

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE ALAMO PC ORGANIZATION

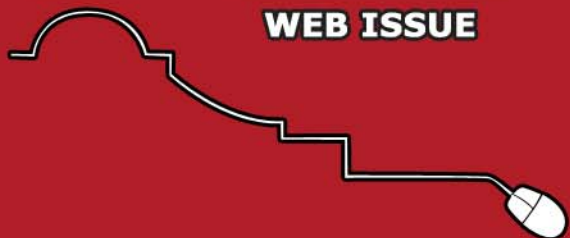
# PC Alamode

WEB ISSUE

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

November 2007

\$4.50

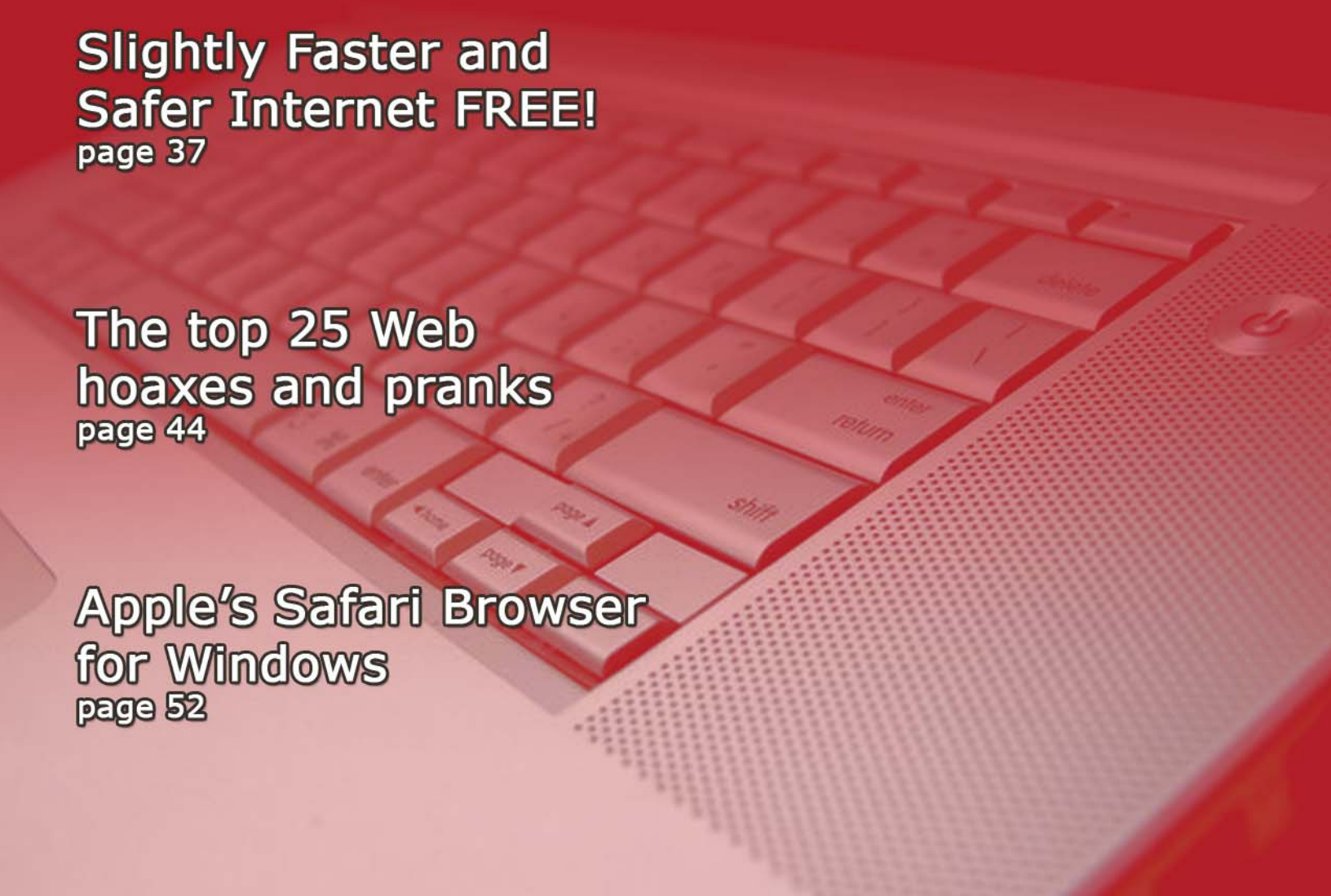


Online retirement  
planning resources  
page 35

Slightly Faster and  
Safer Internet FREE!  
page 37

The top 25 Web  
hoaxes and pranks  
page 44

Apple's Safari Browser  
for Windows  
page 52









# 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:

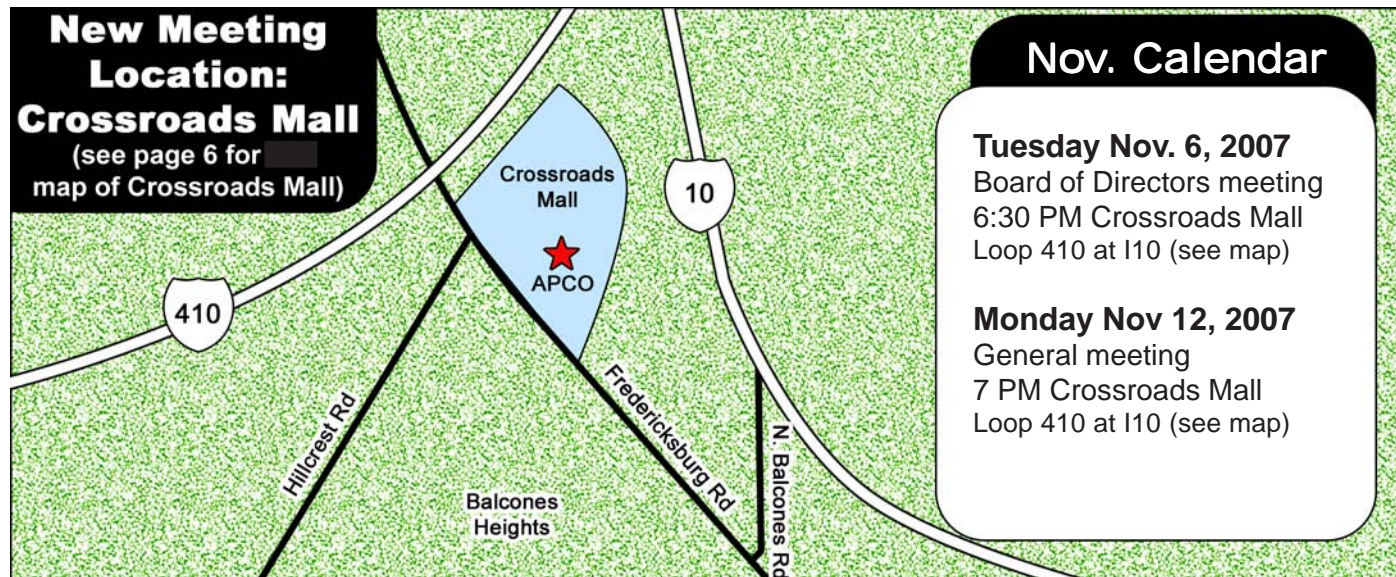
**Alamo PC Organization**  
**PO Box 65180**  
**San Antonio, TX 78265-5180**

## 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)



## Nov. Calendar

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

**Monday Nov 12, 2007**  
General meeting  
7 PM Crossroads Mall  
Loop 410 at I10 (see map)



## **departments**

<b>PC Alamode Links List</b>	7
<b>Enter</b> <i>Joseph de Leon</i>	7
<b>President's Message</b> <i>Bill Klutz</i>	8
<b>November Program News</b> <i>Bill Klutz</i>	9
<b>Volunteer of the Month</b>	10
<b>Funny Bytes</b>	12

## **columns**

<b>PowerTalk</b> <i>Shane Hicks</i>	13
<b>The Switcher</b> <i>Shane Hicks</i>	15
<b>Windows Tips &amp; Tricks</b> <i>Bill Beverley</i>	16
<b>Lazy Webmaster</b> <i>Susan Ives</i>	18

## **guest contributors**

<b>The Deals Guy</b> <i>Bob Click</i>	20
<b>PC 101</b> <i>Ron Ingraham</i>	22
<b>Computer Hysteria</b> <i>Barry Phillips</i>	24
<b>This and That</b> <i>Elizabeth B. Wright</i>	25
<b>Business Solutions</b> <i>James D. Duncan</i>	26
<b>Ergonomic Tips</b> <i>John R. Chait D.C.</i>	28
<b>Practicing the Blakc Art</b> <i>Vinny La Bash</i>	30

<b>Alamo PC Phone Directory</b>	6
<b>Map to Meeting Places</b>	6
<b>Alamo PC Calendar of Events</b>	58
<b>Study Groups and Classes</b>	59-63
<b>Help Numbers</b>	64
<b>Index of Advertisers</b>	65
<b>Classified Ads</b>	65
<b>Membership Application</b>	66

## ***Featured this month***

Online retirement planning resources  
Online weather resources  
Slightly faster and safer Internet FREE  
Info Everywhere, and Not a Thought to Think  
Setup Outlook Express YOUR way  
New, best and worst of the Web  
Top 25 Web hoaxes and pranks  
Free Widgets for Windows and Mac  
Safari Browser for Windows  
Yahoo! Internet Powerhouse

32  
35  
37  
39  
41  
42  
44  
50  
52  
54

# **PC Alamode**

## **(501 (C) (3))**

*PC Alamode* (ISSN 1065-3708) is published monthly by the Alamo PC Organization, Inc., PO Box 65180, San Antonio, TX 78265-5180, an independent association of personal computer users, founded in January 1983, and incorporated in January 1984 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. COPYRIGHT © 2007 by Alamo PC or the author. All rights reserved. No part of *PC Alamode* may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means — mechanical, electrical, or otherwise — including, but not limited to, photocopying, recording, or information storage/retrieval, without express written permission from Alamo PC. However, unless otherwise indicated, articles may be reprinted by other user and education groups provided the articles are reprinted unaltered and the publication acknowledges the author thereof and *PC Alamode*. Articles, programs, reviews, and advertisements are compiled without verification of accuracy or applicability to a specific task, computer, or other equipment. Comments or claims are made solely by the individual author and do not necessarily represent the views of Alamo PC or of any other Alamo PC member. Trademarks have been used at random within the publication and are hereby recognized as such.

Periodical postage paid at San Antonio, TX and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PC Alamode, PO Box 65180, San Antonio, TX 78265-5180.

### **EDITOR**

Joseph de Leon

### **EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Joe Barth  
Susan Ives

### **CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**

Bill Beverley  
Bruce Cramer  
Shane Hicks  
Tim Hoke  
Bill Hudson  
Susan Ives  
Russell James  
Larry Lentz  
K. Joyce McDonald  
Paul Vaughn

### **INTERIM PRODUCT REVIEW COORDINATOR**

David Steward

### **ADVERTISING**

Joseph de Leon

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

Joseph de Leon, Editor, PC Alamode  
[editor@alamopc.org](mailto:editor@alamopc.org)

### **Ad rates effective January 2005**

Rate frequency.	1 x	3 x*	6x*	12 x*
		<u>Per insertion</u>		
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

57



### Board of Directors

President	Bill Klutz	532-9122 (Home)	president@alamopc.org
Secretary	David Steward	662-8606 (Home)	secretary@alamopc.org
Treasurer	Billy Samples	646-0047 (Home)	treasurer@alamopc.org
Education	Linda Bianchi	226-2460 (Home)	education@alamopc.org
Operations	Cary Hall	736-0700 (Learning Center)	learncenter@alamopc.org
Marketing	TBD (Steve Tech)	675-2880 (Home)	marketing@alamopc.org
Communications	TBD		communications@alamopc.org

### Executive Service Officers and other important numbers

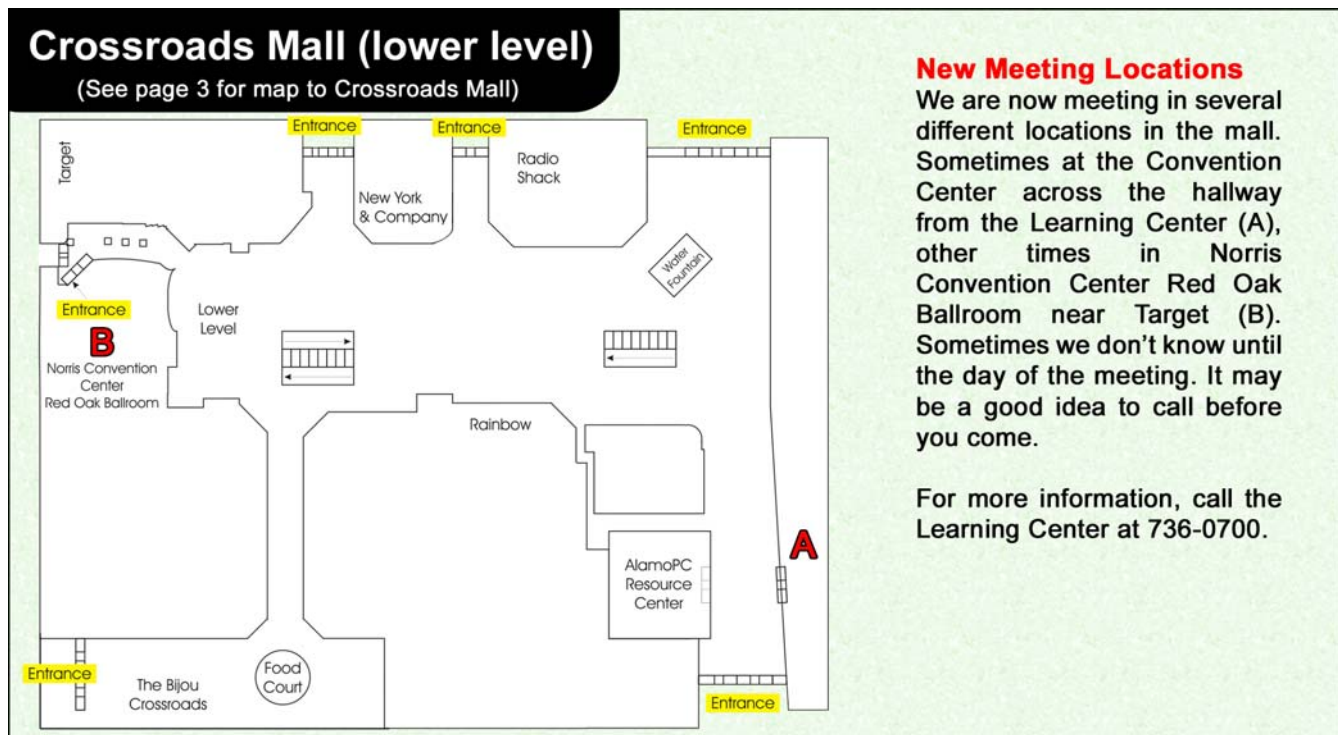
#### Learning Center, Crossroads Mall

736-0700

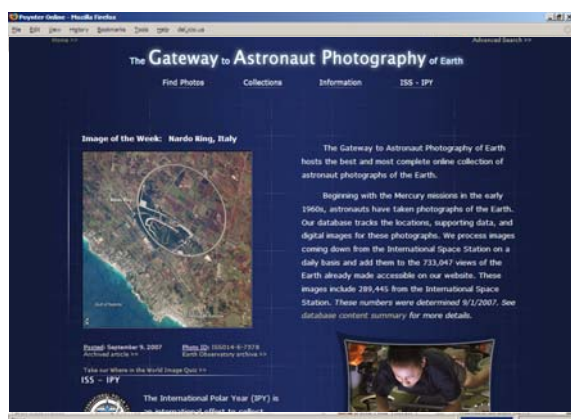
FAX 736-0032

Learning Center Manager	Cary & Jean Hall	736-0700 (Learning Center)	learncenter@alamopc.org
Past President/Programs	David Steward	662-8606 (Home)	dsteward@texas.net
Member Records	Steve Tech	675-2880 (Home)	membership@alamopc.org
Public Relations	Susan Ives	694-4582 (Home)	suives@texas.net
Product Review Coordinator	TBD (David Steward)	662-8606 (Home)	reviews@alamopc.org
Study Groups Coordinator	Linda Bianchi	226-2460 (Home)	education@alamopc.org
Special Projects	Joe Brazell	370-2207 (Office)	projects@alamopc.org
Registrar	Linda Bianchi	226-2460 (Home)	Registrar@alamopc.org
Webmaster	Mike Bianchi	226-2460 (Home)	Webmaster@alamopc.org
Lab/Network Administrator	Gary Grieve	492-5066 (Home)	netadmin@alamopc.org
Trade Shows	Steve Tech	675-2880 (Home)	stephentechnr@yahoo.com
APCUG Representative	David Steward	662-8606 (Home)	dsteward@texas.net
Editor, PC Alamode Magazine	Joseph de Leon	unlisted	editor@alamopc.org

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



## PC Alamode Links List



### Gateway to Astronaut Photography

<<http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/>>

This site hosts the best and most complete online collection of astronaut photographs of the Earth.



