right click on the shortcut icon you just created and when the option window opens, click on properties. When the properties window opens, click on the Shortcut tab and edit the Target line to have Window Explorer open with the directory of your choice displayed. This is an example of an edited Target line: C:\WINDOWS\explorer.exe /e, /root,c: /select,C:\Documents and Settings\Jim.LIAN-LI\My Documents\NOCCC related files. By substituting the path of your choice for the "C:\Documents and Settings\Jim.LIAN-LI\My Documents\NOCCC related files" portion of the above example, you can have Windows Explorer open and display the directory of your choice.

As noted in part 1 on page 48, the default columns that are displayed in the Window Explorer detail view are: Name, Size, Type, Date Modified. But you should know that they are just four of the 45 possible column types. Not all column types are pertinent for a given file type. For example, Bit Rate is not going to be very useful in a directory full of \*.jpg or \*.tif files. Camera Model is not very useful in a directory full of \*.mp3 files. As hard disks are humongous today (see article -How big is a 300 GB hard disk), more and more people have large collections of pictures, video, music and Microsoft Office document files on their computer (and far too many are not backed up). The ID3 headers on MP3 files can provide a lot of information about each track. To easily see that information, you need to turn on more column details. You can not break anything by playing with these options. Click on View, when the menu opens, click on Choose Details, click on an item in the list to place a check mark in the box which activates the feature, then click on a directory and look at the results. If you don't like the results, repeat the procedure to remove the check mark and it is gone.

The following is the complete list of possible column types:

Name, Size, Type, Date Modified, Dimensions, Title, Date Created, Date Accessed, Attributes, Status, Owner, Author, Subject, Category, Pages, Comments, Copyright, Artist, Album Title, Year, Track Number, Genre, Duration, Bit Rate, Protected, Camera Model, Date Picture Taken, Episode Name, Program Description, Audio sample size, Audio sample rate, Channels, Company, Description, File Version, Product Name, Product Version, Profile, Width, Height, Duration, Bit Rate, Frame Rate, Sample Rate, Keywords.



# Computer Crimes

Susan Ives, Alamo PC

## Women's Place, by Linda Grant

Paperback, Fawcett, 1994, \$5.99, 248 pages

Private investigator Catherine Saylor and her partner, Jesse, are hired to go undercover in a software company where the women are being harassed. While Jesse handles the technical aspects, such as stolen passwords, Catherine insinuates herself into the company. The harassment escalates, a woman is murdered, and Catherine becomes the next target.

This is a compelling case study of sexual harassment in an industry where women were – and still are – in the mi-

nority. Interesting look at the software industry, just as corporations were starting to drift away from their mainframes and over to networked PCs. Good writing, tense plot, interesting characters. This is an excellent series. Recommended.

## Disclosure, by Michael Crichton

Paperback, Random House, 1993, \$7.99, 496 pages

A happily married executive at a Seattle computer company is seduced by his new boss; when he declines, she claims he started it. He counters with a sexual harassment suit. The company, on the verge of a delicate merger, has a hidden agenda in try-

ing to resolve the case quickly (I won't give it away!)

Crichton says in an afterward that it is based on a true story, and the role reversal, although disturbing in places, helps you think more deeply about sex and power in the workplace. Lots of high-tech details, especially virtual reality-enabled databases and the process of bringing a new product to market. The miniaturization foreshadowed in the plot – tiny cell phones and DVD players – has come to pass. Made into a 1994 movie starring Michael Douglas and Demi Moore. Recommended.

*Susan Ives, past president of Alamo PC, claims that computers are a mystery to her. Remember the Alibi Bookstore at 8055 West Ave. #101, San Antonio, TX (at the corner of West and Lockhill-Selma), (210) 344-7776, tries its darnest to keep the recommended books in stock.*

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## Software Review

OpenOffice

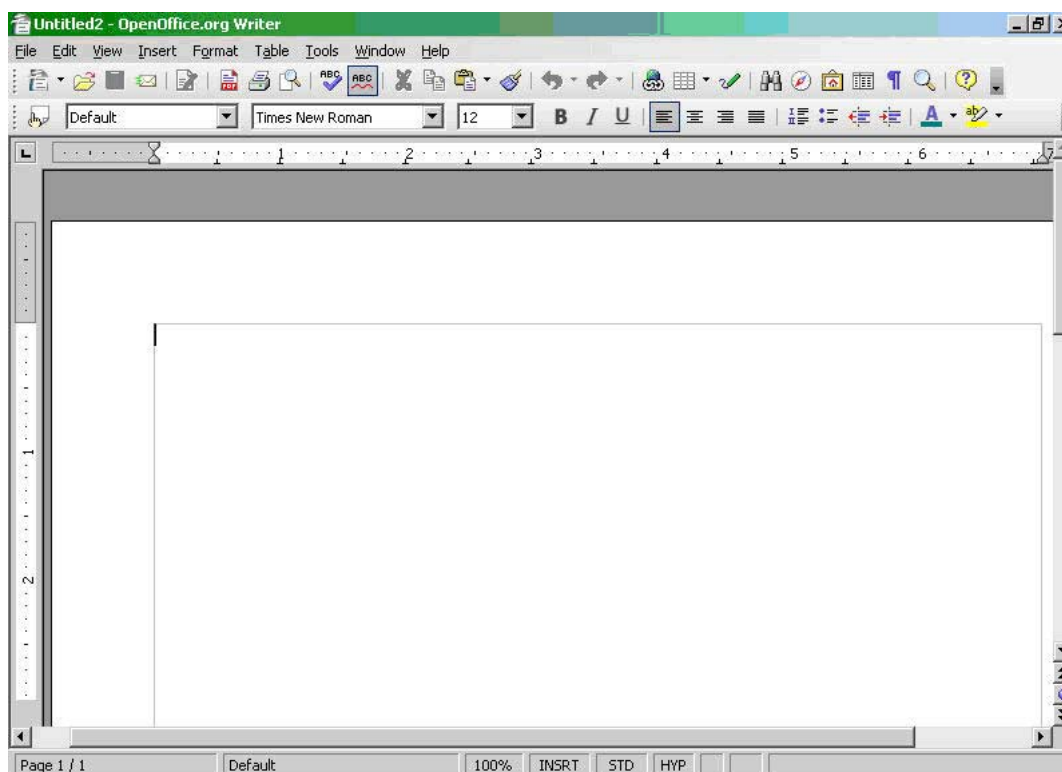
free

Published by OpenOffice.org

Reviewed by Ronnie Ugulano, Fresno PC Users Group, newsletter editor,  
<http://fresnocomputerusers.org>, [ronnieuggie@mail.com](mailto:ronnieuggie@mail.com)



I didn't have time to monkey around. It had to work out of the box. I got an email from the FPCUG Board saying that they would like to be able to offer the newsletter in PDF for easy printing, pretty please. To be honest, I knew this was coming, but it now was time to implement. OK, what are my options? What do I already have that I can use to do this? I could copy and layout the text and graphics in Microsoft Word, but I'd still need to convert it to PDF. I've been working with Linux lately, and it has Scribus available, a lovely Desktop Publishing program, but I already have everything for the newsletter set up on my Windows computer, and wasn't ready to flit back and forth with that, yet.



Oh, yeah, I remembered! OpenOffice, the available-free office suite program has a PDF converter built into it's word processing program, and there's a Windows version! The big questions are: "Can I use what I know about MS Word enough to make it work as fast as I need it to?" I hope so. So, I rummage through my collection of downloaded, saved utilities and programs, and find it right where I left it. Double click, install and open the program.

Well, the tools appear familiar. I just may get this to work, after all.

I want the printed newsletter to look as much like the html version as much as possible, so the first order of business is to convert some of the CSS "graphics" to jpgs or gifs, which I do using Paint Shop Pro 9. The next job is placement. How do I insert a graphic file? . . . ah, there it is, similar to MS Word, under Insert > Picture > From File. OK, place them where I want them, size them to proper dimensions, and it's good.

Next, every newsletter has certain features that appear in every issue, such as The Fine Print, the Sanity Savers and the list of board members/officers. All that is specially formatted with tables. How will I migrate that? . . . I try clicking, dragging, and pasting thinking "I'll just have to fix the formatting later", and bam! Much to my surprise, the formatting holds up. Not only that, but the specialized shading does too. I mentally throw a little confetti in celebration. What about rather standardized, simple

*Continued on page 54*



keyboard commands like Ctrl + Z (undo), Ctrl + C (copy), Ctrl + V (paste), Ctrl + B (bold) and Ctrl + I (italics)? No surprises there, things work as usual.

Then of course, you never know what you'll get when you right click on something, right? Hmm. Right click gives you the tools menu seen at right, and double clicking on the graphic itself (In OpenOffice Writer - in the html version, you'll get the full sized graphic) once it's placed, allows you to set how much space you want around the graphic, among other things.

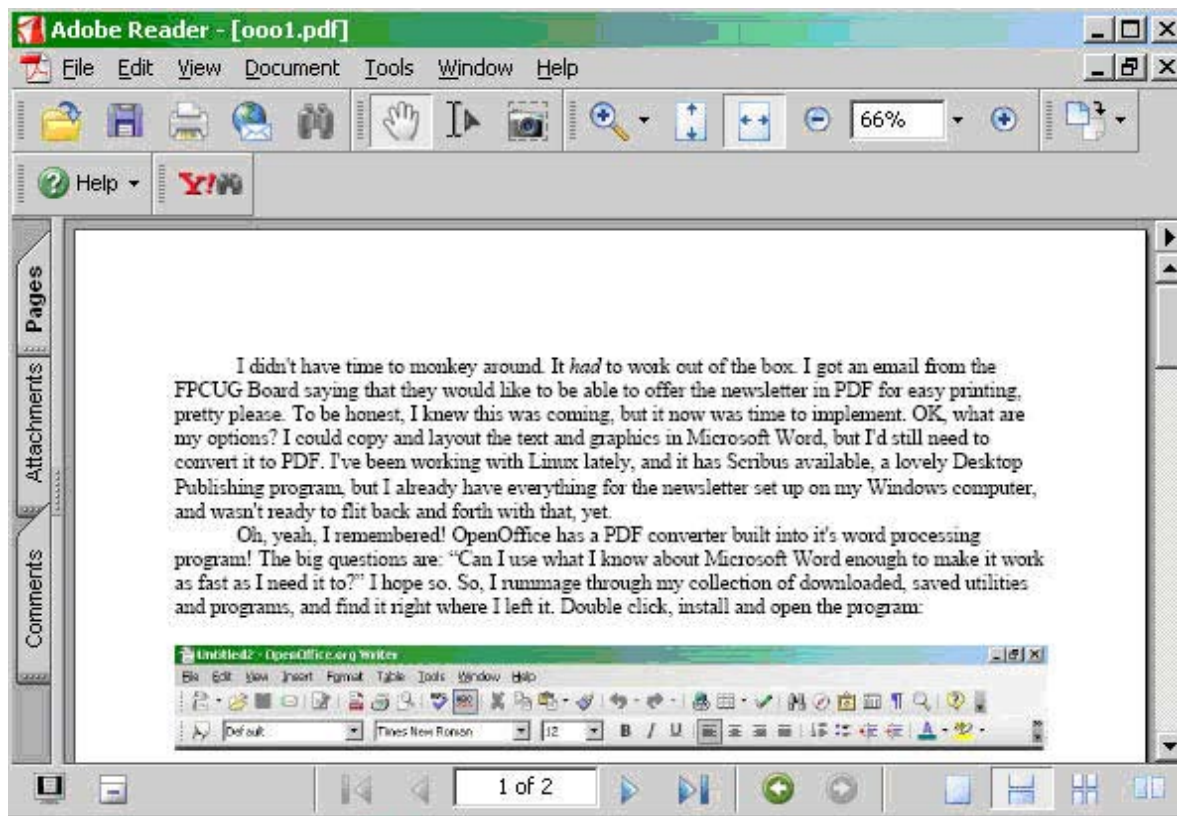
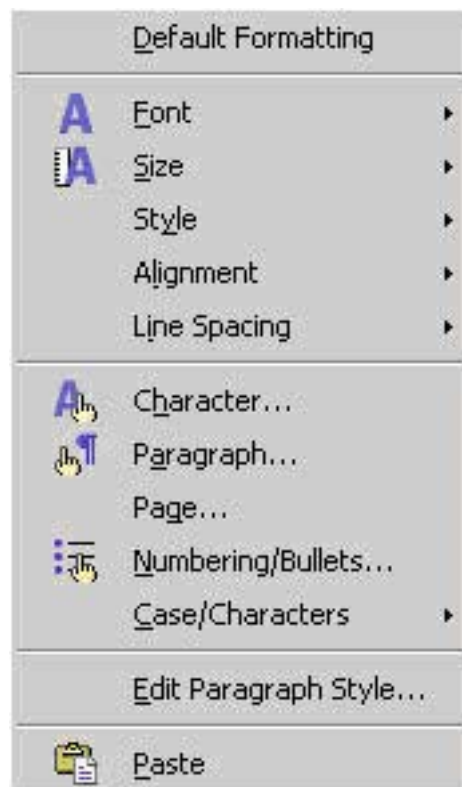
The newsletter has colored headers, and font color is in almost exactly the same place as MS Word, so finding that is a no-brainer. There are about 100 colors to choose from there, and I choose the one closest to the color I use on the html version of the newsletter.

Next, was page numbers. The html version doesn't need them, but the printed edition will. In MS Word, choosing to add page numbers will almost automatically place those numbers in the margin as you specify. With Writer, you choose to create the footer first, by going Format > Page > Click Footer Tab > OK, click in the created footer and then click Insert > Fields > Page Number. Doing this automatically places the page number consecutively on each page.

There are plenty of other word processing tools, including columns, mail merge, macros and so forth, and they are outside what I need for this first time around, but they are there, and findable, when I need them.

The last tool I'll need, and the whole purpose of this exercise, is the PDF conversion tool. For this, I initially created this document in a separate file so I can test drive this option before I use it on the newsletter itself. It's time to click that button now, and just like magic, a PDF is created!

You know, I've never progressed past my copy of Office 97. I've just never bothered to upgrade – probably because I'm too cheap. Every new computer I've built, I've just reloaded the old Office 97 as part of my setup ritual. It may be that on my next computer, I'll be loading OpenOffice.org instead.



## Software Review

I Can Animate

\$49.95

Published by Kudlian Soft

Reviewed by Frank Petrie, contributing editor for the Macsimum News website, Host/Producer of The Video Sandbox podcast, phranky@mac.com



**R**emember when you were a kid and dinosaurs roamed the Earth. What was on TV? Mainly cartoons and claymation. And with the advent of YouTube, et al., they're both making a comeback. Computers have now made it possible for you to give it a whirl. Enter 'I Can Animate.'

"Designed for all ages the, award winning, I Can Animate lets you create stunning movies using a variety of animation techniques.

Work with different video layers so that you can create an animation from video captured from a camera, pictures you have drawn yourself or both together. All this in one single application."

Actually the title is deceptive as ICA can do much more.

### THE JUICE

ICA is more than just time lapse software. You can also do animation and chroma key for use in your iMovies. Let's start with the time lapse feature.

Time Lapse. Time lapse is essentially compressing time. Whereas regular video runs at 30fps, you can set your time lapse frame to whatever you wish, say 1 frame every minute and a half.

First, I set my frame rate, then I set up the camera, a light and pointed it towards the living room. Make sure that you set all this up in a place where the set up will not be disturbed, as you want to prevent any movement of the camera.

I followed their simple instructions to a tee but ran into one problem. It seems you have to turn off your computer's sleep function, as well, cause my computer went to sleep although it was in the middle of a time lapse. Otherwise the picture was fine.

Animation. Everyone is familiar with animation. We call them cartoons. Now this aspect requires a lot of time and patience because there is 30 frames in one second. If you want to produce a different picture for each frame, that's 1,800 pictures for one minute!

To make sure that your subject is moving just the right amount (not too much or too little) ICA comes with 'onion skinning.' Onion skinning allows you to translucently place the new frame over the previous frame and see how much movement from frame-to-frame you're making. In this way you can tweak your animation to the exact effect that you desire.

Drawing. The same basic principles as in Animation, except you use drawings instead of pictures. This took a little bit longer for me to get going on, as what I know as the 'Color Wheel,' is called the 'Magnifying Glass' in the manual.