### Earth From Space

<<http://earth.jsc.nasa.gov/sseop/EFS/>>

The NASA Space Shuttle Earth Observations Photography database of images is a national treasure.



Over the past month, I've been restructuring the PC Alamode. Regular contributors from different computer groups were mixed together. Now everyone is arranged by user group, starting with our very own Alamo PC contributors.

Guest contributors, which appear courtesy of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups, follow with a couple of news ones, such as Computer Club of Oklahoma City member Elizabeth B. Wright's "This and That" (page 24) and Sarasota PC User Group member Dr. John R. Chait's "Ergonomic Tips" (page 28).

Speaking of local contributors, we have slowly lost several regular San Antonio-area contributors. The trend continues this month, so if you have an idea for a regular column, please let me know.

It requires a monthly commitment for a year. Columnists must write a regular length -- about 1,000 or 2,000 words -- to ensure the page is filled. If you have any questions or suggestions, please write <[editor@alamopc.org](mailto:editor@alamopc.org)>.

**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

## "November" - Daylight, Election, Veterans, Turkey

This month marks several things of interest to many: 4th - Daylight Saving: Date range expanded this year to help provide more daylight for individuals (Clock movement: Fall Back!); 6th - Election Day (USA): Begins the process at state level. (Various states scheduled over the coming months to allow a point of measure for candidates. The results will help the individual candidates determine where to spend more time and money to convince the American people that AI am the one you should vote for in the national election!); 11th - Veterans Day - A time to reflect and give honor to those who serve/served in our military forces, especially those who have seen the devastation of war (As we consider this, keep in mind that those who served in WWII, and survived, are leaving us at the rate of about 1000 per day. Soon they will only be a memory, for those who choose to think about WWII); 22nd - Thanksgiving: no explanation should be necessary, but generally it stands for a time soon after this country was begun, when many wanted to thank those already on this new soil for helping make it possible. (We should "give thanks" everyday, especially to those who have helped us, even in some small way, as life is sometimes short.)

At the October General Meeting, there were only 40 members who took advantage of the information provided. (The meeting was held in the Norris facility that is across from our Learning Center, because of the anticipated attendance [60+]. We expended money to rent the facility that could have been used for other things.) Three representatives from AT&T were present B John Bazaldua [210-218-8352], and Nestor Iracheta & Kryatal Schneider-Gonzalez [210-509-2500]. (John said he could be called about questions pertaining to AT&T and services offered.), They talk about AT&T services, but primarily focused on the iPhone and most of its many capabilities. They also answered numerous questions from those present, and touched on some of the things that might be considered in the future for both the iPhone and AT&T.

Some of the comments I have seen regarding the iPhone included> Good things: clean gorgeous design (4.8 ounces and a pocket sized 4.5x2.4x0.5 inches) with a single hardware On/Off button on the front; intuitive and very good interface; really great iPod functionality; great 3.5 inch display that appears Agravity oriented@ B orients the thing displayed to the vertical even if the iPhone is rotated 90 degrees; relatively easy to use; supports Wi-Fi (a better experience than EDGE). Not So Good: slow Web surfing via AT&T's slow EDGE data network; touch-screen keyboard has a learning curve; continuous use battery life somewhat disappointing; expensive (currently \$399 for 4GB and \$499 for 8GB [reflects a recent \$100 reduction for each], not including a two-year service contract). All things considered, the iPhone almost lives up to the hype that is almost outrageous.


For those who have or may eventually have an iPhone, eager developers are creating new Web-based applications (apps) for the iPhone, with more to come. Although short on iPhone specific presentation, the place to start is at [iphoneapplicationslist.com](http://iphoneapplicationslist.com) (the site attempts to track and list the new apps that are created almost daily).

I was not apprised that the November General Meeting had a presenter scheduled at the time this article was submitted (late Oct). Check the website or Learning Center for the latest information on location and presenter, but plan to come and bring some friends.

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 (especially at the board 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

*Continued on page 9*



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



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. Once it is determined that a class should be started, finding a teacher is usually a daunting task.

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.

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, with a copy to me (president@alamopc.org or privately wklutzjr@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 October 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.

## November Program

Bill Klutz

Our November General Meeting did not have a presenter scheduled as of late October. Check the Alamo PC web site ([www.alamopc.org](http://www.alamopc.org)) for the latest information on presenter and meeting location, or talk with one of the Learning Center desk personnel (210-736-0700 or 210-736-0080), 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

## Linda Bianchi



### Computer Buffet

With Dr. Herb Goldstein



## Undelete Plus

UNDELETE PLUS. The free Undelete PLUS can come to your rescue. Run it, and it scans your system for files that have been deleted, even those removed from the Recycle Bin, or deleted on a network drive or via a DOS window. It lists all the files, and tells you whether it can likely be restored. (In some instances, the delete file has already been overwritten; in that case, you can kiss it sayonara.) Then tell the program to restore your files, and they come back from the dead. [www.undelete-plus.com/](http://www.undelete-plus.com/)

*Please also note: Most of the software mentioned here is freeware. It is gathered through researching usually reliable sources. I do not personally try most references, time being the obvious factor.*

Dr. Herb Goldstein is SPCUG's Software Evaluation Chairman and Review Editor for the Sarasota PC Monitor. Herb is an avid researcher on all things computer and passes on his acquired knowledge each month. <reviewseditor@spcug.org>

## 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

### Volunteers Wanted

Call the Learning Center to volunteer to assist ongoing classes. For more info, call 736-0700.

### STUDY GROUPS

Call the Learning Center for schedule information 736-0700 or see page 59-63.

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:

Dec. 8, 2007

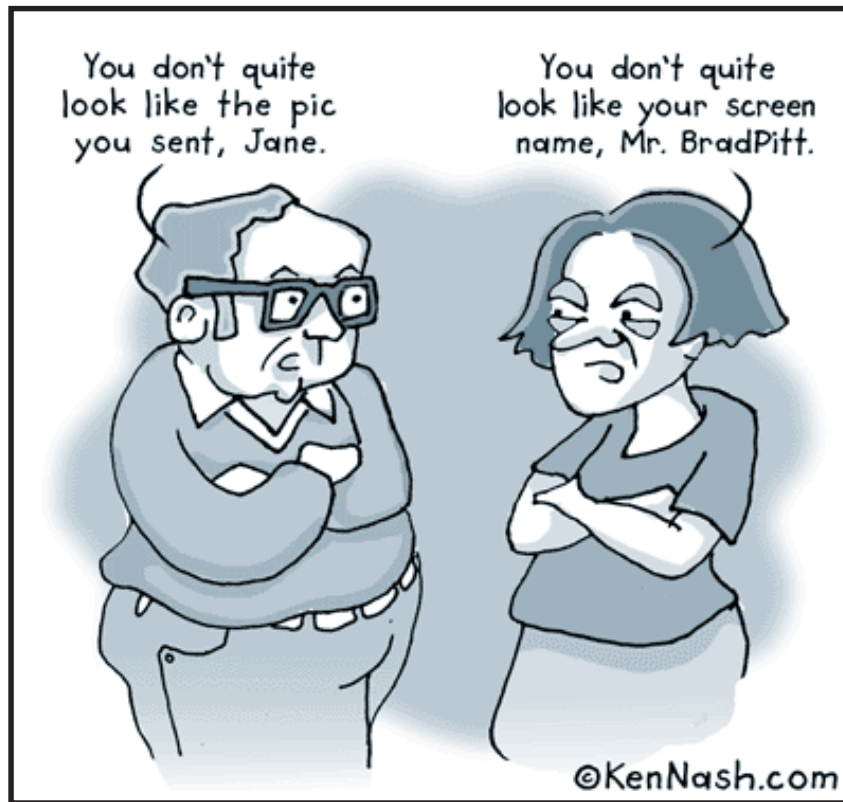
more info at <http://www.pcshows.com/>





# Funny Bytes

Ken Nash & Randy Glasbergen



Copyright 2003 by Randy Glasbergen.  
[www.glasbergen.com](http://www.glasbergen.com)



**"I regret upgrading to the super-premium cellular service.  
I can smell your breath over the phone."**



## Power Savings on your PC

**Shane Hicks, (certified certifiable)**

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

**W**ith the latest computing requirements come power hungry pieces of hardware. Leaving these systems on all the time can amount to pricey electricity bills at the end of the month. For example, a 400-watt system running at \$0.12-per-kilo watt-hour would run \$34.56 per month. Configuring your system to effectively use power saving features can have a positive effect on your bank account.

There are four “power states” that computer systems run:

S0 – Fully On

S1 – Slightly Powered Down

S3 – Virtually Off (Standby)

S4 – Fully Off (Hibernate)

In most cases, the S3 mode is going to be your best bet for power saving. As you’ll see in this article, the S3 mode can even be used if your system is a file server or remote access server.

### Test S3 Settings

The first thing that you need to do is enable the S3 Sleep State of your computer. To find out if S3 is already configured for S3, put your computer in Standby mode. In Vista, you do this by selecting Start and the Power icon, then Sleep. In Windows XP, select Start, Shut Down, and Standby. You can determine if S3 is being used at this point because no fans will spin and no noise will come from your computer. S3 turns off all the components in your system except your memory and will allow your system to use as little as 1.8 watts of power. If you can still hear your fans spinning, your computer is in S1 mode which doesn’t give you anywhere near the power savings of S3.

### Configure S3

If S3 isn’t enabled, you most likely need to turn it on in your BIOS. You enter your BIOS by hitting a key during the boot process (usually the Delete key). In the Power Management section, you should find options for the default suspend state. This is where you select S3. You’ll also want to enable any ACPI (Advanced Configuration and Power Interface) options. These options are critical to ensure the proper utilization of S3. It’s best if these options are enabled BEFORE you install Windows, so that the OS will configure the proper sleep configurations during installation. However, if you’ve already installed Windows, you will not be prevented from using S3.

### What if my USB mouse is unable to awaken the system from Standby?

If you can’t wake the system with the wiggle of a mouse, the mouse’s power management features may have been disabled. To fix this, manually enable these features. Go to Control Panel, System, and Device Manager. Locate the entry for your mouse, right click on it, and select Properties. Click the Power Management tab and click “Allow this device to bring the computer out of standby.” Your mouse should now be able to bring the computer awake.

### Correct USB Compatibility

Some older USB devices can’t resume from a sleep state. For this reason, Windows XP was configured to prevent S3 Standby if a USB device was present. Since most USB devices now in use are S3 compatible, you can fix the problems with Windows XP by altering the registry. Open regedit and create the following entry: HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\usb “USBBIOSx”=DWORD:00000000.

If your computer enters S3 Standby after you make this registry change, your system is most likely set to resume upon any USB activity and a USB device is sending endless signals to your computer. While it’s better for most users to have USB wakeup enabled, you can disable this activity in the BIOS if you’re having the before-mentioned problem. Remember, if you disable this feature, the only way you’ll be able to wake the system is with the power button.

*Continued on page 14*

If your computer fails to resume at all after changing the registry, it's most likely that you have an incompatible USB device. Either delete the registry key and continue using S1 mode, or try to disconnect certain USB devices to determine which is causing the conflict.

At this point, you should be configured for S3.

#### Select a Power Profile

You should now configure your OS to use S3 automatically. To do this in Vista, go to Control Panel and select Hardware and Sound. Select Power Options and edit to choose the number of minutes you want your system to wait before entering Standby mode. In Windows XP, you also go to the Power Options section of Control Panel.

#### Configure your PC to Wake On Demand

First, make sure that Wake On Lan is enabled in your BIOS. You'll also want to make sure that the Power On options for PCI and PCI-e devices are enabled.

In Windows, you'll also need to configure the wake-up abilities of your network devices. Again, go to Control Panel. Inside Network Connections, right click on the Local Area Network and select Properties. Click Configure and go to the Advanced tab. Once there, select Wake Up Capabilities and enable any wake-up options.

Finally, from the Power Management tab, check "Allow this device to wake the computer." Reboot and you'll be able to enter Standby mode—but your computer will awaken when it detects incoming network activity.

How will S3 respond to scheduled anti-virus scans and defragmentation?

Tasks that you need to run on a regular basis can still run while using Standby. Most utilities are now programmed to wake the computer when they need to run. If they are not, you can make them run by creating a Scheduled Task in Windows. To do this, got to Start, All Programs, Accessories, System Tools, Scheduled Tasks. Select Add Scheduled Task and schedule your program to run anytime that you want. Make sure to check "Wake the computer to run this task" on the Settings tab.

#### Using Static IP Addresses

If you need to access the S3 enabled computer over the network, the most reliable way to do so is by providing the system with a static IP address and create your mappings based on this IP (instead of by the Windows Network name). You can set this IP at the time of mapping.

### Alamo PC Organization now offers members private or semi-private tutorials

🖱️ Keyboarding/Typing  
🖱️ Basic Computer Skills  
🖱️ Microsoft Word

#### *Rates for one student*

\$35 per hour  
\$300 for 10 hours

#### *Rates for two or three students*

\$20 per student per hour  
\$150 per student for 10 hours

Enjoy private instruction on days and at hours  
that fit **your** schedule at our modern facility in  
Crossroads Mall.

**Call or visit the Learning Center to register  
(210) 736-0080**

## Corona Visions Inc.

Striving for a landfill free environment

**Disposal of computers,  
fax machines, printers,  
monitors, etc.**

Corona Visions has provided electronic  
recycling to the San Antonio, Central and  
South Texas area since 1997.



- Pick up of electronic equipment to be reconditioned or broken down for recycling
- Hard drives and fax memories erased using Department Of Defense-5220-22 erase menu
- Electronic equipment disposed of as ecologically as possible
- Commitment to the environmental and economic health of San Antonio, Central and South Texas.
- Provide high quality electronic recycling services
- Eliminate waste ending up as landfills
- Exceed current privacy, security and environmental standards as required by law when we recycle
- Offer safe and stable career opportunities

**www.coronavisions.com, Phone (210) 521 - 7612,  
411 N. Medina, San Antonio, TX. 78207**

**Serving San Antonio, Central and South Texas since 1997**



# The Switcher



...the ongoing tale of a Man and his Mac

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

**A**re you tired of hearing the sound that your Mac makes each time it starts? Do you sometimes find yourself in a situation where you need your machine to stay quiet? You'd think that you could simply turn your volume down or mute the system as you shut down and reboot—but this doesn't quiet all Macs. What you really need is a third-party piece of software!

Arcana Research currently has a program in BETA called StartupSound.prefPane 1.1b1 (this program has been available for some time, but the BETA now supports Intel-based Macs). This software can be found at <http://www.5e.biglobe.ne.jp/~arcana/StartupSound/index.en.html> and it's FREE.

Once installed, you can change the volume of your startup sound, or mute it altogether.

## **HARDWARE: DataTraveler Reader**

I just saw an ad for the coolest SD card reader I've ever seen! It's the \$35 DataTraveler Reader from Kingston Technology (<http://www.kingston.com>). Sure, there are a ton of SD readers out there, but how many of them double as a 2GB USB 2.0 flash drive? It supports all the current formats such as MMC, SD, and the newer SDHC cards (which are the high capacity SD cards that are more and more common). Due to its configuration, the flash portion (the 2GB) and the SD card appear to the operating system as two separate drives. For that reason, it's easy to transfer files from one media to the other to give you greater flexibility in handling your data.

## **HARDWARE: MacBook Pro Update**

Apple has unleashed a new line of MacBook Pro laptops, featuring the "Santa Rosa" chip set that Intel introduced in May, built around the Intel Core 2 Duo line of processors. These processors provide two processor cores on a single chip, running at either 2.2GHz or 2.4GHz, with 4MB of L2 cache. This "Santa Rosa" chip set takes the front-side bus from 667MHz to 800MHz.

Along with the standard Superdrive, an 8X DVD burner, the new line of laptops support up to 250GB hard drives. They can also handle as much as 4GB of RAM. Apple's also got a new graphics card vendor. This time, they're replacing the ATI Mobility Radeon with an offering from nVidia, the GeForce 8600M GT graphics controller.

The new laptop displays are mercury-free and use backlit LED's, consuming considerably less power than previous models. Plus, the 17" MacBook Pro has a higher resolution option that provides resolutions up to 1900 x 1200. In addition, Apple has adopted the 802.11n WiFi specification, which can provide up to five times the performance and two times the range of the former 802.11g standard.

Apple's done a good job of balancing performance with mobility. The MacBook Pro weighs in at just 5.4lbs. for the 15" model and the 17" is 6.8lbs.

## **ACTIVE DIRECTORY ON THE MAC**

One of the biggest challenges to computer professionals comes in supporting Mac users in a Windows Active Directory environment. Administrators need to control access to shares and printers on Windows servers, how they can log on, and what policies are applied to manage user environments.