Chroma Key. This is how you make your animation really professional looking. The simplest way to explain chroma keying is to think of layers in Photoshop. The real difference is that your top footage will be shot with either a blue or green background. You will then load a background image that your performer(s) will appear in front of. Think of the Magic Wand tool and you have the basic premise of chroma keying.

Manual. It also comes with an easy to follow, preloaded, .pdf manual that will get up and running.

### THE PITS

The documentation is very easy to follow. Unfortunately, I'm simpler than the directions. So, for dunderheads such as myself, I wish the Drawing chapter was a bit more thorough.

### THE PULP

The fact that any one would even consider making such a tool for an entry level program as iMovie is amazing. But what's more amazing is how good it is!

But make no mistake. Animation is both time consuming and requires the patience of a saint. Make that two saints.

But if you have both of these, and some talent, you can make some amazing art with I Can Animate. Now this is living the iLife!

## Requirements

**OS X Mac**

**OS X 10.3 or later**

**256MB RAM**

**a camera**

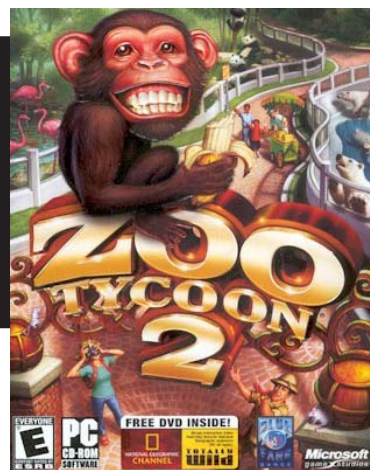
## Software Review

Zoo Tycoon 2: Zookeeper's Collection

\$49.95

Published by Microsoft

Reviewed by Rhonda and James Winterhalter, ICON Computer Users Group, Missouri, [www.icon.org](http://www.icon.org), [rjbizster@gmail.com](mailto:rjbizster@gmail.com)



This game could easily capture the interest of all age levels. Grandparents looking for a great item to have around for the grandchildren should read on! Children of all ages, including the child in all of us, might get a lot of joy (and learning) by giving Zoo Tycoon 2 a try. After that, you may be hooked. James, (my eleven-year-old son) and I have been given this wonderful opportunity to test drive this game. We will share with the rest of you what we have discovered, enjoyed, learned, and we will even mention a few areas that we see could be improved upon.

Zoo Tycoon 2 is packed full of options, both within the software and on the Internet. When you first open the game, a screen is opened that allows you to see "Zoo News" and the "Community." Upon clicking one of these selections, you can be connected to the Web page that will allow you to join the Web forums and to get additional downloads. You can get tips, bonus downloads for free, and you can purchase additional expansion packs that can be added on to your game. For example, right now they are offering the Dinosaur pack. Or you can just click in the lower right-hand corner of this opening screen which gives you the option to Play.

Running a zoo with this game is incredible. The player gets to start from the beginning. There are a lot of choices. From the layout of each animal home size to the various animals you bring in, the variety is amazing. If there is something you don't know about the animal you are selecting, there is a symbol of a book that you can click on. It will bring up a window with the information that you would need to know. You also get to lay out the food and gift shops. James says, "Don't forget to give your visitors maps in various locations." You can set up viewing binoculars and recreation areas that include inflatables to jump on and various activities for everyone. Donation boxes can be set up through the zoo, along with water fountains and other facilities. You also get to turn on your camera and go take snapshots of your animals to compile a photo album. When the animals are happy, they will have wonderful bright green grins hovering above their heads. You make them happy by giving them enough room, the right habitat, coming in and cleaning them, feeding them the right food, and finding just the right toys they like to play with. They are really happy when you remember to do all of this and give them a mate. If your zoo is lucky, they will have babies. Sometimes twins are even born.

Your zoo can become the most sought out tourist attraction yet! You can create a wonderful Jeep vehicle tour that the visitors will line up and wait their turn for. This takes them among the animals and really allows for some close-up photography. You can even put in a sky tram that will allow your guests to get a bird's-eye view of the animals in their natural habitats. You can choose the Zoo Guest Mode, which allows you to go in among your animals and be a participant with the various activities taking place with your animals. You can even choose to swim with the penguins!

Upon being asked to give a review of this software, we were also asked to include any complaints and suggestions that might make it better. We pondered this and came up with a few. In James' opinion, he would like to see the Zoo Guest Mode expanded. He loves that he can be active in his own zoo by swimming with the animals and walking through the zoo. It would be nice to include the ability to be able to do other various activities such as eat in the restaurants, buy food from the booths, play in the children's play areas, and to be able to look through the binoculars. While building and creating your zoo and running it, there is always the same music playing in the background. It would be nice to have a variety of music to select from. Another item that we would like to see but never discovered was a bilevel viewing area for some of the animals. For instance, the Hippopotamus loves to swim, but the only view we could arrange was for the guest to be looking down on him in the pool. It would be nice to set up an area that would include a looking glass area similar to an aquarium. That would enable the different angles. James says a petting zoo would be nice! Last, we never could find the proper food for the koala. Therefore, we could never keep him in our zoo.

As a mother and a home educator, I was continuously amazed at what educational value this game has. Any adult should try these types of games at least once before being too quick to ridicule games. There is always so much going on. The player must continuously keep up with it all. They are multitasking tenfold! They must constantly go in and clean and feed the animals. If the guests seem unhappy, they must find out why and fix the issue. They must research the animals to know what the proper habitat will be. They learn that taking care of anything or anyone is not easy. They also get the joy and reward of being successful. I was so impressed by my son's progression in his created zoos. He also loves to open his zoo from the beginning and give a formal presentation. It is very impressive. We will definitely be adding this one to our own personal collection.

Are you interested? Here is a little bit of detailed information that you may want to know. We hope this gives you an idea of what to expect as you get started. The ease of use is excellent. On loading the game for each user, you are asked, "Would you like to learn how to play Zoo Tycoon 2?" (This makes it very easy to jump right in.) If you click on the green check mark, then it will take you through various tutorials teaching you the particulars of the game. You can also choose to do a Campaign, a Challenge, or a Freeform game from the main menu. One thing to remember is that while you are in your level working, you must use your



keyboard keys to get back to the main menu. Maybe they will add an Exit button. Until then, use the Escape key to bring up the option to save, exit or return to main menu.

If you choose a campaign, then you are given a list of objectives that you are to complete. The first three titles to choose from are tutorials of the various game themes that are included with this installation. One is Zoo Tycoon 2, the original, while the other two are the tutorials for the Endangered Species and the African Adventure expansions that are included in the Zookeepers Collection. The tutorials are highly useful for someone who is not familiar with the particulars of playing Microsoft Games. Other titles include Zoos in Trouble, The Globe, and Conservation Programs. When you select one, the details are listed in the right column of the screen telling you the various information of that specific selection. Items such as the location your zoo will be in, the difficulty level, the map size of your zoo, and the amount of money you get to start with to create your zoo.



The Challenge selection is set up with a little bit more choice to accept or decline the challenges being offered. They present you with specific criteria that you can say yes or no to. When you accept, you can be rewarded, but if you fail the challenge, there can be negative consequences. With the challenges, you have a little more freedom. You can even increase the amount of money you have to start your zoo with. When playing this level, you can decline until you feel you have had enough time to get your zoo started and are ready to focus on tasks.

The Freeform game is exactly as it implies. You have unlimited cash and you are not given any objectives or goals. You can just feel free to play and build your zoo up to a success. This level seemed more enjoyable to my son at first. It allowed him time to discover the game and its methods.

With all of the above choices, you are always given the same screen while playing. When the game begins, you see three main and very important items along the top of the screen. In the left you see five stars that are hollowed out that fill in as your zoo gains popularity. In the center you have a message queue that keeps you informed of various situations throughout the game. For example, you may get a note saying that your Pygmy Hippopotamus is pregnant. Or you may be notified that one of your animals needs more room. In the top right corner you see your operating funds. You can increase your revenue through admissions, donations, and profits from your concessions, restaurants, and the gift shop.

Zoo Tycoon 2 is rated "E" for Everyone to Everyone 10+. As an ICON member who saw a lot of grandparents looking at various game systems at our March of Technology event, I would suggest some turn straight to their PCs. This is good clean fun, and most will enjoy it and never even suspect there could be any benefit other than fun.

## Requirements

It is recommended to have Windows XP or Vista, 512 MB RAM, 1GHz Processor, 1 GB hard drive, Video Card of 32 MB hardware, T & L Direct X 9.0 or later.

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# SEPTEMBER 2007

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
						<b>1</b> MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon *PRR* C++ 2:30 - 4:30 P.M.
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Genealogy 7 - 9 P.M.	<b>4</b> Digital Photo Editing 9 A.M. - 11 A.M. Class 1 of 4 *PRR* Windows XP 1:30 - 3:30 P.M. Class 4 of 6 *PRR* BOD 6:30 P.M.	<b>5</b> Introduction to Windows 10 A.M. - Noon Class 4 of 6 *PRR*	<b>6</b> Student's Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon (a/r) HGSI 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.	<b>7</b> Small Business Server 8 - 10 A.M. *PRR* Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Photoshop Fancy Class 1 - 4:30 P.M. Class 1 of 5 *PRR* PC Alamode Magazine & PDF 7 - 9 P.M.	<b>8</b> MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon *PRR* HTML & Beyond 4 - 8 P.M. Class 1 of 6 *PRR*
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> General Meeting @ Crossroads 7 - 9 P.M. Presenter: AT&T You will hear about their latest service called "Bundles" for: Internet - Home Phone - Wireless Digital TV. There will be a discussion on Digital Cable and Broadband.	<b>11</b> Digital Photo Editing 9 A.M. - 11 A.M. Class 2 of 4 *PRR* Windows XP 1:30 - 3:30 P.M. Class 5 of 6 *PRR* Alamo Coders (DotNET - Web Development Technology) 7 - 9 P.M.	<b>12</b> Power Internet 10 A.M. - Noon Introduction to Windows 10 A.M. - Noon Class 5 of 6 *PRR* Internet & E-Mail 1 - 3 P.M. Class 1 of 6 *PRR* PowerPoint 7 - 9 P.M. Class 1 of 2 *PRR*	<b>13</b> Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Home Page Jumpstart 6 - 8 P.M.	<b>14</b> Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Photoshop Fancy Class 1 - 4:30 P.M. Class 2 of 5 *PRR*	<b>15</b> MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon *PRR* Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M. Class 1 of 6 *PRR* C++ 2:30 - 4:30 P.M. HTML & Beyond 4 - 8 P.M. Class 2 of 6 *PRR*
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Digital Photo Editing 9 A.M. - 11 A.M. Class 3 of 4 *PRR* Windows XP 1:30 - 3:30 P.M. Class 6 of 6 *PRR*	<b>19</b> Introduction to Windows 10 A.M. - Noon Class 6 of 6 *PRR* Internet & E-Mail 1 - 3 P.M. Class 2 of 6 *PRR* IHD / Vector Vest 6 - 8 P.M. *PRR* PowerPoint 7 - 9 P.M. Class 2 of 2 *PRR*	<b>20</b> Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon	<b>21</b> Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Photoshop Fancy Class 1 - 4:30 P.M. Class 3 of 5 *PRR*	<b>22</b> MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon *PRR* Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M. Class 2 of 6 *PRR* Learning Center Desk Staff Meeting 1 - 3 P.M. HTML & Beyond 4 - 8 P.M. Class 3 of 6 *PRR*
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> CorelDRAW X3 6 - 8 P.M.	<b>25</b> Digital Photo Editing 9 A.M. - 11 A.M. Class 4 of 4 *PRR*	<b>26</b> Internet & E-Mail 1 - 3 P.M. Class 3 of 6 *PRR* (a/r) WordPerfect 7 - 9 P.M.	<b>27</b> Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Photoshop Fancy Class 1 - 4:30 P.M. Class 4 of 5 *PRR*	<b>28</b> Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Photoshop Fancy Class 1 - 4:30 P.M. Class 5 of 5 *PRR*	<b>29</b> Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M. Class 3 of 6 *PRR* HTML & Beyond 4 - 8 P.M. Class 4 of 6 *PRR*
<b>30</b>						PRR = Pre-Registration Required

# ALAMOPC ORGANIZATION



# The Learning Center

Alamo PC Organization classes and study groups

## COMPUTER CLINIC

### The Doctor Is In

Each Friday morning, volunteer "Computer Doctors" share their time at the Computer Learning Center to handle technical hardware and software questions and solve problems. They attempt to troubleshoot hardware and sort out software problems on site. If the problem is beyond their means, the member is referred to one of the repair shops that advertise with Alamo PC. The repair shop does charge for the problem. We do the work at the Computer Learning Center as a member-to-member benefit, with donations requested.

### What to bring with you:

- Your Alamo PC membership card
- Your computer and all connecting cables, cords, software drivers or programs related to the problem area
- You do not need to bring your monitor, mouse, or keyboard unless you are having a specific problem with those items. Make sure you have the keycode for all of your software.
- If you are having problems with your scanner, printer, or something that hooks up to your computer; bring that item in addition to your computer etc. plus all connecting cables and software (don't forget the keycode for your software)

**When:** Every Friday 9 am to noon

**Where:** Alamo PC Organization  
Computer Learning Center

**Prerequisites:** Bring your hardware and all connecting cables, cords, software drivers or programs related to the problem area

**Tuition fee:** Donations for this service are requested, the funds are used to purchase testing and other equipment to use at the Dr Is In sessions.

**Technical Rating:** ★

## STUDY GROUPS

### Student Practice Lab

A specific time period for students taking Alamo PC Courses to use Computer Lab One (Classroom One) to practice their class assignments. Students may also make up missed class days, if the instructor has provided the course material to the individual. The Practice Lab is monitored and the instructors will help when possible. The Practice Lab is for Class Work Only. Those abusing the system will be asked to leave. Seating is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. If necessary a time limit will be imposed.

**Lab Instructors:** Joe Gentry, Sarah Thomas  
**When:** Thursday mornings, except Holidays, 9 am to Noon.

**Where:** Computer Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** No

**Technical Rating:** ★

### C/C ++ Study Group

Please note we are currently a study group and no longer a Class. C/C++ Study Group Our group consists of 3 to 6 regular members who meet twice a month to discuss their plans and progress on development of software for experimental use. We do not plan to offer C or C++ courses in this study group. To join the study group, get acquainted with some of its members and consider preparing a brief presentation of your planned or current efforts.

**Contact:**  
Bruce McAleander  
<mcalexb@satx.rr.com> 210-680-0231  
Murry Adams  
<mnadams@texas.net> 210-696-0047  
Carl Deneke  
<cdeneke@Texas.net> 210-496-6397

**When:** First and Third Saturday, 2:30 pm

**Where:** Learning Center.

**Pre-registration:** No

**Technical Rating:** ★★ - ★★★

### Genealogy Study Group

For everyone interested in using their computer for genealogy. We will discuss currently available genealogy software, their pros and cons and meeting participants views as to best software to use for both beginners and advanced genealogists.

**Contact:** Jim Collier  
<jcinquiry@earthlink.net>  
210-710-5660

**When:** First Monday, 7-9 pm

**Where:** Learning Center.

**Pre-registration:** No

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★

### HGSI Study Group

The premise of the HGS Investor SIG is, "Knowledge becomes stronger when passed on to others." We have created an environment for continuing education and open discussion between well informed members and guest speakers in matters of using Fundamental and Technical Analysis for the buying and selling of equities.

**Contact:** Maynard Burstein  
<maynardb@juno.com> 735-3288

**When:** 1st Thursday, 6:30-8:30pm

**Where:** Contact Maynard for location

**Pre-registration:** Call Maynard

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★★

### San Antonio IBD / Vector Vest Study Group

The group determines current market direction and applies Investors Business Daily and Vector Vest methodologies to make a profit.