There are several ways to bring Active Directory to the Mac:

**Apple's Active Directory plug-in** -- With Mac OS X Panther (10.3), Apple introduced a plug-in to its Directory Access utility that allows Active Directory configuration. It supports forests with multiple domains, domain controller fail-over, and can auto-mount a user's home directory. It can also grant users administrator access to a Mac workstation based on their Active Directory group membership. To join a Mac to an Active Directory domain, use an Active Directory account with permission to join the computer to the domain. Then, configure the search path of available directories to include Active Directory using the Authentication tab in the Directory Access tool. Mac OS X can search multiple directory configurations in a specified path when a user attempts to log in.

**Thursby's ADmitMac** -- ADmitMac, by Thursby Software Systems, offers several features over Apple's Active Directory plug-in. It supports Kerberos, as well as signed LDAP and SMB communication and NT LAN Manager, enabling tight security with Windows 2003 Server. In addition to enhanced security, ADmitMac supports the Windows Distributed File System and long share names, and provides additional options for browsing a Windows Server network for shares and printers. It provides a management console for Mac OS X that allows administrators to reset user passwords, move users and computers and create or modify existing accounts much as they would using the Microsoft Management Console. It also provides a tool that can be used to move a local Mac user's home folder to a network location and associate it with an Active Directory account.



## Troubleshooting Windows Part III

### 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.

**T**oday's hard drives rarely have errors. You probably don't need to check for any. But, if you think your hard drive's acting strangely, and defragmenting it doesn't fix the problem, tell WinXP to check it for errors. Open My Computer, right-click on your hard drive, and choose Properties. Click the Tools tab and click the Check Now button but leave the two options blank. Click the Start button, and you hear your hard drive whirring away as Windows probes it for problems. If it finds any, follow the Windows instructions for making repair attempts. Also start saving your cash and backing up your data -- repeated errors mean your hard drive may be on its last legs.

### Help and Support Center

When you choose Start, Help and Support Center, WinXP presents you with a wide array of choices. Many of the top-level choices boil down to the same bits of information by giving you many different ways to get to that information. Microsoft hopes to make finding what you need easier for you even if you don't know the answer to your question in advance.

Windows Help morsels fall into several categories: Overviews, articles, and tutorials: Explanatory pieces aimed at giving you an idea of what is going on with your computer. Tasks: This aid is a step-by-step procedure for solving a single problem or changing a single setting. Walkthroughs: These aids are marketing and multimedia demonstrations of capabilities. Troubleshooters: They take you through a series of frequently complex steps to help you identify and resolve problems. Microsoft has tried hard to enable you to solve your own problems. Search Options. The Help and Support Center already looks in all the places it can for you but this aid is another aid to find information. Live, one-on-one support from Microsoft: When Troubleshooters cover only the most basic problems and the most direct solutions. Remote Assistance is a great idea, but in practice the idea has plenty of problems because both you and your assistant have to be connected to the Internet or to the same local network. If firewalls exist between you, Remote Assistance might not work at all. Windows Newsgroups: They are on the Internet and may help you solve a problem. Windows Updates: These updates need to be applied to your compute to prevent problems. Hardware and Software Compatibility Lists: These lists assist you in determining compatibility of your computer with new software programs or hardware peripherals.

### Internet Explorer's Scripting Error

If you're getting a scripting error message in Internet Explorer, for example from Yahoo, it probably is a mistake in that script. This is a classic example of an unhelpful error message. It asks if you want to continue running scripts on the problem page. Fortunately, you can turn off this very irritating message. In Internet Explorer, click Tools, Internet Options, and select the Advanced tab. Under Browsing, click Disable Script Debugging (Internet Explorer) and Disable Script Debugging (Other). Also, clear the box next to "Display a notification about every script error." In addition, be sure Windows is up-to-date. Use Internet Explorer to check by clicking Tools and Windows Update, and letting Microsoft scan your system. Install any updates marked "Security" or "Critical."

### Memory

If you're having memory problems, check your virtual memory settings. You can access that by clicking Start, Control Panel, double-click System, select the Advanced tab, and, under Performance, click Settings, then select the Advanced tab. Under Virtual Memory, click Change and click Custom Size. The initial size of virtual memory should be three times your system memory size. Maximum should be double the initial size. If you are having problems with crashes, it could be your memory. Oftentimes, strange computer problems can be traced to memory. Microsoft has a small program that will check your memory. Download it to a floppy or burn it to a CD. It runs when the computer starts. Instructions for interpreting the results are on the Microsoft site. Print them out before running the test. The download is at:

<<http://oca.microsoft.com/en/windiag.asp>>. With a personal computer (PC) running WinXP, having a single gigabyte of RAM on the system meant that you could reliably run a single program without any issues. However with Windows Vista one gigabyte of RAM is pretty much required for it to run and two gigabytes is necessary for smooth running of applications. Vista really benefits from having more memory. WinXP was solely a 32-bit operating system. This made things very simple as there was pretty much just a single version to program for. Back when it was developed, most systems only came with 256 or 512MB of memory. It would run on these, but more memory was always a benefit. There was a problem though. The 32-bit registers of Windows XP and the hardware of the time limited PCs to a maximum 4GB of memory. It is a bit more complicated than this, as some memory is reserved for the OS and others for applications. This wasn't an issue with the applications of the time. There are applications such as Adobe Photoshop that quickly use up system memory. The problem is that WinXP can't handle anything beyond 4GB of RAM, even though the hardware could support it, the software could not.

*Continued on page 18*

## Pop-up Ads

If you are plagued by pop-up ads that can not be blocked by your other programs, they could be caused by a spammer misusing Windows Messenger Service. Users with WinXP can disable the service by clicking on Start, Settings, Control Panel, Performance, Maintenance, Administrative Tools, double-click on Service, scrolling to Messenger and highlight it. Next, you must right-click on the highlighted line and select Properties. Now click the Stop button, select Disable in the Startup scroll bar, and click OK. There is no known fix for Win98/Me for this problem. Here's another good suggestion. Update Internet Explorer (IE) to its latest version which is free at <[www.microsoft.com/downloads](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads)>. Then click Tools, choose Pop-Up Blocker, and click Turn On Pop-Up Blocker. You can also click Pop-Up Blocker Settings to modify the aggressiveness of the pop-up blocker and to create a "white list" of sites where you'll allow pop-ups to display on your computer. Alternative browsers also have pop-up blocking features. If you use Firefox, free at <[www.mozilla.org/products/firefox](http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox)>, open the Tools menu, click Options, select Web Features and then the Block Pop-up Windows checkbox, and click OK.

## Registry Backup

If you delete or remove a program and do so properly using Add/Remove and then still receive messages or indications that the removal process was not successful editing the Registry to eliminate any remaining parts of that program, back up the Registry by following the instructions at: <[http://www.komando.com/tips\\_show.asp?showID=1522](http://www.komando.com/tips_show.asp?showID=1522)>. To edit the Registry, click Start, Run, enter "regedit" (minus the quotes) in the box, and click OK. In the editor, click Edit and then Find. Put the name of the program you attempted to remove in the box and click Find Next. Remove any references to the name of that program.. The Registry is Windows' crucial database, so be very careful in accessing and changing it.

## Technical Support

Vendor web sites are now providing more help in troubleshooting problems with their computer products. Your first source for help should probably be with the vendor. If their help or troubleshooting aids can't solve your particular problem, then you might want to seek assistance from other users from the following Web sites: PCMechanic <[www.pcmec.com](http://www.pcmec.com)>; Suggest a Fix <[www.suggestafix.com](http://www.suggestafix.com)>; Tech Support Forum <[www.techsupportforum.com](http://www.techsupportforum.com)>; and Tech Support Guy <[www.techguy.org](http://www.techguy.org)>. Another site worth visiting is Experts Exchange <[www.experts-exchange.com](http://www.experts-exchange.com)> where tech professionals provide quick answers on just about any computer topic. However, you must pay \$10 a month to use this site. If you still can't find answers to your problem, then go to Tech Support Alert <[www.techsupportalert.com](http://www.techsupportalert.com)>, which provides a number of tech support links, reviews, and advice on an extensive range of technology topics.

## Technical Support

If you have computer problems before contacting technical support, see if you can first download any Windows Operating System (OS) Updates and anti-virus updates. Then you should run you ScanDisk and Defrag programs as a minimum check and then restart your computer. If you receive an error message, then launch Internet Explorer and search the database of error messages to determine what caused this problem for that program. If you feel a need to call for technical support, then find out the version of your program which has generated the error message by launching it, opening the Help menu, and clicking About (Name of the Program). The resulting dialog box usually lists the program name followed by the version number. In addition, you should take note of which Windows OS version is installed on your computer. Make note, too, of any other software that was running on your computer at the time of the error. Take a moment, too, to consider when the problem started and whether or not you were installing any new hardware or software prior to the problem. This information will help a technical support person in resolving your computer problem.

## RecoverSoft Data Rescue PC 1.6

This program makes it easy to recover data files after a major computer crash. When a drive unexpectedly fails and attempted reboots are met with "Drive Not Found" errors, you can insert this program's bootable CD into the disc drive. It restarts your computer and runs the program directly from the disc. The program's RescueWizard interface guides you through the recovery process, providing clear explanations to get you back up and running.

## Windows Memory Diagnostic

If you've been plagued with Blue Screens, you might want to try Windows Memory Diagnostic Tests. The Windows Memory Diagnostic tests the Random Access Memory (RAM) on your computer for errors. The diagnostic includes a comprehensive set of memory tests. If you are experiencing problems while running Windows, you can use the diagnostic to determine whether the problems are caused by failing hardware, such as RAM or the memory system of your motherboard. Windows Memory Diagnostic is designed to be easy and fast. On most configurations, you can download the diagnostic, read the documentation, run the test and complete the first test pass in less than 30 minutes. The two nice things about the Windows Memory Diagnostic are (1) that it's free, so you can grab it and keep a copy in your emergency toolkit for times when you face a hard-to-diagnose problem); and (2) that this WMD actually exists.

Microsoft Windows ages as it is used every day. As you use it to install, uninstall, patch, save, load, and all the other functions, Windows actually goes through a decaying process. After a point, Windows becomes unstable and unusable. Therefore, knowing that a computer will ultimately have some type of problem, the wise user will always backup his/her files to one or more of several options, such as floppy disks, CD-Rs, tape drives, zip drives, duplicate hard drives, etc. This step is the first and most important preventative maintenance task that will lessen the impact of any major computer problem. Thereafter, you will have to format your hard drive and reinstall Windows and your applications and data. Whenever you reach this last point, there's a complete guide for reformatting and reinstalling Windows at <[www.cyberwalker.net/faqs/how-tos/reinstall-faq.html](http://www.cyberwalker.net/faqs/how-tos/reinstall-faq.html)>.





## Getting a domain name

### Susan Ives, Alamo PC

Susan Ives is a former president of Alamo PC. She archives these columns on her Web site, <[www.susanives.com/](http://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!

**B**LOG is a free and easy way to get timely information onto the Internet. It is a combination of software tools and web hosting that allows anyone to keep and maintain an online journal without having to learn complicated computer or Web design skills. It's a personal publishing system that gets your thoughts into cyberspace instantly. There's no way to count the number of blogs, but estimates start at a million and go up from there.

Seeing a blog is more enlightening than reading about them, so have a look at my newest blog. In fact, you can finish reading this column there.

The first thing that you will notice is that it is arranged chronologically, with the newest entry on top. This diary format is the defining characteristic of blogs. They are intended for instant and frequent communications.

I found that the service called Blogger, owned by Google, is the easiest to use, especially for beginners. Another good free service is Journal Space.

With all of the blog services the first thing to do is to set up a free account, which essentially means giving the service your name and e-mail, selecting a password and a name for your first blog.

The blog name will become part of the address - [yourblogname.blogspot.com](http://yourblogname.blogspot.com). In Blogger, you can have unlimited blogs. Journalspace gives you one, and your user name becomes your blog address, so pick it carefully.

So you don't get confused, Blogger is the name of the service and the address you visit to manage your blog. Blogspot is where the blog is actually hosted, and the address that your visitors use. They are the same service.

The other required action is to pick a blog template, or the look and feel of your blog. The service will give you a set of templates from which you may choose (and easily change if you change your mind.) More experienced users can download other templates from third-party sites, design their own templates or modify the ones provided (they are created in HTML and Javascript: you have access to the code.)

That done, start blogging! Each entry is called a post. You type in your post, then publish it (click a button) to make it go live onto the Internet. If you want, add a few hyperlinks and format the text, just as you would with a word processor. There's even a spell checker (hint, hint.) That's it. You can master the basics of blogging in about five minutes.

But why stop with the basics?

Most blog hosts allow you to post pictures onto your blog. Blogger doesn't have an innate photo capability so you have to use a third-party program or service to transfer photos to your blog.

Hello, from Picasa Software, is a free program that is installed on your computer. Hello is sort of an instant messenger optimized to facilitate sharing photos with friends, but an added feature is a "bloggerbot" (bot is shorthand for robot) that sends pictures to your blog. It's quite simple to use. Master this in about a half hour.

Another way to add photos to your blog is through another blog (are you confused yet?) BuzzNet is a photoblog, sometimes called a Moblog. The MO stands for mobile: many people use these to share photos taken on their mobile phones. You can send photos by e-mail over the wireless access protocol, or WAP, as well as using BuzzNet's easy Web-based interface.

After you set up your free account with BuzzNet you can upload up to 60 photos per month. If that's not enough, you can buy more photo storage (100 more images in a month for \$5; \$15 for 300 images, or go for it and get their premium service – no banner ads, custom templates, password protected galleries and 250 photos a month – for \$36 a year.)

BuzzNet is optimized for photos rather than text; it's set up more like a gallery, although there are ways to add comments to photos. One of the options is "Blog This!" which will send a photo and text to your Blogspot blog with the click of a button.

BuzzNet is especially handy if you are traveling and are using someone else's computer – at a cyber café, for example. Since the interface is Web-based, you don't have to worry about installing any software. Hint: if you do a photo blog while traveling with a digital camera, get a USB-based card reader (something like the SanDisk 12-in-1 Memory Card Reader, about \$35) so that you can read your memory card directly into the alien computer. If you are in the US and taking photos with your digital camera this is not necessary.

*Continued on page 19*

I set up a BuzzNet account: you can see my moblog there.

If photos aren't enough, how about audio? Both Blogger and Journal Space allow audio blogs, which are sound files that you call in from any telephone and are automatically posted to your blog. These work through 3rd parties and are considered "add-ins" to the blog. You can listen to one. I used a service called audioblogger which is free and lets you post an unlimited number of 5-minute long messages by calling them in over your phone.

Some other audioblog services allow much longer posts – up to an hour! – and allow you to record them on your computer using a microphone. Some people are actually doing full-length "radio" shows using audioblogs. Sometimes this is referred to as "PodCasting," as people download the audio from the blog onto their MP3 players (an iPod, for example) so that they can listen to it away from their computer. Video blogs (Vblogs) are also starting to show up. Look at audioblog.com for more info: their service is \$50 a year.

This really just skims the surface of blogging. You can set up team or group blogs that multiple people can post to. You can enable a feature that allows others to add comments to your blog. There are blog communities that interact with each other.

Most blogs, including Blogger, will automatically set up an RSS (syndication) feed for you.

If you have your own Web space, Blogger allows you to integrate it with your web content so that it uses your URL.

Blogging can be serious business. Last summer, Express-News military reporter Sig Christenson maintained a daily blog from the battlefield in Iraq. They can also be silly and superficial. What you blog is up to you.

For personal use, a blog can be used for vacation photos – while the vacation is still happening! They can be used for family photos – a wedding? New baby? Or even just to post your musings. If you have the Google toolbar installed, there is a Blog button on it. If you click it, it will automatically post a link to the page you are currently viewing to your BlogSpot blog. Many people use this feature to share interesting sites with friends.

But blogs can be used for business, too. They are an excellent way to get current news up onto the Web fast; even someone with no technical skills can do it without waiting for the office Web guru to fit you into her busy schedule.

Here's a warning. Any free service, blogs included, can go out of business. Weblogs, a free service started by blog pioneer Dave Winer, suddenly shut down last summer, leaving thousands of bloggers homeless.

Give it a look. A blog might be all you need, or it could be a trendy and useful add-on to a full-blown Web site.

# 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

## David's Essential Domains



### Website Hosting Starting at \$3.95/month!

Economy	Deluxe	Business
\$3.95/mo.	\$9.95/mo.	\$29.95/mo.
50MB storage	1GB storage	2GB storage
1 GB transfer	15 GB transfer	30 GB transfer
50 e-mails	unlimited e-mails	unlimited e-mails

#### Domain Names

.COMs starting at \$7.85!

FREE with every domain:

- FREE! Change of Registration
- FREE! Parked Page w/ Domain
- FREE! Domain Name Locking
- FREE! Status Alerts

#### Website Tonight

Click 'n build your site online, in minutes!