**Contact:** Kim Murphy

**When:** 3rd Wed., 6-8pm

**Where:** Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** No

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★★

### MCSE Advanced Study Group

The MCSE Advanced SIG, affectionately known as 'The Geeks', is currently studying Microsoft Dynamics CRM (Customer Relationship Manager) version 3.0 (www.Microsoft.com/CRM). The group will prepare for the three CRM certification exams. The study group is lead by Microsoft MVPs (Most Valuable Professional) in CRM,

## Technical Content Ratings

- ★ For the beginner, no experience necessary and no prerequisite.
- ★★ Assumes some basic familiarity with the subject but is not a technical course.
- ★★★ Assumes that the student is somewhat familiar with the subject and will discuss.
- ★★★★ Assumes that the student is competent in the material and will be technical.



## STUDY GROUPS (cont.)

**Larry Lentz** There are only 15 MVPs for CRM in the world. More information on the Microsoft MVP program can be found at [www.Microsoft.com/MVP](http://www.Microsoft.com/MVP). The group has recently completed its study for the CRM 3.0 Applications exam and are now starting study for the CRM 3.0 Customization exam. The group meets every Saturday morning from 8:30 until noon. Space is limited and the subject matter is very advanced. Therefore membership is restricted. Please contact Larry Lentz before attempting to attend.  
**Contact:** Larry Lentz, MCSE on NT & W2K, MCDBA, MCSA: Messaging <Larry@LentzComputer.Net>  
**When:** Every Saturday, 8:30-noon

**Where:** Contact Larry  
**Pre-registration:** Yes - contact Larry  
**Technical Rating** ★★★★★

### Small Business Server Study Group

The Alamo PC Small Business Server Special Interest Group, APCO SBS SIG, held its November meeting, Friday November 3rd, at the Alamo PC Learning Center in San Antonio, Texas. Naturally we started off with our traditional Taco Talk with tacos supplied by Albert Obar. Our main attraction was Peter Gallagher, Microsoft Small Business Server Support from the Las Colinas (DFW) regional office. Peter explained many things including how to configure e-mail enabled Public Folders to save attachments to SharePoint document libraries. Apparently one has to do it a bit differently in SBS than in a non-SBS SharePoint server. He also explained how to set up a Site-to-Site VPN using ISA on SBS. Apparently that also needs a little extra TLC in SBS due to the ISA being on the Domain Controller. All in all, Peter spent about 2 hours imparting his vast knowledge on the group. Afterwards the group adjourned to Mamacitas Mexican restaurant for lunch where we continued to pelt poor Peter with questions. Peter has promised to come down again, hopefully in February. For more information, please contact group chair, Larry Lentz at Larry@LentzComputer.net, or visit the group web site at <<http://www.LentzComputer.net/SBS>>

### Power Internet Study Group

Current Internet users can learn more. Each month a different Internet application will be discussed, such as 64 bit computers, SATA HDD technology, e-mail, browser use, MS Outlook, and virus protection in communications. This is a good place to share interests and insights about your experiences on the World Wide Web.

**Contact:** John Woody  
<jwoody@texas.net>  
210-494-5684

**When:** 2nd Wednesday, 10am-noon

**Where:** Learning Center

**Preregistration:** No

**Technical Rating** ★★

### WordPerfect Evening Study Group

We demonstrate projects and features of the latest version of WordPerfect. We also like to work on real life situations with our members who have questions.

**Contact:** Cynthia Thompson  
210-655-1058

**When:** 4th Wednesday, 7-9pm

**Where:** Call Cynthia for directions

**Pre-registration:** Yes - Call Cynthia  
**Technical Rating** ★ - ★★★

## CLASSES

Alamo PC offers Free and Fee-Based classes. Classes showing a \$ next to the title indicate that either a Registration Fee or a Tuition Fee will be required.

### Student Practice Lab

A specific time period for students taking Alamo PC Courses to use Computer Lab One (Classroom One) to practice their class assignments. Students may also make up missed class days, if the instructor has provided the course material to the individual. The Practice Lab is monitored and the instructors will help when possible. The Practice Lab is for Class Work Only. Those abusing the system will be asked to leave. Seating is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. If necessary a time limit will be imposed.

**Lab Instructors:** Joe Gentry, Sarah Thomas

**When:** Thursday mornings, except Holidays, 9 am to Noon.

**Where:** Computer Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** No

**Technical Rating:** ★

**The next three free or low-cost classes provide instruction on the basics of using a computer, the Windows Operating System, and how to use Adobe Acrobat to obtain your PC Alamo online magazine. The successful completion of the Windows XP class (or classes) would then enable those students to take the other classes offered by Alamo PC.**

### Introduction To Windows - \$

The Introduction To Windows class is designed for people who do not have a computer yet or have just obtained one and don't know how to "turn it on". Students will learn about the parts of the computer, acquire keyboard and mouse skills used in many software programs, and some word processing. Instruction proceeds at a slower pace than most computer courses and time is allotted for "hands on" practice. Taking the next course, Windows XP, will still be necessary for students who want to be productive with their computers, but the students will be better able to understand what the Windows XP Instructor is teaching. Internet and Email will NOT be covered in this course.

**Instructors:** Andy Roca, Donna Dudley

**When:** Six sessions, Wed.; 10 a.m. to noon  
Set 1) March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18  
Set 2) May 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20  
Set 3) August 15, 22, 29, Sep 5, 12, 19  
Set 4) October 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14  
OR

**Instructors:** Cary Hall, Jean Hall

**When:** Six sessions, Mon.; 10 a.m. to noon  
March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16

**Fees:** Registration fee is \$10.00

This class will use the Easy Windows XP book, purchase of the book will be helpful and is strongly recommended but is not required. The book may be purchased from Alamo PC for \$20

**Pre-registration:** YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Where:** Learning Center

**Technical Rating:** ★

### Windows XP - \$

Our Windows XP course reviews the fundamentals of using a computer, and provides instruction on using the Microsoft Windows XP operating system. In this class you will learn how to: Open, Close, Save, Delete, Copy, and Move files; work with Files and Folders; customize your Desktop Layout; and to Resize and Move program windows. You will also be introduced to several "free" programs already on your computer, including: Wordpad - for basic word processing; Paint - for basic graphics work; Computer Solitaire and other games; and a Calculator.

**Prerequisites:** Students should have completed the Introduction To Windows course or have the equivalent knowledge. Choice of two class days Tue. or Sat. Choose one set

**Instructors:** Audrey Henkin, Ed Henkin

**When:** 6 sessions, Tue. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Set 1) March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17

Set 2) May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19

Set 3) August 14, 21, 28, Sep 4, 11, 18

Set 4) October 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 13

OR

**Instructor:** Don Robinson

**When:** 6 sessions, Sat. 1 to 3 p.m.

Set 1) March 31, Apr 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5

## Technical Content Ratings

- ★ For the beginner, no experience necessary and no prerequisite.
- ★★ Assumes some basic familiarity with the subject but is not a technical course.
- ★★★ Assumes that the student is somewhat familiar with the subject and will discuss.
- ★★★★ Assumes that the student is competent in the material and will be technical.

Set 2) May 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Set 3) July 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug 4, 11

Set 4) Sep 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13, 20

**Fees:** Registration fee is \$10.00

This class will use the Easy Windows XP book, purchase of the book will be helpful and is recommended but is not required.

**Pre-registration:** YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Where:** Computer Learning Center

**Technical Rating:** ★

### Adobe Acrobat - PDF Class

How to download, install, and use Adobe Acrobat Reader. How to view the PC Alamode magazine online or download it to your computer or a CD. Students who want to download the magazine to a CD in class should bring a blank CD-RW (a read / writeable or recordable CD)

**Instructor:** Steve Tech  
stephentechnjr@yahoo.com

**When:** first Fri. of the month, 7 pm to 9 pm

**Pre-registration:** YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Where:** Computer Learning Center

**Technical Rating:** ★

### APCO Retro (Antique Computer Users Group)

We're initially only going to meet on-line, through the mailing list I've established using Yahoo! Groups. Membership is limited to Alamo PC members, but anyone can join the list by sending a message to <apcoretro-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>." Or, if you're reading the electronic version of the PC Alamode where this text appears, you can join APCO Retro simply by going to <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/apcoretro/join>>

**Contact:** Shane Hicks

<[shane@absolute-powercomputing.com](mailto:shane@absolute-powercomputing.com)>

**When:** Anytime

**Where:** Cyberspace

**Pre-registration:** Must sign-up on  
<[APCORETRO@yahoogroups.com](mailto:APCORETRO@yahoogroups.com)>

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★★★★

### CorelDRAW I Class

This basic class discusses basic tools and effects, concentrating on fills, blends, envelopes and other special effects for the next few months.