- Hosting is built in
- 5 Page Site - \$4.95/mo
- 10 Page Site - \$8.95/mo
- 20 Page Site - \$12.95/mo
- 100+ professional templates



#### SECURE SSL Certificates

Build trust, build confidence, and build your online business – with a Secure SSL Certificate!



#### TRAFFICBLAZER™

Prepare your site so the search engines find it!

<http://www.davidsessentialdomains.com>



## 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.

**T**hanks for all your messages about my well-being. Because of somewhat nagging pains in my chest I was very worried that night and decided to send the column out early, just in case. Seven years ago, the doctors told me to get my final affairs in order because of all the artery blockages, but I believe my frequent walks have prevented my wife from spending my insurance money so far. Problem is, I can't walk much right now because of a bone spur. A few editors welcomed the column being early, but I don't usually accomplish that.

#### \*Check This Out!

Macon Users Group <<http://www.maconusersgroup.org>> has an excellent newsletter (MUG Monitor) and their president is one of my favorite writers. Louis Vitale has written "Lou's Views" for ages and he is my kind of writer because he tells it like it is and minces no words. In their August issue, he wrote about the data mining capabilities of Vista, and mentions his source for the information. I never miss reading his monthly column and can't remember ever disagreeing with his view, just cheering for him. I have that article posted on my Web site for your perusal. <[http://www.dealsguy.com/Articles\\_column.html](http://www.dealsguy.com/Articles_column.html)>

#### \*A New APCUG Event In The East

I read that APCUG is considering an eastern event because many eastern members don't want to travel to Las Vegas. That's a great idea, but finding a suitable show to coincide with it and help entice attendees could be a challenge. I liked the event tied to PC Expo a few years ago, but it didn't last. The expensive hotel was one problem. Conflicting views on how to run it also created hurdles. I especially liked the leisurely way they met for the meals though.

There are lots of computer-oriented shows in the east, but nothing as immense as CES. Microsoft has had a large show in Orlando during June the last few years that brings in a lot of big name vendors. The Photo Marketing Assn. (PMA) show that used to be in Orlando would have been excellent, but it moved this year, as has the Home Electronics Show, which would have been smaller, but an interesting one. Finding the right show might be tough. I don't agree that the show must be computer oriented. I have worked plenty of shows that were just as interesting, but most trade shows move around.

Timing also complicates it, but some feel that without a good show it might not attract enough attendees. How about using a cheaper hotel and meeting place, and inviting vendors without making them buy a meal and spend a fortune for the booth, which might bring in more of them if they had a reasonable attendance to talk to. Their absence proves they don't want the expense of the meals. Catered meals are very expensive and attendees should pay for their own meals. Attendees can get their favorite food at a modest price close by or maybe box lunches could be brought in for lunch.

Roundtables done by vendors are popular. These ideas might not work well either, but it has never been tried because it is assumed that we are so cheap that we won't show up without free meals. I disagree and overly frugal attendees don't help any event. We don't ask vendors to buy anything when they present at our UG meetings so why do it at our APCUG and regional gatherings. The regional events have only a few vendors, but most are only a two-day event so it's more the camaraderie than the vendors. A five-day event is lengthy and not all stay the full time. Maybe surveys would help provide ideas for arranging such an event. Let APCUG know your opinions and ideas. My views may not be popular, but they are another way to attract vendors.

#### \*Be Aware

I have not tried or checked out any of the following products or claims.

#### \*Why Not Try File Encryption?

BluestSoft introduces Bluest CryptShield 1.5 that can encrypt files, folders or drives to protect them from unwanted access. CryptShield uses one of three types of encryption algorithms, such as Rijndael (AES), Twofish (AES finalist), or Blowfish (448 bit) to scramble the data and create secure file-based virtual drives or entire storage drives.

Once the encrypted drive is created, it gets completely invisible for other people until it is mounted. The hidden drive can be mounted either manually or automatically (with password authentication) and can even be shared with other network machines. In automatic mode, the drive can be set to mount when you log in, and unmounted when you log off, or when the application is closed, or after a time duration of inactivity. Since the encryption is on-the-fly and has almost no impact on system resources, you will hardly notice the encryption. Restrict the connection of removable devices like USB drives and optical disks by registering only accepted devices. The CryptShield application verifies the validity of the drive and if it sees it's a non-registered device, it is not detected by the system.

*Continued on page 21*



There is another layer of security for documents you create on public computers. After copying an important file to the encrypted USB drive, you can shred the original document completely by overwriting it by 0x00. CryptShield renders the file completely unrecoverable even for the most advanced recovery software.

Bluest CryptShield 1.5 runs under Microsoft Windows 2000/XP/Vista and sells for \$39.95 (US) for a single-user license. Users group members get 50% off the purchase price of the new Bluest CryptShield until the end of November. Use coupon code; cs50nov. Additional information and a free evaluation copy are available at <<http://www.bluestsoft.com>>.

Product page link: <<http://www.bluestsoft.com/en/products/cryptshield.html>>

Download link: <<http://www.bluestsoft.com/en/download/downloadrequest.html>>

Postal address: 2102 Business Center Dr., Suite 130, Irvine, California 92612

Tel: 949-253-5763

### \*Freeware Is Always Nice

A new free all-in-one system utility that helps protect, repair and optimize computers with a single click of the mouse has been introduced. The product is called Advanced WindowsCare V2 Personal. IObit, the software company that developed it, says it's vital that users maintain and optimize their PCs on a regular basis to keep computers free from Adware and Spyware. This freeware is designed to be the first point of call in solving these issues.

Advanced WindowsCare Personal offers four major benefits:

1. Defends Windows: Scan and remove Spyware and Adware with the latest definitions; prevent spyware, hijackers and bad websites from being installed; erase the history of all activities in computer including traces of online site visit activity.
2. Cleans Windows: Boost system performance by deep scanning and cleaning out all missing, unwanted, obsolete and corrupt registry entries and junk files.
3. Keeps peak performance: Fully optimize Windows for ultimate system performance and top Internet speed, based on how users use computer and what kind of network they have.
4. Fixes system errors: Repair system configurations, eliminate system bottlenecks and prevent crashes, keeping your PC stable and roaring at peak efficiency.

Advanced WindowsCare Personal works on Windows Vista/ XP/ 2000. It is 100% clean and safe, free of adware and spyware (DealsGuy comment: their words, not mine). For more information, and to download a copy, visit: <<http://www.iobit.com/AdvancedWindowsCarePersonal/>>.

### \*Keep Those Freebies Coming

ESTsoft Corp. released ALZip v7.0 beta, the full featured zip archiving utility for Windows 98/Me/2000/XP/Vista, with new features for faster extracting, updating, and restoring backups. The new Speed Extractor functionality in ALZip gives users one-click extraction, making ALZip the fastest way to extract files from archives. A second Speed Extractor option gives users a clean and simple menu, free from clutter that gradually creeps into Windows Explorer right-click context menus.

Those looking to restore projects/file sets to a previously known good state can now overwrite files on disk with only the older, good files from their backup archives. Well known for its cute "Egghead" characters, ALZip follows up with a robust set of functionality, including support for extracting 36 archive formats and creating 8. ALZip is available in 25 languages.

Free for home users, commercial users can purchase licenses on the honor system for between \$20 for a single license and \$3 per seat for volume orders. Current licensees can upgrade for free. Free downloads are available at <[www.altools.net](http://www.altools.net)>.

## 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

## Volunteers Wanted

Call the Learning Center to volunteer to assist ongoing classes. For more info, call 736-0700.

## STUDY GROUPS

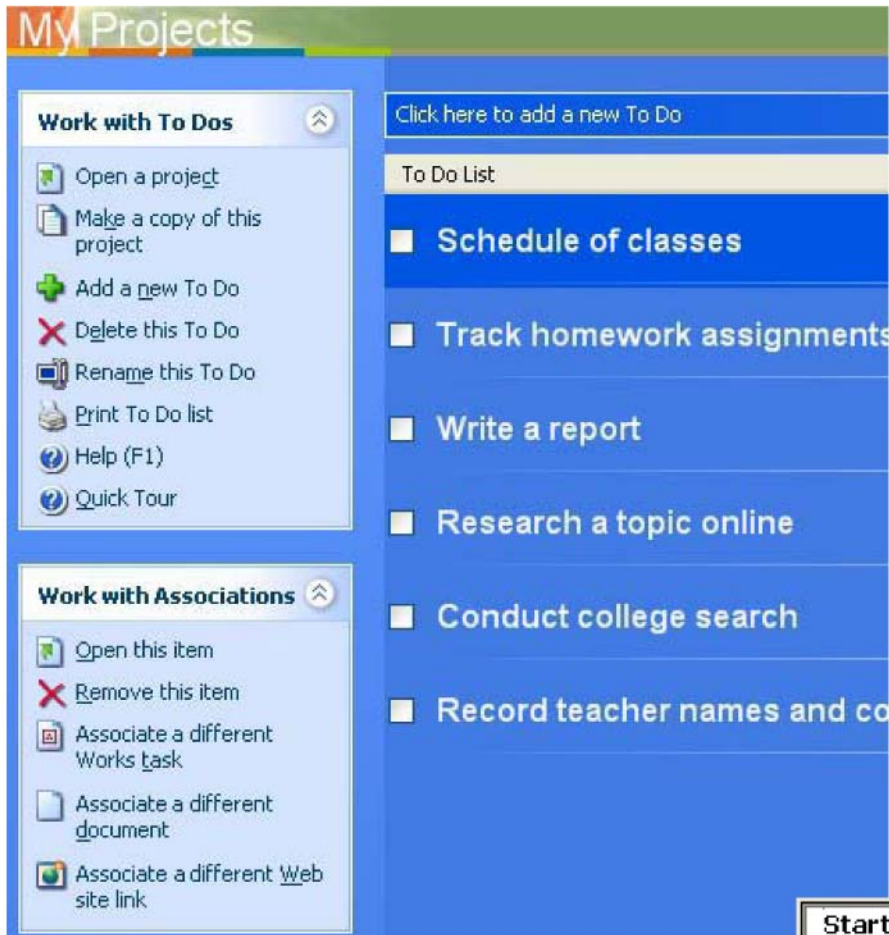
Call the Learning Center for schedule information 736-0700 or see page 59-63.



# Microsoft Works - Research and Education

## Ron Ingraham, Space Coast PC User Group

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>



More area. Next there are the related [Articles](#). I should point out here that many (perhaps most) of the resulting 65 articles are only available to MSN Encarta Premium Subscribers to the tune of something like \$4.95 per month. There are enough free ones to serve the basic needs of a student researching the Program. I should also point out that a Google search of the same topic would no doubt bring up many more articles.

Moving on to the next items on the list, both Conduct College Search and Record teacher names will take you to the Works Spreadsheet Program. A blank spreadsheet appropriate to the item selected is opened. Covered headings list the Colleges of Interest, Scholarships and Financial Aid, Ap-

Last month we left off with [Write a Report](#). Now let's take a look at [Researching a Topic Online](#). Clicking on this item takes you directly to the Encarta page at msn.com. This comprehensive site offers a broad menu of sources - The Encyclopedia, a Dictionary, an Atlas, a Thesaurus, as well as areas covering Homework, College, Grad, Online Degrees, and Career Training. I could fill these pages just listing the areas covered on the home page. You can do that for yourself at <http://encarta.msn.com>.

Sticking to the task at hand, we can search Encarta by typing in the subject in the search box just below the Menu line. For example: I typed in Gemini Space Program. A rather impressive collection of 91 loosely related pictures comes up in the [Photos &](#)

### Start using the Spreadsheet

Use the Works Spreadsheet to create lists, calculate values with formulas, and produce charts.

If you're new to the Spreadsheet, click the topic that describes what you want to do. Or, type a question in the **Answer Wizard** box at the top of the **Help** pane, and then click **Search**.

[Create a list](#)

[Create a chart](#)

[Calculate values](#)

[Use Works Help](#)

[Quick Tour: Spreadsheet](#)

[Quick Tour: What's New in Works](#)



Do Well in School  
 Encarta Online, search on t...  
 Graphs and charts  
 News on the Web  
 Notes and outlines  
 School reports  
 School work planning tools

### Special papers

started. However, most of the listed items are not directly related to the spreadsheet currently displayed, but are more general in nature such as creating lists and charts, and calculating values. This is also true for the Record teacher names sheet.

Back on the basic Tasks window, the remaining items in the Research and Education area are seen at the left. As you can see, many of these items are redundant, appearing in other areas as well. For example, the School work planning tools just include another spreadsheet where you can track your classes, homework, and school activities.

The Special Papers task provides a variety of templates for music, graphs, calendars and more. They come in a wide variety of sizes for all of your projects. The Works Special Papers Wizard provides 6 different styles of graph papers, an Invoice, 2 different ledger papers, a Monthly Calendar, tall or wide Music sheets, and for those too lazy (or too much of a perfectionist) they even include Tic Tac Toe Paper. This is certainly handier than having to keep a stock of different papers on hand, just in case they're needed.

The one item I skipped until now is the News on the Web item. Clicking on it brings up msnbc.msn.com. Assuming that you have a broadband, always on, connection, you're immediately taken to the MSNBC home page. If you haven't done this before, it's worth a look. Of course if you have dialup, you could always go online before clicking

pointments and Meetings, and Phone Calls in the To Do List. The adjacent Help area is seen below left. For those unfamiliar with spreadsheets, the listed topics will provide a guide to get

on this item. Clicking on US News from the left column opens a long list of subjects. Without

#### U.S. News

The Changing Court  
 Crime & Punishment  
 Politics  
 After the Storms  
 U.S. Life  
 U.S. Security  
 Education  
 Environment  
 Race in America  
 Only on MSNBC.com  
 WP.com Highlights  
 Peculiar Postings

selecting from the list, the full page has the item seen below, Today's Top Stories. In addition, you'll find Across the Country. Each of these areas offers detailed articles on the listed subjects. One could spend hours viewing all of the material included on these pages.

This concludes the discussion of the Research and Education Task. As always, I strongly recommend that you open the pages seen here and become

familiar with the contents. □

#### TODAY'S TOP STORIES

- Final appeal for Crips co-founder
- S.F. cops disciplined over prank
- Marshals defend airport shooting
- FEMA chief got dire warning in '04

#### IN POLITICS

- WP: House aims for major tax cuts
- Democrats wrestle with Iraq options

#### ACROSS THE COUNTRY

- Brrr! Southeast, Northeast brace for cold | NBC video
- Katrina spurs tax breaks | Melee in Houston
- S.F. police to suspend 20 in video prank | NBC video
- For Christmas trees this year, bigger is better | Vote
- You've been warned: New 'Sober' worm set for Jan. 5
- NBC video: Legal eagles eye lawsuits on soda makers
- Officer used Taser in fight over soda, police say

**MSNBC TV | TODAY SHOW | NBC NIGHTLY NEWS | DATELINE NBC | MEET THE PRESS**

**MSNBC**

**U.S. News**  
 World News  
 Business  
 Sports  
 Entertainment  
 Tech / Science

**AGING AMERICA**  
 Life expectancy at all-time high, trouble seen for baby boomers  
 How long will you live?

**LATEST ON IRAQ**

- Group: U.S. hostage killed | • Video
- Baghdad bus blast kills dozens
- NBC exclusive: Blogging Baghdad

**MORE TOP STORIES**

- Airport shooting defended | • Video
- John Lennon remembered | • Images
- Journal: Merck hid bad Vioxx info

Photodisc





# The Brain

Computer Hysteria

## Berry Phillips, Computer Club of Oklahoma City

Barry is a member of the CCOKC and a regular writer for the CCOKC website and the eMonitor

**I**t was dark one Saturday afternoon in my youth. I was mesmerized by the scene on the large silver screen of our local movie theater. The scene was a laboratory of a diabolical mad scientist that had acquired a fresh human brain for experimentation. The brain portrayed in living color was suspended in a green luminous liquid that was glowing and bubbling. The evil scientist had attached wires to various parts of the brain so it could function as man and machine!

Years later while surfing on the Internet, I read an interview conducted by Business Week with Raymond C. Kurzweil, a MIT graduate and a founder of six companies that have pioneered applications of artificial intelligence in medicine, speech recognition, and reading machines for the blind.

His books include *The Age of Intelligent Machines*, and *The Age of Spiritual Machines*. Upon completion of his book, *When Computers Exceed Human Intelligence*, he gave an interview addressing the question, "Do you have any doubts that a superior intelligence will emerge in the next few decades?"

"No. It's inevitable. For example nanotubes would allow computing at the molecular level. A one-inch cube of nanotube circuitry would be about a billion times more powerful than the human brain, in terms of computing capacity. That raw computing capacity is a necessary but not sufficient condition to achieve human-level intelligence in a machine.