**Contact:** Steve Tech  
<[stephentechnjr@yahoo.com](mailto:stephentechnjr@yahoo.com)>  
210-675-2880

**When:** 4th Monday, 6-8pm

**Where:** Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** No

**Technical Rating:** ★★

### Digital Camera & Photography Class

Digital Cameras have become an integral part of our computerized lifestyle. They come in all shapes and sizes; some are simple, some not. Yet many of us look at this wonderful tool and think, "Now what is that doohicky for?" Sometimes learning to use our digital cameras can

be a confusing and frustrating experience and the manual may even make it worse. Then when you do figure out how to use the camera, the photo never seems to come out quite right. Learn how to use your digital camera, plus all the tips and tricks to get better pictures when you take them. This class will include field trips to interesting local spots to learn photography techniques. Topics of discussion may include understanding your camera manual, camera optics, composition, tips, choosing the right camera, lighting, how to take night shots, silhouettes, portraits, action shots, and close ups.

**Instructor:** Joe Davis

**When:** Class meets once a week for 3 weeks - choose one set:

Set 1) Tuesdays, January 16, 23, 30 9 am to 11 am (some sessions may be longer)

Set 2) Tuesdays, July 10, 17, 24 9 am to 11 am (some sessions may be longer)

**Pre-registration:** YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Where:** Computer Learning Center

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★

### Digital Photo Editing Classes \$

A series of Photo Editing Classes ranging from basic to advanced skills. The Microsoft Digital Imaging 2006 software is not required for these classes but it would be helpful to have on your home computer. Students will need recordable CD's or Flash / Thumb drives to be able to save their class work.

#### Intro to Digital Photo Editing \$

Remedial computer work as it relates to the use of Image 2006. Any computer skills that will be essential for success in Image 2006. We will learn how to place files into the work area. How to control the work area. We will learn the use of the essential photo editing tools such as; color balance, sharpening focus, removing red eye, crop, straighten photo, etc.

**Prerequisites:** Students should have completed the Windows XP course or have the equivalent knowledge.

**Instructor:** Joe Davis

**When:** Class meets once a week for 4 weeks - choose one set:

Set 1) Tuesdays February 6, 13, 20, 27 9 am to 11 am

Set 2) Tuesdays August 7, 14, 21, 28 9 am to 11 am

**Fees:** registration fee \$10

**Where:** Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★

#### Digital Photo Editing \$

Students will learn the basics of digital photo editing using Microsoft Digital Imaging 2006 and if time permits, extra tips and tricks about matting and framing plus interesting uses for your photos. The photo editing basics used in this class can be applied to almost any photo editing program.

**Prerequisites:** Students should have completed the Windows XP course or have the equivalent knowledge.

**Instructor:** Joe Davis

**When:** Class meets once a week for 4 weeks - choose one set:

Set 1) Tuesdays March 6, 13, 20, 27 9 am to 11 am

Set 2) Tuesdays September 4, 11, 18, 25 9 am to 11 am

**Fees:** registration fee \$10

**Where:** Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★

### Advanced Digital Photo Editing \$

This class is for the student who is very serious about digital editing. It involves the manipulation of photos whether they are new or old. We learn to use the tools to do everything from making greeting cards to photo refinishing.

**Prerequisites:** Students must have completed either the Introduction to Digital Photo Editing Class or the Digital Photo Editing Class or completed one of Joe Davis' prior Digital Photo Editing classes

**Instructor:** Joe Davis

**When:** Class meets once a week for 8 weeks - choose one set:

Set 1) Tuesdays April 3, 10, 17, 24 May 1, 8, 15, 22 9 am to 11 am

Set 2) Tuesdays October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November 6, 13, 20 9 am to 11 am

**Fees:** registration fee \$10

**Where:** Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★

### Open Source And Freeware Software

Students will learn how to download, install, configure and use Open Source and Freeware applications such as Mozilla Firefox, Open Office, AVG Free Antivirus and many others.

**Instructor:** An instructor is needed, contact Linda Bianchi at [education@alamopc.org](mailto:education@alamopc.org) or [TodBruning@Hotmail.com](mailto:TodBruning@Hotmail.com)

**When:** To be announced

**Pre-registration:** YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Where:** Computer Learning Center

**Technical Rating:** ★

### Technical Content Ratings

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| ★    | For the beginner, no experience necessary and no prerequisite.                   |
| ★★   | Assumes some basic familiarity with the subject but is not a technical course.   |
| ★★★  | Assumes that the student is somewhat familiar with the subject and will discuss. |
| ★★★★ | Assumes that the student is competent in the material and will be technical.     |



## Photoshop Classes for use with Photoshop 7, CS, CS2 - \$

Photoshop CS2 Classes are open to any Alamo PC member who has Photoshop 7, CS, or CS2. Students must have one of these software programs on their home computers. All students are provided a CD with images we will use in the classes plus written lessons to go by and practice at home. Texts will be recommended for those who want to purchase their own as reference.

**Prerequisites:** 1) Students need to have completed the Windows XP course or have the equivalent knowledge to be able to function properly and progress in these graphics programs. 2) Students need the Software for Photoshop 7 or Photoshop CS or Photoshop CS 2 on their home computers to join these graphics instruction classes.

### Beginning Photoshop CS2:

This course includes Lessons on Tools and Palettes, Adobe Bridge, Resolution, Cropping, Tonal Range, Color Cast, Restoring Images, Colorizing, Cloning Layers, Channels, Extract, Gradients, Camera Raw, Vanishing Point, PDF Presentations. New Students need to attend free CS2 workshops on Thursdays (or a different day if scheduled) during the beginning session to receive extra help (lead by Jane Montgomery) from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

**When:** 1 - 5 p.m. Fridays Jan. - Feb. 2008

**Tuition Fee:** \$90 for new students \$50 for returning students

### Intermediate Photoshop CS2:

Lessons on Typographic Designs, Paths and Shapes, Clipping Groups, Layer Sets, Adjustment Layers, Liquefy Filter, Actions Palette, Layer Styles, Adjustment Layers, Contact Sheets, Picture Package, Text Along Path, Creating Links

**When:** 2008 dates to be announced

**Tuition Fee:** \$25 for the course

### Advanced Photoshop CS2

Lessons on Rollovers, Animations, Warp Tool, Image Adjustments, Creating Curled Edges, Lighting Effects Creating Patterns, Creating Pencil Sketches, Creating Posters and Post Cards

**When:** 2008 dates to be announced

**Tuition Fee:** \$25 for the course

### Fancy Photoshop CS2 Class 1

Lessons on Custom Brushes, Stamping, Painting, Design Techniques, Creating background, Papers, Template Designs, Photomerge, Creating Kaleidoscopes, Hangovers, Frameups

**When:** Fridays September 7, 14, 21, 28 and Thursday Sep 27; 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Tuition Fee:** \$25 for the course

### Photoshop Holiday Lessons

Holiday lessons using all of the procedures in CS2 (or possibly a Playing Cards class instead)

**When:** Fridays October 5, 12, 19, 26 and Thursday Oct 25; 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Tuition Fee:** \$25 for the course

## Photoshop Holiday Class

Holiday lessons using all of the procedures in CS2 (or possibly a Playing Cards class instead)

**When:** Fridays October 5, 12, 19, 26 and Tuesday Oct 30; 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Tuition Fee:** \$25 for the course

**Instructor:** Beverly Bihn assisted by Jane Montgomery

**Pre-registration:** YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Where:** Learning Center

**Technical Rating:** ★★-★★★

## eBay - Bid with Confidence: An Introduction to Internet Auctions

The four session class will allow you to buy and sell at Internet auctions effectively and with confidence using the eBay A system. The class will cover searching & browsing, registering, buying, selling, how to research your items to buy or sell, how to evaluate your prospective customers and sellers, basic html, digital photo hosting and much, much more! You will also actually use the system in a real-time mode and you can feel the adrenaline rush during the last few seconds of our auctions. Automobile and real estate are excluded.

**Instructor:** William Hudson  
WilliamTheRebel@gmail.com

**When:** Four sessions, choose one set: (Preference will be given to those who have placed their name on the waiting list for this class)

Set 1) Tuesdays April 17, 24, May 1, 8; 7 to 9 pm

Set 2) Thursdays April 19, 26, May 3, 10; 7 to 9 pm

**Where:** Learning Center, Room 1

**Pre-registration:** YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Technical Rating:** ★

## Microsoft Excel

This class is intended for people who want to do significant projects or develop skills for the workplace. As such it moves at fairly brisk pace and includes homework assignments. Students will become familiar with Excel 2000's basic functionality, menus, toolbars, icons and shortcut keys. Learn how to create, format, save and print an Excel spreadsheet. Also, understand and use formulas, work with worksheets and workbooks, and learn the basic productivity elements of Excel.

**Prerequisites:** Students should be familiar with operating a mouse, keyboard and Windows Operating System. Knowledge of another program such as Microsoft Word is helpful.

**When:** Four sessions, choose one set  
Set 1) Thurs May 3, 10, 17, 24; 7 to 9 pm  
Set 2) Thurs June 7, 14, 21, 28; 7 to 9 pm

**Where:** Learning Center

**Instructor:** Cheng Yuan

**Pre-registration:** Yes, Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★★

## Home Page Jumpstart

This is a general introduction to developing your own Internet web page. It is not a course on HTML. Includes a 20+ page manual, training disk, and a walk through the development process.

**Contact:** Susan Ives

<suives@texas.net> 210-694-4582

**When:** ONE session. Class does not meet each month, please check the calendar or call the Learning Center to confirm meeting dates and time. 210-736-0080

**Where:** Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** No

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★

## HTML and Beyond Class

Learn how to design, build and manage your own web site using HTML. Students should attend the Home Page Jumpstart Class and have familiarity with the Windows Operating System. The Six (to Eight if needed) Session class will begin a new cycle each March and September.

**Contact:** Mike Bianchi

<webmaster@alamopc.org>

**When:** Saturdays, 4-8 pm

**Where:** Learning Center

**Prerequisite:** Home Page Jumpstart Class, familiarity with Windows

**Pre-registration:** yes, e-mail Mike at <webmaster@alamopc.org>

**Technical Rating:** ★★

## Internet And E-Mail - \$

The Internet and E-mail course will cover basic techniques needed to effectively and enjoyably "surf the net." Students will learn how to find information on the net, download files, applications and graphics, and how to purchase items from "e-

## Technical Content Ratings

- ★ For the beginner, no experience necessary and no prerequisite.
- ★★ Assumes some basic familiarity with the subject but is not a technical course.
- ★★★ Assumes that the student is somewhat familiar with the subject and will discuss.
- ★★★★ Assumes that the student is competent in the material and will be technical.



commerce" sites. Depending on student interest, the class will learn about important Internet issues like privacy, credit card security, and information reliability. Depending on time constraints, students may also cover more advanced topics like using the Internet for long distance communication, "Web Cams," and enjoying "streaming" audio and video.

**Prerequisites:** Students must have completed the Windows XP course or have the equivalent knowledge.

**When:** 6 weeks, Wednesdays, 1 to 3 pm  
Set 1) March 28, Apr 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2  
Set 2) May 16, 23, 30, Jun 6, 13, 20  
Set 3) July 11, 18, 25, Aug 1, 8, 15  
Set 4) Sep 12, 19, 26, Oct 3, 10, 17

**Instructor:** Don Robinson

**Fees:** Registration fee is \$10.00

**Where:** Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** YES call 210-736-0080

**Technical Rating:** ★

### Alamo Coders Class

This is a class on using the DotNetNuke portal software for hosting your website and for those interested in developing Windows and Web applications using Microsoft's .NET. The class will focus on hands-on configuration and use of the DNN 3.x portal. This portal is a service available to Alamo PC members. The class will discuss the portal framework and configuration of a DNN site. We will also setup web pages, insert modules on the pages, modify and edit the look of the pages as well as the data in the pages. Modules will include Calendar, Announcements, Forums, Blogs, Contacts, Links, Surveys and HTML. We will use development modules and applications for the DNN Portal using VB.NET and C# as a basis for demonstrating .Net development. Guest speakers occasionally present new technology and development tools available for .Net Developers. Door prizes (books, software, shirts, etc.) are distributed at most meetings.

**Contact:** Joe Brazell 345-2207

**When:** 2nd Tuesday, 7 - 9 pm

**Where:** Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** no

**Technical Rating:** ★

### Power Point class

Microsoft's PowerPoint presentation program is the defacto standard for making presentations to a large audience. This class will show students how to create a PowerPoint presentation, how to add graphics and photos, business graphs, and sound clips. We will also learn how to use special transitions and animations in presenting your slide show to an audience.

**Prerequisite:** Students must have

completed the Windows XP course or have the equivalent knowledge.

**Contact:** Learning Center 736-0700

**When:** No class in July. Two sessions, 2nd and 3rd Wed. 7-9 pm of Odd numbered months

**Instructor:** Wade Forrester

**Where:** Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** Yes - Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★

### Movie Maker

A fun class learning to use the Movie Maker program included with Windows XP, to create slide shows with voice, music, text, and special effects. It is a very simple program, yet will do fades, wipes, special effects, sound, and moving text, etc.

**Contact:** Joe Davis

**When:** Class meets once a week for 4 weeks - choose one set:

Set 1) Tuesdays June 5, 12, 19, 26 9 am to 11 a.m.

Set 2) Tuesdays November 27, Dec 4, 11, 18 9 am to 11 a.m.

**Where:** Learning Center

**Prerequisite:** Students must have completed the Windows XP course or have the equivalent knowledge.

**Pre-registration:** YES Call Learning Center at 210-736-0080

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★

### Microsoft Word

Students will become familiar with and understand Word's basic functionality, menus, toolbars, icons and shortcut keys. Students will learn how to create, view, format, save and print a Word document. Also work with templates, multiple documents, insert files, objects and pictures and email documents.

**Prerequisites:** Students must have completed the Windows XP course or have equivalent knowledge

**When:** 4 sessions per class

MS Word Basics: to be announced

MS Word Advanced: to be announced

**Instructor:** Tod Bruning

TodBruning@Hotmail.com

**Where:** Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** Yes, call Learning Center at 736-0080

**Technical Rating:** ★ - ★★

### Private or Semi-Private Tutorials - \$

Develop your skills at your own pace and at a time that fits your schedule. Introductory private tutorials for one, two, or three students. Choose from:

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Basic Computer Skills, or
- Keyboarding/Typing

**Contact:** Learning Center (210) 736-0080 or 736-0700

**When:** Days and hours are arranged between the student(s) and teacher.

**Where:** Learning Center

**Fees:** 1 student: \$35 per hour, 10 hours for \$300. 2 or 3 students: per student—\$20 per hour, 10 hours for \$150

**Pre-registration:** Yes—call or visit the Learning Center

**Technical Rating:** ★

### Student Practice Lab

A specific time period for students taking Alamo PC Courses to use Computer Lab One (Classroom One) to practice their class assignments. Students may also make up missed class days, if the instructor has provided the course material to the individual. The Practice Lab is monitored and the instructors will help when possible. The Practice Lab is for Class Work Only. Those abusing the system will be asked to leave. Seating is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. If necessary a time limit will be imposed.

**Lab Instructors:** Joe Gentry, Sarah Thomas

**When:** Thursday mornings, except Holidays, 9 am to Noon.

**Where:** Computer Learning Center

**Pre-registration:** No

### Technical Content Ratings

- ★ For the beginner, no experience necessary and no prerequisite.
- ★★ Assumes some basic familiarity with the subject but is not a technical course.
- ★★★ Assumes that the student is somewhat familiar with the subject and will discuss.
- ★★★★ Assumes that the student is competent in the material and will be technical.

# Help Numbers

Can you help a new member with a new computer? Are you proficient in software not listed? Can you help with a title currently showing only one volunteer? Call Linda Bianchi at 226-2460 or email her at <education@alamopc.org>.

**1** Look down the list for the software program you need help with; note the number in front of the title.

**2** Then look down the list to the right for the corresponding number for the person who may be able to help you.

Please observe the times given by the volunteers name to call for phone help.