We also need the organization and the software to organize those resources. There are a number of scenarios for achieving that. The most compelling is reverse-engineering the human brain. We're already well down that path, with techniques like MRI. But we'll do better because the speed and the resolution--the bandwidth--with which we can scan the brain are also accelerating exponentially.

One means of scanning the brain would be to send small scanners in the form of nanobots into the blood stream. Millions of them would go through every capillary of the brain. We already have electronic means for scanning neurons and neurotransmitter concentrations that are nearby and within 30 years, we'll have these little nanobots that can communicate with each other wirelessly.

They could create an enormous database with every neuron, every synaptic connection, every neurotransmitter concentration--a precise map of the human brain. So, we'll have the templates for human intelligence.

Once we can embody human thought processes in a non biological medium, it will necessarily soar past human intelligence for several reasons. First, machines can share their knowledge electronically. With humans, you spend years teaching language to each child. [But] once any one machine has mastered something, it can share that knowledge instantly with millions of other machines over the global wireless Web, which we'll have by then. So a machine can become expert at any number of disciplines.

Secondly, machines are far faster, and machine memories can be far larger and much more accurate. However, machines do not yet have the depth of pattern recognition or the subtlety of human intelligence. They can't deal with emotions and humor and other subtle qualities of human intelligence.

Once their complexity matches that of humans and they are able to master the skills at which humans now excel, and those abilities are combined with the ways in which machines are already superior--that will be a very formidable combination. It'll get to the point where the next generation of technology can only be designed by the machines themselves.

Finally, while the complexity of the biological computational circuitry in humans is essentially fixed, the density of machine circuitry will grow exponentially. By 2030, a \$1,000 computer system will have the power of 1,000 human brains, by 2050, a billion human brains."

Welcome to Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*!



### Paying too much for healthcare?

discounted fees on:

- ♦ doctors
- ♦ dentists
- ♦ prescription drugs
- ♦ vision care
- ♦ chiropractors
- ♦ alternative health care
- ♦ and more



visit online:

<http://ushealthadvisors.net/davebobst>



# What happened next

**Elizabeth B. Wright , Computer Club of Oklahoma City**

Elizabeth is a member of the CCOKC and a regular writer for the eMonitor

**H**ave you accessed the WindowsXP “Restore” option to reset your computer to an earlier time? We often need to do this when things go haywire after installing some new software. Fiddling around with old programs or offbeat wares can sometimes land you in hot water operating wise. I found myself in just such a mess not long ago. Fortunately I had made a restore point prior to installing the renegade software, so I was able to use it to get things back to normal. Well, almost.

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT:

One of my oldest and most valued programs is CorelPaint. Suddenly, after going through the restore procedure, I began getting an error message plus having the program refuse to open when I double clicked on the desktop shortcut icon. This applied to CorelDraw as well.

The error message said something about trying to install the program, then it would go through some strange digital machinations before rolling everything back and giving up. Strangely enough though, if I double clicked on a .jpg or .tif file in Explorer, the files would open the program with no difficulty.

Several days were spent opening graphic files in this manner when it suddenly dawned on me that perhaps the programs might open from the executable files directly. Sure enough, when I went to them, again in Explorer, they both opened like clockwork. So why did it take me several more days to figure out that the icons on my desktop had some way become corrupted? I don’t want to know the answer to that one.

Anyway, after deleting the icons, new ones were put in place by right clicking on the executable files in Explorer and double clicking the “Send to desktop” option from the menu. Usually the names given icons made in this way are not the best, so they usually get changed to something more useful on my computer.

Often part of the name is “shortcut”. Who needs that? It’s fairly simple to change the name. Just click once on the icon, wait long enough so that the computer doesn’t interpret the next click as a double click, then the icon text will be in “Edit” mode. You may have to experiment with the timing for this since not all “mice” are set for the same response time. The two clicks need to be fairly close together, but not close enough for a double click. Once in “Edit” mode you can type in whatever name that makes better sense to you.

We should all know by now that if there is a curved arrow in the lower left corner of the icon then the icon is a shortcut to the executable file, not the program or file itself. Be very careful. Sometimes there actually are icons for executable programs placed on your desktop when the programs are installed. Those icons will not have the curved arrow.

Don’t delete them unless you want to get rid of the program itself. This applies also to other things you might have placed on the desktop yourself, such as graphic or document files. It might be wise to leave those names in their original form. It might also be a good idea to examine the icons on your computer to see how many, if any, DO NOT have the curved arrow. Chances are there won’t be many, possibly none. It is helpful to know if there are any that reflect actual programs or files, just to keep yourself informed about your own computer system.

It always pays to figure out what your computer is up to. Since it lives a life separate from yours it is often not possible to tell just what it has been doing in your absence. With the new powerful operating systems, many, many things go on in the background when the machine is powered on, whether you are there or not. Supernerds probably have eliminated many of the automatic actions, but most of us just muddle on, thankful that the computer runs at all.

## STUDY GROUPS

Call the Learning Center for schedule information 736-0700 or see page 59-63.



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



## Excel-Fill in the Blank Forms-On Demand

**James D. Duncan , Computer Club of Oklahoma City**

James is a member of the CCOKC and an expert in Access and Excel.

We use Excel to accumulate data and extract answers. This month I want to explore the goal seeking function. This is a part of the suite of commands called what-if analysis. I took a quick look in the spreadsheet help and searched for “goal”. This gave me a very abbreviated explanation of the command. I then clicked on help and Office on the web.

On the Microsoft site I search on “goal” and found 53 matches. From this page I chose “About Goal Seek”. I am sure each selection would have taken me to a fascinating explanation of more features that I would like to use. But, let’s look at the goal section.

This has explanation and a sample. Click on the Show All and get the full verbiage. This always gives insight and more explanation into the theory and workings of the system.

Let me give you the sample that Microsoft has. The goal is to determine (seek) what the interest rate would be on a \$ 100,000 loan for 180 months with payments of \$ 900. Input the following information. The PMT function gives us a payment of \$ 984.74. We can play with this or use the Goal seek function.

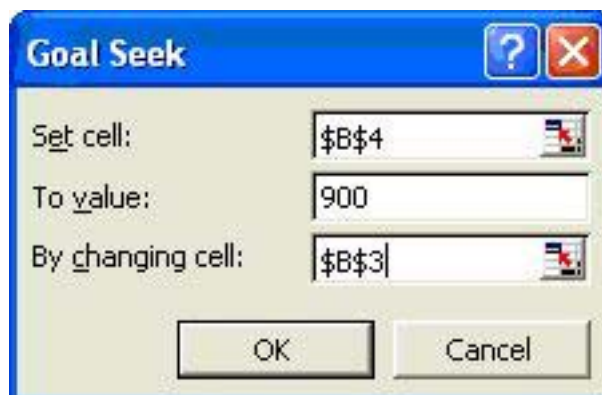
*Continued on page 27*

	A	B	C
1	Loan Amount	\$100,000.00	
2	Term in Months	180.00	
3	Interest Rate	8.50%	
4	Payment	(\$984.74)	
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			



Only changes other than plain text are that B1 and B4 are formatted for currency. B3 is formatted for percentages. The formula “=PMT(B3/12, b2,b1)” is entered in B4.

Now let us do the magic part. Click on Tools, select “Goal Seek...” and you will get an input box to fill in. Let me show you what I did first time. I sure did not get what I wanted. I had to study what the PMT formula was asking for and what I had input. Here is my input. Made sense to me.

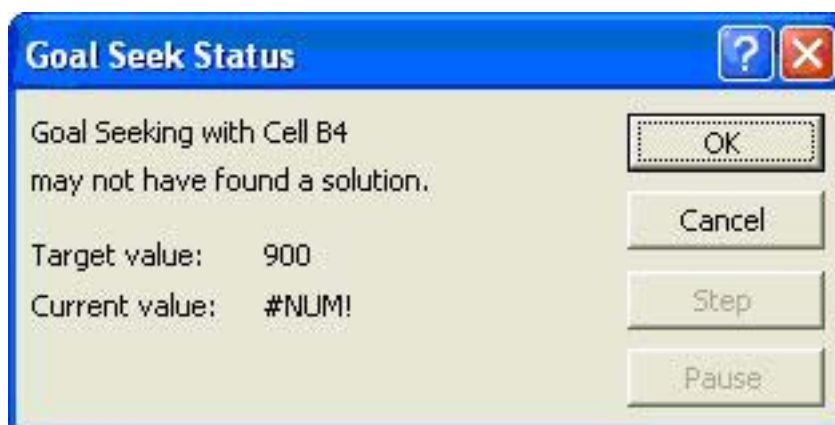


The Goal Seek dialog box is shown with the following settings:

- Set cell:** \$B\$4
- To value:** 900
- By changing cell:** \$B\$3

Buttons: OK, Cancel

And the result was not correct. The Goal Seek Status window displays the following.

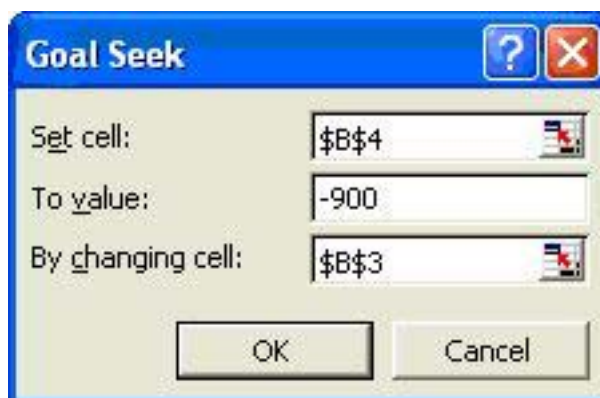


The Goal Seek Status dialog box displays the following information:

- Goal Seeking with Cell B4**
- may not have found a solution.**
- Target value:** 900
- Current value:** #NUM!

Buttons: OK, Cancel, Step, Pause

The spreadsheet interest field and payment field were filled with errors indicating data problems. When I clicked on cancel the original information comes back.. I tried the goal seeking again. What I had failed to understand was that the “PMT” formula wanted the payment in negative format. The “To Value” for cell B4 should be -900 not a +900. The payments are of descending values. Get help on the “PMT” function and it will show you that the payment value is to be negative. As my friend Boyd says, push it back to the top of the hill.



The Goal Seek dialog box is shown with the following settings:

- Set cell:** \$B\$4
- To value:** -900
- By changing cell:** \$B\$3

Buttons: OK, Cancel

Now we have the payment of \$900 and the answer for an interest rate is 7.02%. Just way cool as they say.



## Ergonomic chairs and adjustability options

Ergonomic Tips

### John R. Chait D.C. , Sarasota PC User Group

Dr. Chait is a practicing chiropractor in Sarasota and is the SPCUG ergonomic consultant. As an avid computer enthusiast, Dr. Chait knows first hand how important proper interaction between the user and their PC can be. He stresses this in his ergonomic tips column and his lectures. <drchait@hotmail.com> For more ergonomic tips, visit <<http://chaitchiropractic.com/links/Ergonomics/>>

**M**ost people are surprised to learn that misusing the telephone can lead to shoulder, neck pain, headaches and other physical problems. If you use a telephone while you work at your computer, you probably occasionally cradle the telephone between your head and your shoulder. Working with this posture can result in a spasm or contracted muscle on the phone side that restricts blood supply and becomes very irritated. Elongated muscles on opposite side may also cause pain while being stretched.

The correct positioning of the base of a corded telephone relative to your position depends on how often you use it. If you frequently place or answer calls from a phone with a cord, it should be positioned in normal reach. To determine the area covered by your normal reach, put each arm out to the side of your body and move them from this position until the hands meet at the center of your body in front of you. Your phone, along with everything else you use frequently should be within this zone.

If you frequently make calls, consider using a cordless phone or one with the numeric pad on the receiver rather than the base. This will avoid having to extend your reach to dial a phone number. However, if you often make calls within voice mail and other automated systems, using a phone with numeric pad on its base will be more convenient.

Learn how to hold your phone in a proper position against your ear. Your head should remain straight and your shoulders in a relaxed state. Your shoulder and head can be bent slightly to one side to cradle the phone, though preferably not for prolonged periods of time to prevent any cramping. If you tend to use the phone for long periods, consider changing ears and supporting the hand on a regular basis. If your calls tend to be shorter, consider switching ears and your hands every other call.

Using a Headset allows hands-free conversations and will reduce the risk of any discomfort or injury associated with improper phone use. This is superior to a speaker-phone because it will work well in a loud environment or with private conversations. If you use the phone frequently most of the day, a headset is your best option. Headsets can be purchased at most office supply stores for a

*Continued on page 29*



### Volunteers Wanted

Call the Learning Center to volunteer to assist ongoing classes. For more info, call 736-0700.

price ranging from \$20-\$250. They are easily installed on any phone. If you do use a headset with a single earpiece, consider switching ears to eliminate any pain that may be caused by continuous pressure on only one ear.

Using a speaker phone permits hands-free telephone conversations, eliminating the risk of any pain discomfort or spasm associated with improper phone use. Speakerphones do have practical limitations. Generally, they won't work well in a noisy environment or for private conversations, and may sometimes hinder the sound quality of the conversation.

If your computer has a microphone and a sound card, and connects to the Internet, you can use one of the Internet-based phone Websites such as Dialpad.com. Using your computer as a phone has the same limitations as a speakerphone. It won't work well in a noisy environment or for private calls. The sound quality can be very disappointing if you do not have a good connection. As technology improves, the sound quality available for phone calls over the Internet will improve.

## How the arm and hand work

The arm and hand are designed to perform a range of tasks in many different positions. They are capable of exerting great force as well as fine manual dexterity. Structurally, the arm is best considered in terms of its three major components: shoulder, elbow and hand. Each component has its own characteristics. The shoulder is controlled by muscles in the neck and upper back. The elbow is the least complicated of the components. Together the hand and the wrist have 27 bones. Most of the muscles controlling them are in the forearm.

Ligaments connect the bones to each other and tendons connect muscles to the bones. When a muscle contracts, it pulls the tendon which moves the bone to which it is attached. Portions of these tendons are enclosed in sheaths-shiny and very slippery coverings that protect and lubricate the tendons and permit them to slide back and forth freely. Joints contain bursa, fluid-filled sacks that reduce friction and provide cushioning during motion.

### Arm and hand injuries

Excessive back and forth movement of a tendon under excess load can cause inflammation (pain, swelling or tenderness) of the tendon or its sheath. Other causes of inflammation in these structures include direct physical trauma, excessive external pressure and various diseases. When the inflammation involves the tendon primarily, the disorder is known as tendonitis, and when it involves the tendon sheath, it is known as tenosynovitis. When tenosynovitis is associated with the narrowing of the tendon sheath, it can produce trigger finger or de Quervain's disease.

At joints where tendons are unsheathed, such as at the shoulder and elbow, other injuries can occur such as epicondylitis and bursitis with symptoms of pain, tenderness and reduced range of motion. Names you may be familiar with include "pitcher," "golfer" or "tennis" elbow. Pressure on the nerve can produce symptoms of pain, numbness and tingling. These can include problems at the shoulder and carpal tunnel disease, which is compression of the median nerve on the palm side of the wrist.

Regional musculoskeletal illness, cumulative trauma disorder (CTD), and repetitive stress injury (RSI) are terms that have been used to describe repetitive motion problems. Pain can occur from sprains, strains and acute overuse along with personal medical conditions. Hobbies, participation in sports, activities at home and work tasks can lead to these conditions.

It is important for individuals experiencing persistent pain to have an examination by a qualified chiropractor to determine the cause of the discomfort, to provide corrective treatment and to help identify activities that may aggravate the condition.

### Techniques for reducing musculoskeletal disorders or discomfort

Musculoskeletal disorders or discomfort associated with prolonged static or awkward posture, or forceful repetitive motions can often be ameliorated by good work practices, training procedures, and workstation setup or tool design.

### Work practices

To reduce the time spent performing one specific motion and to allow time for recovery, several employees on a periodic or rotation basis could perform different tasks. In some instances, it may be possible to design a task so that it can be performed with either hand and the person trained to alternate hands. All tasks should be designed to minimize stress and strain on the arm from the shoulder to the hand.

*by John R. Chait D.C., drchait@home.com  
Member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.*





# Vista power management

## Vinny La Bash , Sarasota PC User Group

Vinny (SPCUG President in 1996-97-98) is a retired IBM'er and teaches computer part time at the Sarasota Vocational Technical Institute. <labash@spcug.org>

No matter how good an operating system may be, someone will complain that it could have been better. Vista is a very good operating system that some people find wanting. Some people are never satisfied, but that is not the issue here. Of course Vista should have been better, but Microsoft has only so much time and resources to develop a system, and Vista was late to market in addition to being less than perfect.

In this article we'll show how to make Vista work better for you, and that's all we can reasonably ask of any operating system. Let's take care of the power users first. Power users are too impatient for menus. They think menus are for wimps. After encountering Vista User Account Control they may have a point.