## Step One

1 Computers for Beginners

2 Windows 98

3 Windows XP

### Microsoft Office

4 Word

5 Excel

6 PowerPoint

7 Publisher

8 WinFax Pro

### Corel Office

9 WordPerfect

10 CorelDraw

11 Quattro Pro

12 Paint Shop Pro

### Photoshop

13 Adobe Photoshop

### Internet and E-mail

14 Internet Basics / ISP Connection

15 Web Page Development

16 Internet Explorer

17 MS Outlook Express

18 Opera

19 Mozilla

20 Dreamweaver

21 .Net

22 Flash

23 RoadRunner

### Open Office

24 OpenOffice

### Financial

25 Quick Books

26 Quicken

### Auction Online

27 eBay

### Genealogy

28 Family Origins for Windows

29 Genealogy

### Communications / Management

30 Time&Chaos

31 Act

32 Goldmine

### Data Base

33 Access

34 AlphaFour

35 dBase

36 Paradox

37 MySQL

### Networking

38 Networking

### Other

39 Hardware / Setting Up A New PC

40 Maintenance and Security

41 Home Help

## Step Two

Expertise	Name	Phone	Availability	E-mail
(1, 5, 6, 3, 12, 23, 26, 38, 41)	John Bolton	658-3060	6pm-9pm M-F	
(1, 3, 14)	Joe Barth	696-5783	7pm-9pm Tu, Th, Sat	jbarth@swbell.net
(2, 3, 4, 16, 17, 23, 29, 38, 39, 40, 41)	Bruce Cramer	865-2933	9am-3pm M-F, Sat	service@pcpro4u.com
(3, 5)	Bill Eastridge	223-8743	10am-6pm M-F, Sat, Sun	
(4, 15, 17, 33)	Bill Hudson	490-6513	7pm-10 pm M-F, Sat, Sun	bhudson3@satx.rr.com
(4, 9, 14, 27 )	William Hudson	824-6910	3pm-8pm M-F, Sat	rwsh@earthlink.net
(19, 24, 30, 37)	Chris Montgomery	490-2415	7pm-9pm M-F / noon-6pm Sat, Sun	
(3, 16, 17)	Ted Ressler			catechist@gmail.com
(1, 3, 14, 16, 17, 40)	Don Robinson	497-3737	9am-5pm M-F, Sat, Sun	dl7266@swbell.net
(10)	Stephen Tech, Jr	675-2880	5:30pm-9pm M - F	stephentechjr@yahoo.com
(9)	Cynthia Thompson	655-1058	7pm-9pm M-F / 10am-4pm Sat, Sun	cynthom@satx.rr.com
(4)	Christel Villarreal			christel.villarreal@gmail.com

If you are unable to find help in the list above, consider contacting the desk staff volunteers at the Alamo PC Computer Learning Center. 736-0700 or 736-0080. 10am - 4pm M-F, Sat Remember these volunteers are all levels of expertise and some may not be able to answer your questions, but may be able to find someone who can.


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## Classified Ads

E-mail your ad to the Editor, PC Alamo at: [editor@alamopc.org](mailto:editor@alamopc.org). Copy deadline is 10th of month preceeding publication. Classified ads are free to members of Alamo PC.

- For Sale** Windows XP Professional disk. New and unopened. Discount. Contact Carl Marmion at 494-6797
- For Sale** 3 Camera Bags - Universal Style 5" wide X 9" long X 6" deep, Sony DSC F828 case with shoulder strap Lowepro Micro 100 Trekker. All in good condition. Contact Bob Ramert [rpramert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpramert@sbcglobal.net).
- Wanted** Classified ads from members of Alamo PC. It costs nothing and it's a good way to sell or buy any computer-related item.



100% gray cotton golf shirts with pocket and embroidered full-color **Alamo PC logo**  
Available at the Learning Center in a wide variety of sizes.

**\$20.00**

Call the Learning Center at **736-0700**



# Alamo PC Organization has your Number!

Your membership number entitles you to a full year of membership privileges. Established in 1983, this non-profit, all-volunteer organization is dedicated to helping members keep up with trends and technologies.

## Monthly Meetings

Every month you can attend a presentation meeting, which is open to our 2,500 members. Local and national companies provide the first glimpses of new products and discounts on existing products. There are also drawings for FREE hardware and software.

## Award-Winning Magazine

When you join Alamo PC, you'll receive its award-winning magazine, *PC Alamode*, each month. You'll learn of group activities and you'll enjoy the reviews of new products from your fellow members. Regular columnists will give you insight to this fast-paced, dynamic industry. As a member, you can sell your outgrown stuff in our FREE Classified ads section.

## Special Interest Groups and Classes

Alamo PC offers more than 30 Study Groups and classes on specific software programs for beginners to expert. These small groups typically meet once a month in one of our two hands-on computer labs or classrooms and provide an opportunity to get answers in an informal setting. There are groups for word processing, Web design, graphics and programming and even study groups to help you get Microsoft Certified. You can attend as many SIGs as you'd like and, as you become experienced, even lead one!



## Internet ([www.alamopc.org](http://www.alamopc.org))

Alamo PC is on the Internet, and more importantly, Alamo PC can help you get on the Internet too. If you're already on the Internet, attending one of Alamo PC's Internet SIGs will help you to become a savvy Internet surfer.

## Alamo PC SeniorComp

Are you age 45 or older and not into computers or the Internet yet? Let us help. Contact Alamo PC today and sign up for the very next class. Classes are hands-on at a pace to match your learning style.

## Expert Help

Deadlocked with a computer problem or question? Get access to personal help from expert Alamo PC members. Just call! If you need someone to diagnose hardware and software problems, try "THE DOCTOR IS IN," a free clinic where members bring in their computers and allow our experts to help diagnose and often fix many PC ailments.

## APPLY FOR YOUR NUMBER -- JOIN NOW!

To join, return the application below or sign up online at [www.alamopc.org](http://www.alamopc.org). Your \$45 dues covers your entire family!e. You may use your credit card or send your personal check. If you need more information, call (210) 736-0700. Shortly after joining, you'll receive a membership card entitling you to all rights and privileges and discounts. **JOIN TODAY!**

**GIFT MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE: Call 210-736-0700 for details.**



### Membership Application -- Apply for your number today!

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. This information will be kept in confidence - it will be used for planning purposes only

FIRST: \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ LAST: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE H: \_\_\_\_\_ W: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept my membership for: ☐ 1 year - \$45 ☐ 2 Years - \$85 ☐ 3 Years - \$125 ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Method of payment: ☐ Check ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Alamo PC Organization and mail to: **Alamo PC, PO Box 65180, San Antonio, TX 78265-5180**

**IMPORTANT** ☐ I do not authorize Alamo PC Organization to release my name address and phone to selected vendors

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# Alamo PC Organization, Inc.

## *Renew Now!*

Isn't it about time for you to consider all the benefits of membership with Alamo PC? Renew your membership before the year is over!

For more information call the Learning Center at  
210.736.0700



## **Consider A Matching Donation, or a Donation To Alamo PC Organization**

Increasing members knowledge and effective use of personal computers, and providing other membership services and access to the expertise of other members, does not happen without an associated monthly expense. In recent months, although member dues and ads have offset the majority of the required monthly expense, and cost-saving measures are constantly being reviewed, the total amount of monthly funds generated has been less than the monthly expense. The shortfall has had to come from reserve funds, which have been severely depleted. We would like to offer everyone the opportunity to help rebuild the reserve fund.

If you employer has a "Matching Donation" program, please consider that you can double a donation amount by participating. All donations are tax deductible and can be dropped off at the Alamo PC Learning Center in Crossroads Mall (near the underground parking entrance, accessed from Fredericksburg Road) or mailed to **Alamo PC Organization, PO Box 65180, San Antonio, TX, 78265-5180**. Checks, Money Orders, etc., should be made payable to **Alamo PC Organization** and identified as "Donation."

On-line donations can be made at <<https://training.alamopc.org/donations>>. If you do not have on-line access, credit card donations can be made by mail if you legibly provide the following information on a piece of paper: Full Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone Number (to verify you want your card charged), Name of Card, Card Number, Card Expiration Date, Donation Amount, and your usual Signature. Please help us keep our membership dues low, meet our monthly expenses and rebuild the reserve fund.