1. Left-click the orb at the bottom left side of the screen.
2. In the Search box type cmd.exe.
3. Right-click on cmd.exe and choose Properties from the popup menu.
4. Select Pin to the Start Menu.

The Command Prompt is now always available from the Start menu. If you would like to make additional tweaks to the prompt, right-click the shortcut from the Start menu and choose Properties.

The blinking cursor, otherwise known as the insertion point, tells you where you can type or insert text. The cursor can be difficult to locate because it's so thin, but Vista has a way to fatten it up.

1. Open Control Panel.
2. A dialog box appears. In the upper right corner, type "Optimize visual display."
3. The Ease of Access Center icon will appear. Select the link below the icon.
4. Locate the Make the focus rectangle thicker box and put a checkmark in it.
5. Set the thickness to whatever you like. Don't get carried away with some ridiculous number. Bumping up the thickness by one or two points should be sufficient.

When you install a large high resolution monitor, you quickly become aware of the relationship between high resolution and eyestrain. Vista provides a way to make text easier to read without having to sacrifice resolution.

1. From the Start Menu open Control Panel.
2. In the Search box at the upper right corner of the dialog box, type adjust font size.
3. The resulting list will probably consist of one item, Adjust font size.
4. Select it and you can choose to accept the larger text option or click on the Custom DPL button and experiment.

Vista comes equipped with an excellent Snipping Tool that was originally designed for a different version of Windows. In its generosity, Microsoft chose to include the tool in every version of Vista except Vista Home Basic, which is fine because nobody should buy Vista Home Basic. Snippy lets you capture any portion of a screen, either rectangular or free form. You can then paste it into a document, email or save it as a graphic. Don't use it to copy and paste text for editing because a graphic image can't be edited like text. Here's how to get it:

1. From the Start Menu type snip in the search box.
2. The Snipping Tool should be at the top of the list. Right-click on it and select Pin to the Start Menu. You can also add it to the Quick Launch Bar if you like.

Vista has added several new wrinkles to the Quick Launch bar. It's been around since Windows 95, but it's never been more useful. If you hold the shift key down while right-clicking on a shortcut, you will see an expanded popup window with additional

options. One option is to put the shortcut icon on the Quick Launch bar. You can still use the traditional drag and drop method, but having another alternative when the desktop isn't visible is always helpful.

When the Quick Launch bar is active, that means you can see it on the Task bar. If you need to activate Quick Launch right-click on a clean area of the Task bar. Drag your mouse to the Toolbars option, and select Quick Launch.

Each of the first ten shortcuts on the Quick Launch bar has its own custom keyboard shortcut. If the Calculator is the third icon from the left, press the Windows key and the number 3 and you activate the calculator. Limiting the number of built-in keyboard shortcuts may be Microsoft's way of telling you that more than ten items on the Quick Launch bar is too many.

Vista keyboard shortcuts are a great way of performing little tasks more easily. Instead of having to reach for your mouse, you can press two or three keystrokes. There are those keyboard shortcuts that are common to all versions of Windows and now there are some new ones. Among the new features introduced in Windows Vista, is a new set of shortcut keys that are used to launch various programs or perform different tasks. These new keyboard shortcuts are listed below.

Windows Key + G (cycles through the Gadgets)

Windows Key + L (locks the computer)

Windows Key + U (activates the Ease Of Use Center)

Windows Key + X (cycles through the Mobility Center)

Windows Key + Spacebar (moves the focus to the Sidebar)

Windows Key + Pause (opens the System Properties portion of Control Panel)

CTRL + + Tab (opens persistent Flip 3D)

## **GLOBAL TRAVEL TRENDS**

*We're Going Places!*

Global Travel Trends has designed a fun, work from home, Associate Travel Agent Program, to provide an opportunity for people all over the world, a way for them to change their lives for the better.

Take advantage of tremendous savings when planning a family vacation or a romantic trip for two by visiting our website at [www.greatratetravel.gttrends.net](http://www.greatratetravel.gttrends.net) and click on the "Travel Center" button.

**Rudy & Debra Flores**

*Associate Travel Agents*

(832) 259-9910

(832) 372-4527

[greatratetravel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:greatratetravel@sbcglobal.net)

***\* Cruise for \$40 a day***

***\* All-Inclusive Resorts for \$30-\$50 a day***

***\* Upgrades on Flights, Car Rentals and Hotels***

***STOP PAYING RETAIL! BECOME A TRAVEL AGENT! SAVE & EARN!***

**TO LEARN MORE, WATCH THIS MOVIE:**

**[www.gttmovie.com/greatratetravel](http://www.gttmovie.com/greatratetravel)**

A red rounded rectangle containing the text "Web Issue" in a white, bold, sans-serif font with a red outline. Below the text is a faint, stylized image of a computer screen showing a URL "http://www.budgethelp.com" and a computer mouse with a glowing blue light.

## Web Issue

# Online Retirement Planning Resources

By **Ira Wilsker**, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX; radio and TV show host; [Iwilsker@apcug.net](mailto:Iwilsker@apcug.net)

**L**et's face it; many of us are working hard and may or may not be planning for retirement. All too many of us are present oriented, and do not adequately plan for our financial future. Whatever your political persuasion or beliefs, social security retirement income is only intended as a minimal safety net, and not a comprehensive retirement plan. Many of my college students have expressed concerns that either social security will not be around for them to collect when eligible, or that benefits will be cut back as the ratio of workers to social security recipients declines.

*Continued on page 33*



## WEBSITES:

**Retirement Calculator**

<http://finance.yahoo.com/calculator/retirement/ret-02>

**Money Magazine-CNN retirement planning lessons**

<http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/money101/lesson13>

**Fidelity Investments online interactive retirement calculator**

<http://www.fidelity.com/myPlan>

Many of us are lucky enough to have 401(k) or 403(b) tax sheltered retirement plans, while others among us may have IRAs, either traditional or the newer Roth plans. Many of us blindly accept that our employer will take care of us. Most of us are not independently wealthy, and will have to depend on ourselves to provide for our own retirement, either in part or in full. Very few of us have a reliable prediction of how well off we will be financially at retirement.

There is an old cliché that “information is power”, and by having good information and acting on it in a timely fashion, we may have a financially comfortable retirement. Fortunately, the internet has many reliable resources that can help us with our retirement planning, regardless of our current age or fiscal situation. Some retirement planning resources are available from the financial media websites, while others are available online from brokerages, insurance companies, and mutual fund sponsors.

The online service Yahoo has extensive financial information freely available, including a comprehensive personal finance section. One such section is its retirement information at [finance.yahoo.com/retirement](http://finance.yahoo.com/retirement). This page, which is continually updated, is rich in retirement information. Included on this page, as I type this, are topics including a variety of “how to” guides, “questions and answers” on retirement topics, and a variety of financial calculators.

One calculator available for free from Yahoo is its online retirement calculator at [finance.yahoo.com/calculator/retirement/ret-02](http://finance.yahoo.com/calculator/retirement/ret-02). This online calculator is easy to use and confidential, and does not require any type of registration, but it does ask some very personal questions necessary to provide a retirement solution. The Yahoo retirement calculator asks for current age, income, spouse's income, predicted rate of inflation, desired retirement age, and other pertinent information. While not totally comprehensive, the results provided by this calculator are a graph showing retirement balance and retirement income and an annualized table displaying age, salary, beginning retirement balance, additional savings required, inflation adjusted desired retirement income, projected social security income, withdrawals from retirement account, and ending retirement account balances. While no online retirement calculator should be counted on to be absolutely accurate in predicting the future, this calculator will at least give the user a ballpark concept of what to expect at retirement under different scenarios.

Money Magazine and CNN have online retirement resources at [money.cnn.com/pf/retirement](http://money.cnn.com/pf/retirement). As I type this, the page is displaying information on 401(k) plans and possible hidden fees which can eat away at returns, how to draw upon a 401(k) at retirement, information on accepting a pension or lump

*Continued on page 34*

## Retirement

## How Much Will I Need To Save For Retirement?

★★★★★ Good (1141 Ratings)

Retirement can be the saddest or happiest day of your life. This pre-retirement calculator will help you determine how well you have prepared and what you can do to improve your retirement outlook. It is important that you re-evaluate your preparedness on an ongoing basis. Changes in economic climate, inflation, achievable returns, and in your personal situation will impact your plan.

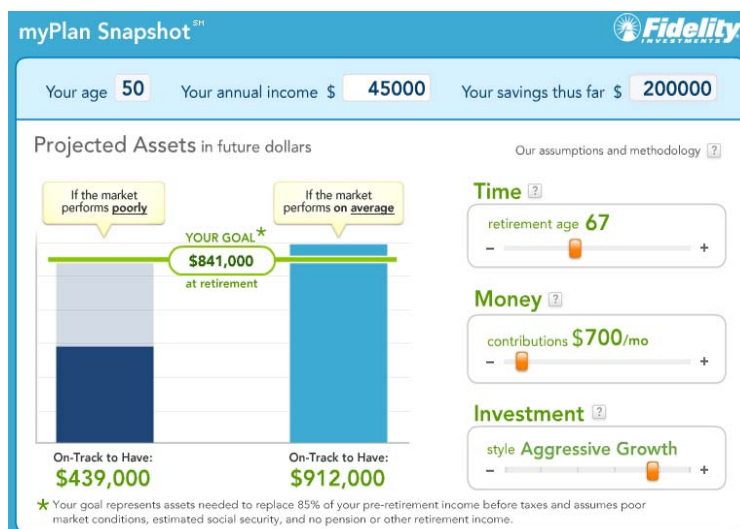
Retirement Information and Assumptions	Input
Your current age	(1-99) <input type="text" value="35"/>
Current annual income	\$ <input type="text" value="0"/>
Spouse's annual income (if applicable)	\$ <input type="text" value="0"/>
Current retirement savings	\$ <input type="text" value="0"/>
Expected inflation: (%)	(0-10)% <input type="text" value="3"/>
Desired retirement age	(1-99) <input type="text" value="65"/>
Number of years of retirement income	(1-40) <input type="text" value="20"/>
Income replacement at retirement: (%)	(0-200)% <input type="text" value="75"/>
Pre-retirement investment return: (%)	(0-12)% <input type="text" value="8"/>
Post-retirement investment return: (%)	(0-12)% <input type="text" value="8"/>
Include social security benefits?	<input type="button" value="No"/>
Marital status	<input type="button" value="Married"/>
<input type="button" value="See All Calculators"/> <input type="button" value="Submit"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

sum distribution, “The last 401(k) guide you’ll ever need”, and strategies for a comfortable retirement. On this page are also links to a variety of calculators to calculate savings nest eggs, debt reduction, a “millionaire” calculator to predict when the user will accumulate a cool million, and other calculators.

Many brokerage houses, insurance companies, and mutual funds have online retirement information. One of my personal favorites is the “My Plan” available online from Fidelity Investments at [www.fidelity.com/myPlan](http://www.fidelity.com/myPlan). No registration is required to use this comprehensive calculator. This calculator has a friendly and helpful audio voice accompanying the simple questions asked. The use of a slider to enter information, as well as to demonstrate the impact of any changes is commendable. With only five simple questions, the calculator will demonstrate potential retirement scenarios. Small grey question marks are displayed adjacent to each term used and will open a window explaining each of the terms. The first question asks your age, followed by (second question) your current income. The third question asks how much you have already saved for retirement, followed by (fourth question) an inquiry about how much you are putting aside each month for retirement, including employer contributions. The final question asks about your investment style, with the slider ranging from “Short Term” (no stocks, no bonds, 100% cash instruments) to “Most Aggressive” (100% stocks, no bonds, no short term investments). As a solution, the calculator returns a pair of bar charts showing projected results at retirement if the market does poorly, or if the market performs about average. The calculated retirement goal shown is for 85% of pre-retirement income, poor market conditions, estimated social security income, and no other retirement income. Clicking on the link “Our assumptions and methodology” will give the details on how the projections are determined, based on statistical information.

On the myPlan “Snapshot” projections page are sliders for “Time” (retirement age), “Money” (contributions), and “Investment” (style and risk categories of investments). By adjusting these sliders right and left, the scenario will interactively change demonstrating in real-time the effects of the changes. Clicking on the boxes at the top of the “Snapshot” allows the user to vary age, income, and amount of savings, all of which will effect the graph shown.

The best time to have started to plan for retirement was “yesterday”. Since “yesterday” is past, we should all plan now for tomorrow. These and other reputable resources may be a big help in our retirement planning.



## MONEY 101

### LESSON 13: Planning for retirement

[Money 101 mainpage](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TO MONEY](#)

## Top things to know

### 1. Save as much as you can as early as you can.

Though it's never too late to start, the sooner you begin saving, the more time your money has to grow. Gains each year build on the prior year's - that's the power of compounding, and the best way to accumulate wealth.

### 2. Set realistic goals.

Project your retirement expenses based on your needs, not rules of thumb. Be honest about how you want to live in retirement and how much it will cost. Then calculate how much you must save to supplement Social Security and other sources of retirement income.

### 3. A 401(k) is one of the easiest and best ways to save for retirement.

Contributing money to a 401(k) gives you an immediate tax deduction, tax-deferred growth on your savings, and - usually - a matching contribution from your company.

### 4. An IRA also can give your savings a tax-advantaged boost.

### In Lesson 13

[Retirement savings calculator](#) [ABC Glossary](#) [Take the test](#)

- [Top things to know](#)
- [What should I do first?](#)
- [How should I invest?](#)
- [The virtues of the 401\(k\)](#)
- [The IRA advantage](#)
- [What to do when you switch jobs](#)
- [How can I get the most out of my money in retirement?](#)

**Holiday Ink**

Compatible  
inkjet Cartridges  
starting at \$5

[www.tdinksales.com](http://www.tdinksales.com)  
[tdinksales@satx.rr.com](mailto:tdinksales@satx.rr.com)

**L & M Bookstore**  
1716 N. Main Ave.

**Qwik Pack & Ship**  
1205 N. Loop 1604 W Suite 221

**Great Northwest Postal Center**  
8745 Grissom Road

**American Shipping & Mail Boxes**  
8452 Fredericksburg Rd

**Ink Spot**  
6420A Bandera Road



# Online Weather Resources May Be Lifesavers

By **Ira Wilsker**, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX; radio and TV show host; [Iwilsker@apcug.net](mailto:Iwilsker@apcug.net)

We just learned a valuable lesson from the hit we took recently from Hurricane Humberto. At 8am on a Wednesday, a local TV weatherman was saying that the clouds in the Gulf would not amount to anything. At 10am, the National Hurricane Center ([www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)) announced that it was Tropical Depression 9, and we were put under a tropical storm warning. At 1pm, the National Hurricane Center announced that it was Tropical Storm Humberto. When it came ashore here in the wee hours of Thursday morning, it was a hurricane. According to Senior Hurricane Specialist James Franklin, of the National Hurricane Center,

"To put this development in perspective — no tropical cyclone in the historical record has ever reached this intensity at a faster rate near landfall. It would be nice to know, someday, why this happened."

Whether a tropical storm, hurricane, tornado, severe thunderstorm, or other major weather event, we need to be informed about what natural events may be threatening us. If we are kept informed, we may be better able to keep our families safe, and prepare for the potential event.

Now that we are in the most active part of the hurricane season, and living on a coastal plain near the Gulf of Mexico, tropical weather is a major concern to me and others so situated. Arguably one of the best resources to keep track of tropical weather is the website of the National Hurricane Center at [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov). This site has what may be the most comprehensive information on tropical weather available. Its maps of projected storm tracks and wind fields are widely used by both the print and electronic media to show where the storms are likely to be going. A wealth of other information is freely available as well, including hurricane safety, radar and satellite images, free public news feeds available via RSS, and email alerts. Public advisories are posted in English and Spanish, and forecast advisories and discussions are posted as well. Data and graphics on this site are frequently updated, with typically a six hour schedule; when storms threaten land, updates are more frequent, typically on a three hour cycle. This excellent service, along with its

## WEBSITES:

**National Hurricane Center**  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

**National Weather Service**  
<http://www.weather.gov>

**Weather Channel**  
<http://www.weather.com>

**My non-commercial weather site**  
<http://www.beaumontweather.com>

**Yahoo! weather widgets**  
<http://widgets.yahoo.com/gallery/?search=weather>

**Texas Weather Radar Widget**  
<http://widgets.yahoo.com/gallery/view.php?widget=39762>

**Yahoo! Weather Radar Widgets for other areas**  
<http://widgets.yahoo.com/gallery/?search=weather+radar>



*Continued on page 36*



poignant graphics of current storm locations and projected storm tracks, has rendered the archaic paper hurricane tracking charts which required manual updating obsolete.

The “granddaddy” of weather sites is the National Weather Service at [weather.gov](http://weather.gov). The heart of the site is an interactive weather map where clicking on the map will open up a localized web page displaying the desired information. Tabs on the top of the map will display other maps showing warnings and forecasts, graphical forecasts, a traditional national weather map, radar images, detailed water and flood information, air quality, satellite images, and climate information. By entering a city and state in the search box on the page, detailed local weather information will be displayed including a “7-Day” forecast, and other comprehensive information.

There are many fine commercial weather sites online from a variety of sources, such as the Weather Underground, and the Weather Channel. The Weather Channel obtained the valuable domain name [weather.com](http://weather.com) where it posts detailed weather information. Hyperlinked topics available include weather news, travel weather, driving and traffic reports, healthy living, home and family, sports and recreation, and information about the Weather Channel. At the top of the page, comprehensive local weather can be displayed by entering a city or zipcode. The local page shows the current temperature and heat index (or wind chill), weather videos, and a 36-hour forecast. Links lead to hourly weather forecasts, a 10-day forecast, and an air quality forecast.

In March of 1994, while the internet was in its infancy, there was no comprehensive local weather information for this Gulf region, so I created my own non-commercial weather page, the Golden Triangle Weather Page at [www.beaumontweather.com](http://www.beaumontweather.com). During most of the year it displays local weather information, current satellite and radar images of the area, and regional and national weather maps. Without a lot of current interest in weather topics, it only gets a few hundred hits per day. During hurricane season however, the number of hits on the site skyrocket, getting as many as 60,000 hits per day. I created a template where I can quickly add contemporary tropical storm and hurricane information to the site utilizing public domain resources. The template includes the latest tracks and predictions from the National Hurricane Center, textual reports and predictions, wind charts, and two other features not commonly found on tropical weather pages. One of the unusual items on my weather site during hurricane season, and only displayed when there is tropical activity, is a highly detailed tracking and prediction chart from the U.S.

Navy’s Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Center in Norfolk, Virginia. This Navy chart differs from others because of its detail, and includes a display of the projected width of storm winds, as well as charts predicting wind speed and times, and “CPA” (closest point of approach) showing how close the center of the storm will pass from selected cities. Another unusual feature included on my page when storms are active is what is known in meteorology circles as a “spaghetti map”, which shows the individual and often different predicted storm tracks using 15 different prediction models. This is what the media refers to when they talk about the models showing projected storm paths.

Some people would like real-time weather alerts if storms threaten, and would like to see current local weather radar such that they can better plan their day. Yahoo! offers thousands of free “widgets” which are computer desktop graphical displays that are frequently updated. Some widgets simply display current local weather conditions in a variety of formats. Others only display weather alerts and bulletins for selected cities or zipcodes. One that I have on my desktop full time is the “Texas Doppler” radar widget ([widgets.yahoo.com/gallery/view.php?widget=39762](http://widgets.yahoo.com/gallery/view.php?widget=39762)) which can selectively display the weather radar from dozens of Texas TV stations. I have the weather radar from one of my local TV stations displayed, which automatically updates every few minutes. There is also an option to animate the radar display to show the movement of storms. Similar displays are available for other states and countries as well.

Weather is something that we all must deal with. The internet is a great way to keep up with it and try to keep our families safe.



# A Slightly Faster and Safer Internet FREE!

A small step for your PC, a giant leap for you

By **Carey Holzman**, Co-host talk radio show <[www.computeramerica.com](http://www.computeramerica.com)>; Author: The Healthy PC (McGraw/Hill); Smart Computing magazine; [www.careyholzman.com](http://www.careyholzman.com); [Carey@ComputerAmerica.com](mailto:Carey@ComputerAmerica.com)

**Y**ou may have never heard of a DNS before, but if you use the Internet, you use DNS all the time. DNS is short for Domain Name Server and I'm going to teach you what it does and why you should care. To understand what DNS is, let's start with something similar you are probably already familiar with – cellular phones.

If you're like most people, you own a cellular phone. You probably have your friends and family programmed into your phone so all you have to do is find their name in your phones contact list, or if you have fancy phone, just speak their name and the phone will dial them for you. In my phone, for example, I have Mom in my contact list. When I want to call Mom, I just search for her name in my phone and my phone knows to dial the number associated with that name. This is just like what a DNS does.

When you type a web address into your Internet browser, such as Microsoft's Internet Explorer or Mozilla's Firefox, the DNS looks up the number associated with that name and then 'calls' it. That number is called an IP Address, but it's really not all that different from a phone number.

For example, if you go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) you are really going to 208.67.219.230. But that would be tough to remember, wouldn't it? Can you imagine if you had to remember 4 sets of numbers for each web-site you wanted to visit? What a nightmare! To make using the Internet simpler, all you need to know is the sites 'name' and your Internet Service Providers DNS will look it up for you.

The problem is that some Internet Service Providers DNS computers are out of date or over-worked. Others may be well maintained, but none of them do any filtering for you. If you were to receive an email from your bank asking you to verify your account or encouraging you to login to your account to resolve some issue, you may actually be taken to site that looks like your bank in every way, but isn't a bank at all. Instead, thieves have found a way to copy entire web pages, word for word and graphic for graphic, and place it on their own computers. They have a way to make the link you click on in the email take you to their site, instead of to your real bank.

When you enter your account number and password, you are effectively telling them your account number and password. If you enter any other information about yourself, such as your first and last name, address, secret PIN for your debit card, social security number, mother's maiden name or other personally identifiable information about yourself, then you can kiss your identity goodbye. You've just given them all the information they need to fill out credit card applications, log

*Continued on page 38*

**20+ YEARS  
SERVING  
SAN ANTONIO**

**TAKE IT TO BJ's - THE LAPTOP SPECIALIST!**  
*IF WE CAN'T FIX IT, NO ONE CAN!*

AWARD WINNING SERVICE SINCE 1982  
Residential, Corporate,  
Education, Government,  
*No job is too small.*

**WE SERVICE ALL BRANDS!**

- New/Refurbished Notebooks
- Accessories      Notebook Drives
- Ac/Adapters      Wireless Solutions
- Batteries          Networking
- Parts/Memory      LCD'S/Screens



*YOUR MOBILE COMPUTING PRO!*

**BJ ASSOCIATES OF SAN ANTONIO**

10823 GULF DALE, ISOM AND 281N NEAR THE AIRPORT  
HOURS: 9-6 MON-FRI Carry in/On-site  
EMERGENCY/AFTER HOURS SERVICE AVAILABLE

**210-344-4563** San Antonio  
**800-366-7104** Metro and out of Area  
[www.bjassociates.com](http://www.bjassociates.com) [info@bjassociates.com](mailto:info@bjassociates.com)















into your bank and withdraw all of your funds or even get a job using your social security number, but never pay any taxes. All of which will have unfortunate and long term repercussions for you that can also be quite expensive and frustrating to fix.

We refer to this process of criminals obtaining your information in this manner as 'phishing,' (pronounced as 'fishing.') Perhaps you're under the impression that if you don't click on any links in email (advice often offered as a security measure to prevent becoming a phishing victim) you'll be safe. But that's not guaranteed. Criminals have figured out ways to manipulate some DNS computers to take you to their site! Imagine if someone could change the number in your cellular phone for Mom, so that each time you went to call Mom, your phone dialed a 1-900 number that charged you \$2 per minute! When crooks manipulate a DNS computer in this manner, we refer to it as 'DNS cache poisoning.'

Generally speaking, the Internet Service Providers are doing a great job of preventing their DNS computers from being compromised, but how can you be sure? Your Internet Service Provider has a lot of things to do besides maintain their DNS computer. They have email and spam to contend with and they may even provide cable TV, telephone or other services. So how much time and attention do their DNS computers receive?

## OpenDNS

One company, OpenDNS.com does nothing but maintain their DNS computers. In fact, they go a step further by filtering dangerous web-sites. If you were using their DNS computers, instead of the ones you are using right now, and tried to visit a fraudulent web-site masquerading as a financial institution in order to collect your personal information, it won't let you go there!

On the left, what a fraudulent web-site might look like without OpenDNS. The image to right is what a fraudulent web-site will look like with OpenDNS.

What's more, OpenDNS.com offers their DNS computers free, for anyone to use, forever. Because their sole focus is on DNS, their computers are extremely fast and are updated constantly with new, dangerous web-sites to block. You don't have to install any software, sign any license agreements or even tell them who you are to take advantage of their free service.

If you've ever thought your Internet was down, it may have only been that your Internet Service Providers DNS computers were unavailable for some reason. When the DNS computers are unavailable, your computer is unable to resolve the web addresses and it will appear as though your Internet connection is not working.

OpenDNS.com has high performance DNS computers in numerous locations around the world to ensure reliability and speed. They are so proud of how reliable their system is, you can check the status of their entire system at any time. Curious? Click here to see the current status of all of the OpenDNS computers (green = good, red or yellow = bad).

If you choose to register with OpenDNS.com, which is also free, a few more features also become available to you. This may actually appeal more to a business owner than a home user, but if you're curious, it might be worth checking out as well.

OpenDNS.com works with all computers, running all versions of Windows, Linux and even Apple PCs and gaming machines like the Xbox or PlayStation. It can also work within your router, and if your phone has Internet access, it can work with it as well! Best of all, they provide a free click-by-click walk through of how to configure it on all of these devices.

## Start Using OpenDNS

If your computer runs any version of Microsoft Windows, you can quickly configure your computer to use OpenDNS by following a few simple steps that everyone can easily understand right here.

To learn more about how OpenDNS works, visit their Frequently Asked Questions.

If you want to learn more details of exactly how DNS works, visit HowStuffWorks.com.

### Volunteers Wanted

Call the Learning Center to volunteer to assist ongoing classes. For more info, call 736-0700.

### STUDY GROUPS

Call the Learning Center for schedule information 736-0700 or see page 59-63.

## 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



# Info, Info Everywhere, and Not a Thought to Think

By Vinny La Bash, Columnist, Sarasota PCUG, Florida; [www.spcug.org](http://www.spcug.org); [labash@spcug.org](mailto:labash@spcug.org)

Many people think that the internet is the greatest thing since sliced whatchamacallit or the worst abomination that's ever been inflicted upon the human race. As usual the truth lies somewhere in-between. There is no doubt that the internet is a great source of seemingly limitless information, and the information found there tends to fall into three general categories:

1. Information which is totally useless. Did you know that the average cloud weighs 300,000 pounds? Neither did I, but that's the sort of thing you are most likely to get on the internet unless you are careful.
2. Information which is useful, but not at the moment. I invariably discover a great tax deduction I didn't know about on April 16th. It's too late for this year, and I will probably either forget about it next year or misfile the thing where I can't find it.
3. Information which is useful now. This is extraordinarily rare, comparable to finding eyebrows on eggs, but we all get lucky occasionally.

The data you find in the first category is not only safe to ignore, it's essential to your sanity to ignore it. The third category usually takes care of itself. Simply use it for whatever purpose you have in mind and you're done. The second category is the one that requires a good degree of sound management to avoid wasting time, and that is the problem.

World wide productivity could double overnight if the internet would only send us the information we need at the right time. We spend too much time refining our Google searches, investigating blogs, experimenting with RSS feeds or mucking around our own data bases. One piece of missing information has the potential to make the best presentation look like the product of a misinformed dolt.

Is having the information you need when you need it nothing more than a World Wide Web fantasy? Perhaps not. Did you know that you can set a reminder email for future delivery in Outlook? Here's how to do it:

1. Open Outlook (obviously).
2. Select the email to forward.
3. Click on the Forward button.
4. Click on the Options... button.
5. Put a check in the Do not deliver before box.
6. Select the date of delivery.
7. Click Close.

Don't set a delivery date to a point where you are unlikely to have your present computer unless you are in a corporate network where the systems administrator can make the proper adjustments. Even then, be realistic.

Send yourself notes about meetings shortly before you need them. Include information not only about the subject of the meeting, but about the people attending with you. Your colleagues will think you're a certified genius.

All kinds of things can be done with Outlook and its future delivery capabilities. The usual subjects such as birthdays, anniversaries, and recurring meetings suggest themselves. Investors can send themselves reminders that an option they own is about to expire or to watch for that important dividend payment. Almost any kind of regular to-do item lends

## Computer Problems?

**Call Now to get your computer working for you!**

**Cramer's Computer Services**

**(210) 865-2933**  
**[www.pcpro4u.com](http://www.pcpro4u.com)**

**In-Home/On-Site Service Specializing in:**

- Troubleshooting & Repair
- Virus/Spy ware Detection & Removal
- Hardware Upgrades
- Networking & More

**10% Military & Seniors Discount**

**BBC** MEMBER

**Bruce Cramer**  
A+ Rating  
Microsoft Certified Professional  
VISA  
MasterCard

itself to this task. Get that tax form in the mail by April 15th. Do you really need a reminder for that?

What do you do if you don't have Outlook? Neither Yahoo, Hotmail nor Outlook Express offers this feature, but there is a web site that can help. Go to [www.futureme.org](http://www.futureme.org) and create your email for future delivery. This site is well suited for information you won't need for months if not years. Of course, delivery depends on the web site still being in existence when you need it, and it doesn't handle attachments. If you can live with those limitations, go for it.

People talk a lot about traffic congestion, but unlike the weather, you can do something about it. If you commute regularly to work take a peek at [www.traffic.com](http://www.traffic.com). The site will send you real-time traffic maps, road condition alerts and jam alerts. This site is great for road warriors or anyone who drives over regular routes.

Do you suffer from springtime allergies? Then take a trip to [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) to have pollen, weather, and other alerts delivered directly to your desktop. Not everything has to be delivered by email.

Cutting down on information overload is the best reason for using these tools. Avoiding data until you need it will free you from the drudgery of sifting through piles of irrelevant information to find the one item you need, and best of all, you won't worry about being unprepared when an unexpected deadline suddenly looms up before you.

Use information efficiently and you will become respected, admired, and the opposite sex will seek you out. When people inevitably accuse you of having a perfect memory, tell them you have a photogenic mind.



## We specialize in individual and small business tax preparation

**Laura B. Grover, E.A.**  
 Tax Preparation & Financial Consulting  
 14350 Northbrook Drive, Suite 240  
 San Antonio, TX 78232

(210) 402-6100  
 Fax (210) 402-2888

[laurab@lauragrover.com](mailto:laurab@lauragrover.com)  
[www.lauragrover.com](http://www.lauragrover.com)

*Enrolled to practice before the Internal Revenue Service*



# Set up Outlook Express YOUR Way

By **Dick Maybach**, a Member of the Brookdale Computer User Group, New Jersey;  
<http://www.bcug.com/>; N2nd@att.net

**Y**ou can greatly improve your e-mail experience by properly configuring Outlook Express, which is the default Windows e-mail client. Outlook, which is included with MS Office, is a completely different program, but it has a similar user interface for e-mail. The two programs are similar enough that you should be able to adapt these procedures to your version.

By default, Outlook Express has five local folders: Inbox, Outbox, Sent Items, Deleted Items, and Drafts. You can add more to make your e-mail messages easier to find in the same way that you organize your file system by using folders. Set up a separate folder for each major category of e-mail that you send and receive. With Outlook running, right-click on "Local Folders", select "New Folder ...", and put the desired name in the "Name:" box. You can now move the messages from your Inbox to the new folder. You will probably find some messages that don't belong in any folder; just leave these in the Inbox.

You can change Outlook to operate as you find convenient by changing its rather intrusive defaults. Click on "Tools" and select "Options ...". Under the General tab, I've unchecked everything, as I prefer not to be interrupted by every incoming e-mail. Under the Read tab, I've unchecked the first box (Mark messages read after 5 seconds). Under the Send tab, I unchecked the "Send messages immediately" item; many times I have second thoughts immediately after writing a response, and this gives me one last chance to make changes. Under the Spelling tab, I checked "Always check spelling before sending". Finally, under the Maintenance tab, I checked, "Empty messages from the 'Deleted Items' folder on exit". This does what it says and erases your deleted items. (Otherwise, why would you have deleted them? If you don't check this item, your Deleted Items folder can contain a huge number of unwanted messages.) I left items under the Receipts, Compose, and Signature tabs at their defaults.

## Deleting spam

You can also use Outlook Express to delete spam. Click on "Tools" and select "Message Rules" then "Mail ...". You can now tell it how to handle certain specific e-mails. For example, if you are tired of the constant stream of forwarded trivia, use the following sequence. In Box 1, check "Where the Subject line contains specific words". In Box 2, check "Delete it". In Box 3, click on "contains specific words" and type "FW:" in the text box. Finally, in Box 4, name the rule "Delete forwarded items". When you now go to "Message rules", you will see this item. You can uncheck it, to disable the rule or edit it, if needed.

Spend some time exploring the Message Rules tool to see what else it can do. For example, you can act on messages based on who sent them or what words they contain. You can select multiple conditions; for example, you can delete forwarded messages only from certain people. You can also select multiple actions; for example, you can move selected messages to a folder and highlight them. Finally, in Box 2 you should select "Stop processing more rules", if the action is something other than delete.


Your last step is to order your rules list. The rules moving the desired e-mail to the correct folders should appear at the top of the list. Since they stop checking other rules after they move a message, they will prevent the spam filter rules from throwing out messages from people with whom you regularly correspond. To do this, in the "Message Rules" window use the "Move Up" and "Move Down" buttons to sort the rules.

You will have to reorder the rules each time you add a new one.

## Turn off preview panel

Just opening an e-mail can result in your PC becoming infected with a virus. Even worse, Outlook Express's default is that the preview panel opens any message that you select, which means you have no way of deleting a suspect message without opening it. You can disable the preview panel using the following. Click on "View", then "Layout ...", and remove the check from "Show preview pane". While you are there, also uncheck the "Folder bar" item; you won't miss it.

Outlook Express has only limited capabilities and is the target of many viruses. If its limitations and vulnerabilities concern you, consider Thunderbird, which is a free download, or if you have MS Office, Outlook...



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



# The New, the Best, and the Worst ... of the Web

Collected by **Pim Borman**, Webmaster, SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc.;  
Swipcug@gmail.com; <http://swipcug.apcug.org/>

## E-mail Reliability Woes

Banks, mutual funds, credit card companies, utilities, they all want to send me my monthly statements in electronic form over the Internet, "for my convenience," and incidentally to save on the cost of mailing them out the traditional way. Do I go along with that? No way, José! Just think of all the things that can go wrong.

## Security

I already receive regular emails, mostly delegated to spam folders, from fake financial organizations such as PayPal, E-Bay, and banks all over the world. How am I going to distinguish the fishes from the phishes? I do have online access to some of my financial accounts, but I use them strictly one-way: I access them directly by typing in the URL. Some financial institutions have expanded security beyond the usual user name and password check, to let me verify that I'm dealing with the genuine institution. Before I present my user name and password, I am shown a prearranged word and an image to make sure that I am dealing with the genuine Web site, not some phisher in Nigeria. Such two-way passwords are a good idea, and using an image instead of a word adds additional security.

## More security

I still have to worry about key grabber viruses that record what I type. An up-to-date reliable anti-virus program may prevent that, or not. Making payments online can also be hazardous, especially if I can't be absolutely certain I'm not addressing a phisher. I have a Citibank credit card account that will provide me online with a one-time credit card number to be used for a single transaction. That minimizes the risk of fraud. But how am I going to archive online statements securely for years to come unless I print them out first? If necessary, does my own printout provide the same level of proof as an original bank statement?

## Reliability

Because spam now makes up the largest part of email crossing the Internet, Internet Service Providers increasingly install spam filters to remove the chaff from the wheat. The problem arises when the spam filter removes legitimate messages without notifying the sender, or even worse, the recipient. It seems to happen all the time and not only because it is easy to misspell an address. Recently I used my local provider, Sigecom.net, to respond to an email from a niece who uses myway.com. Fortunately I was notified by "blackhole.myway.com," that the response bounced, with an error message indicating that there was a mismatch between sender addresses somewhere along the way. Since Sigecom forwards email via another email provider (Mira-something-or-other), that could have been the problem. I sent the response again, using Google email that time, and all was well.\*

A week later I sent a SWIPCUG e-mail message to 49 addressees using my Google e-mail account. Two of the mail-

## Alamo PC Organization now offers members private or semi-private tutorials

☞ Keyboarding/Typing  
☞ Basic Computer Skills  
☞ Microsoft Word

### *Rates for one student*

\$35 per hour

\$300 for 10 hours

### *Rates for two or three students*

\$20 per student per hour

\$150 per student for 10 hours

Enjoy private instruction on days and at hours  
that fit **your** schedule at our modern facility in  
Crossroads Mall.

Call or visit the Learning Center to register  
**(210) 736-0080**

ings, both addressed to members @att.com, were blocked because “it was sent by a system that we have reason to think has sent high levels of spam to our customers in the past.” Maybe other members did not receive the message either but I wasn't notified. Again using Google Mail, I resent the message without trouble to just the two blocked recipients. Maybe att.com balked at the fairly long list (49) of addressees?

One of our members, associate director at the local Public Library that hosts our meetings, was unwittingly deprived of messages sent to him and about 10 other members who informally constitute our planning committee. The Library has its own email system, guarded by a properly-named “barracuda” to swallow anything smelling of spam. The system administrator managed to retrieve the messages, belatedly, once he was aware of the problem, and loosened the rules to get our member back in the loop.

It goes to show that even if you are not personally plagued by spam woes, your email communications are still affected. Its security and reliability must be paramount if we are to trust it to replace snail mail in delivering important notices. At the least the sender should be notified, and blocked email should be made available to the recipient in a special folder to allow quick verification of its status. Yahoo and Google mail deposit at least some suspected spam in a separate folder. It takes only seconds to check that folder and remove all the spam while being able to save a genuine message.

### More Reliability Issues

When an email address is changed, it is difficult to let all the correspondents know, and chances are that some of them will forget to change all their email address folders. Contrary to good old snail mail, there is no friendly post office that forwards email. Also, the slightest typo will make email undeliverable. Add to that the times that the Internet is inaccessible because of hardware, software or network problems and it is clear that email can not be counted on for the timely and secure delivery of financial and billing statements.

### Once Upon A Time...

in a far away land, when I was still a young lad, clocks sat on mantel pieces and had to be wound every so often. They didn't keep very accurate time, and we kept them running at least five minutes fast so we wouldn't miss the train. You see, trains left the station on the exact second in the schedule and the best place in town to find the accurate time was from the big clock at the railroad station.

Now we have clocks and watches that listen at night to the shortwave radio and adjust their time to the nearest second by synchronizing with an atomic clock in Colorado. As a good nerd, I regularly compare the time shown by the atomic clock on the wall with my atomic watch to make sure they agree to the second. And now we travel by planes that sometimes manage to leave the gate within an hour of the scheduled departure time. Or not at all, as the case may be.

## Computer Buffet With Dr. Herb Goldstein



### MediaMonkey

Not happy with Windows Media Player or your current media player, or are you just looking for an alternative? Then give the free MediaMonkey a try. It's an excellent tool for playing media, organizing your media library, and ripping and burning music. It'll play pretty much every music file that's out there, will synchronize with your iPod and MP3 player, and includes a tag editor. It will also automatically find album art for the file you're currently playing as well. MediaMonkey organizes your music in multiple ways, including by artist, title, album, genre, year, rating and so on. Unlike Windows Media Player, it loads fast. Fans of Internet radio will like this program as well; it automatically connects you to the Shoutcast and Icecast online radio directories, and plays any stations you want <[www.mediamonkey.com/](http://www.mediamonkey.com/)>

**Please also note:** Most of the software mentioned here is freeware. It is gathered through researching usually reliable sources. I do not personally try most references, time being the obvious factor.

Dr. Herb Goldstein is SPCUG's Software Evaluation Chairman and Review Editor for the Sarasota PC Monitor. Herb is an avid researcher on all things computer and passes on his acquired knowledge each month. <[reviewseditor@spcug.org](mailto:reviewseditor@spcug.org)>

# The Top 25 Web Hoaxes and Pranks

These online spoofs and shams have made the rounds on Web sites and through e-mail. Perhaps you even believed one or two of them yourself.

By **Steve Bass**, PC World Columnist and Author, [Stevebass@earthlink.net](mailto:Stevebass@earthlink.net)

**T**hough some of these deceptions originated years ago, the originals--and dozens of variants--continue to make the rounds. If you keep a patient vigil over your e-mail, you too may eventually spot a message urging you to FORWARD THIS TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW!!! And if you haven't had enough when you finish reading this article, take a hoax test at the Museum of Hoaxes, and then hop over to Snopes, the premier myth-dispelling site for coverage of zillions of other falsifications.

## Hoaxes 1 Through 5

From the supposed last photo taken at the top of the World Trade Center to the endlessly revised request for assistance from a Nigerian functionary, here are our top five Web and e-mail hoaxes.

### 1. The Accidental Tourist (2001)

Quite possibly the most famous hoax picture ever, this gruesome idea of a joke traveled around the Web and made a grand tour of e-mail inboxes everywhere soon after the tragedy of September 11. It depicts a tourist standing on the observation deck of one of the World Trade Center towers, unknowingly posing for a picture as an American Airlines plane approaches in the background.

At first glance it appears to be real, but if you examine certain details, you'll see that it's a craftily modified image. For starters, the plane that struck the WTC was a wide-body Boeing 767; the one in the picture is a smaller 757. The approach of the plane in the picture is from the north, yet the building it would have hit--the North tower--didn't have an outdoor observation deck. Furthermore, the South tower's outdoor deck didn't open until 9:30 a.m. on weekdays, more than half an hour after the first plane struck the WTC. The picture is a hoax, through and through--and not a particularly amusing one, under the circumstances.



*Image courtesy of Snopes.com.*

### 2. Sick Kid Needs Your Help (1989)

This gem had its roots in reality. It all began in 1989, when nine-year-old cancer patient Craig Shergold thought of a way to achieve his dream of getting into the Guinness Book of World Records. Craig asked people to send greeting cards, and boy, did they. By 1991, 33 million greeting cards had been sent, far surpassing the prior record. Ironically, however, the Guinness World Records site doesn't contain any mention of Craig Sherwood or a "most greeting cards received" record, presumably because the fine folks at the site don't want to encourage anyone to try to break his mark. (Astonishingly, Guinness doesn't have an entry for world's stoutest person, either, but it does honor the World's Largest Tankard of Beer.)

Fortunately, doctors succeeded in removing the tumor, and Craig is now a healthy adult, but his appeal for cards has turned into the hoax that won't die. Variations on the theme



*Image courtesy of Snopes.com.*

*Continued on page 45*



include a sick girl dying of cancer, and a little boy with leukemia whose dying wish is to start an eternal chain letter. A recent iteration tells a tragic tale of a girl who supposedly was horribly burned in a fire at WalMart, and then claims that AOL will pay all of her medical bills if only if you forward this e-mail to EVERYONE YOU KNOW!!! Okay, enough already.

### 3. Bill Gates Money Giveaway (1997)

No, it's true. I thought it was a scam, but it happened to a buddy of mine. It seems that Microsoft is testing some new program for tracing e-mail, and the company needs volunteers to help try the thing out. He forwarded me an e-mail that he received from Microsoft--and get this, from Bill Gates himself! Two weeks later, as a reward for participating, my pal received a check for thousands of dollars! Sure he did. Another version of this hoax claims that AOL's tracking service is offering a cash reward. Tell you what--when you get your check, send me 10 percent as a finder's fee, okay?

### 4. Five-Cent E-Mail Tax (1999)

"Dear Internet Subscriber," the e-mail starts. "The Government of the United States is quietly pushing through legislation that will affect your use of the Internet." It goes on to reveal that "Bill 602P" will authorize the U.S. Postal Service to assess a charge of five cents for every e-mail sent. Not a bad way to cut down on the number of dopey e-mail chain letters and lame jokes people let loose on the world. But credulous curse averters and connoisseurs of boffo laffs can relax: This e-mail alert, which popped up in 1999 and comes back for a visit every year or so, just isn't true. Still, it sounded plausible enough to fool Hillary Clinton during a 2000 debate when she was running for the Senate.

### 5. Nigerian 419 E-Mail Scam (2000)

"DEAR SIR," the e-mail starts. "FIRSTLY I MUST FIRST SOLICIT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THIS TRANSACTION; LET ME START BY INTRODUCING MYSELF PROPERLY..." I'm sure you've received one of these--a confidential, urgent e-mail message promising you a reward of mucho dinero for helping this person convey money abroad. All you need do in return is entrust your name and bank account number to the government bureaucrat (or his uncle, aunt, or cousin, the ostensible "credit officer with the union bank of Nigeria plc (uba) Benin branch") who needs your help.

It's the Nigerian con, also known as an Advanced Fee Fraud or 419 scam (so called because of the section number of the Nigerian criminal code that applies to it). Ancestors of these scams appeared in the 1980s, when the media of choice were letters or faxes--and they're still wildly successful at snagging people. In fact, Oprah recently featured a victim of the Nigerian scam on her show. And if you think that smart, educated folks couldn't possibly fall for it, you'll be surprised when you read "The Perfect Mark," a New Yorker magazine article profiling a Massachusetts psychotherapist who was duped--and lost a fortune.

To see how the hoax works, visit Scamorama, a fascinating site that features a progression of e-mail messages stringing along 419 scammers, sometimes for months at a time. Finally, check out the 3rd Annual Nigerian E-Mail Conference, an absolutely perfect spoof.

### 6. It's Kidney Harvesting Time (1996)

The subject line is laden with exclamation points: "Travelers Beware!!!" If that's not enough to get your attention, the chilling story certainly will. The message warns that an organ-harvesting crime ring is drugging tourists in New Orleans and Las Vegas, snatching their "extra" kidneys, selling the organs to non-Hippocratic hospitals, and leaving the victims to wake up in a bathtub full of ice and find a brief note that explains the situation and conveniently identifies the phone number of the nearest emergency room. Hey, maybe they'll get lucky and the hospital will have a compatible replacement kidney on hand. But travelers, fear not!!! According to the National Kidney Foundation, this scenario has never actually occurred--though it does have the makings of a great horror flick. (Freddy's Last Harvest, anyone?)

### 7. You've Got Virus! (1999 and on)

There's isn't a Teddy Bear virus. Nor is there a sulfnbk.exe or A Virtual Card for You ("the "WORST VIRUS EVER!!!!...CNN ANNOUNCED IT. PLEASE SEND THIS TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW!!!!").

The jdbgmgr.exe hoax (also known as Teddy Bear because the jdbgmgr.exe file is represented by a teddy bear icon) warned recipients of the e-mail message that they were at risk of infection from a virus sent via address books or Microsoft Messenger, and that they should delete the file immediately. But in reality there was no virus--and unfortunately, jdbgmgr.exe was a necessary Java file. The sulfnbk.exe hoax nailed even advanced users with its insistence that the file--a legit one that's used for fixing long file names--was a virus. Lots of people removed it.

*Continued on page 46*



**Computer Experts**

Is your PC acting strange?  
Wonder if it has a virus?  
We've been fixing weird problems  
since 1995. For PC or Mac  
solutions, Call the experts...

**Computer Experts**  
(210) 771-7075

Similarly, A Virtual Card for You claimed that McAfee had discovered a virus that, when opened, would destroy the hard drive on an infected system and would automatically send itself to everyone on the user's e-mail contacts list. Of course, it didn't do anything except scare people. So before you forward an e-mail virus warning to anyone (especially to me), look it up on Sophos or Vmyths to make sure it isn't a fraud.

### 8. Microsoft Buys Firefox (2006)

Talk about scaring the entire open-source community. In October 2006, a previously unknown Web site popped up, announcing Microsoft's acquisition of Firefox and promoting the company's new Microsoft Firefox 2007 Professional. The site talks glowingly about the browser's new features and provides a video advertisement for the product. It was a great prank, and the image of the Microsoft Firefox 2007 box was so elaborate and professional looking that the blood pressure of real Firefox users went sky-high.



### 9. The Really Big Kitty (2001)

There are big cats and then there are even bigger cats. This one, reportedly tipping the scales at almost 90 pounds, was enormous. The claim seemed plausible and even snookered a lot of e-mail cynics (I'm raising my hand)--until they read the accompanying copy, that is. With nonsense about the owner working at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, and more balderdash about nuclear reactors, the jig was up. Eventually, the cat's owner fessed up to a creative Photoshop session, though he claimed that he never expected anyone to believe the photo was real.



*Image courtesy of Snopes.com.*

### 10. \$250 Cookie Recipe (1996)

The woman loved the cookie she had just nibbled at a Neiman Marcus cafe in Houston, so she asked her waiter for the recipe. "Two-fifty," he said, and she agreed without hesitation, instructing him to add it to her tab. But when the woman's Visa bill arrived, it read \$250, instead of \$2.50. Bent on revenge, she proceeded to ask you to blast the recipe to--okay, ready?--EVERY-ONE YOU KNOW!!! Like many hoaxes, this one predated the Internet, only to resurface in the electronic age. It appeared in a cookbook in the late 1940s as the \$25 fudge cake, popped up in the 1960s as the Waldorf-Astoria red-velvet cake recipe, and re-emerged in the 1970s as the Mrs. Fields cookie recipe.

### Hoaxes 11 Through 15

This group of five begins with a phony e-mail message promising money and other prizes from Disney, and ends with the classic deaf-to-reason arguments of the Apollo moon landing deniers.

### 11. Free Vacation Courtesy of Disney (1998)

Dear Goofy... Forward this e-mail chain letter to everybody under the sun and, once 13,000 people have received it, Walt Disney Jr. will send five grand each to 1,300 lucky people on this list. And "the rest will receive a free trip for two to Disney for one week during the summer of 1999." Is that Disney World, Disneyland--or Walt's house? The "Jr." after Disney, in reference to a non-existent person, ought to have been the first clue that this was a hoax. And the misspelling of "receive" was the clincher (remember, hoaxers, "i" before "e" except after "c"). Yet people forwarded the message around the world using the time-honored e-mail chain letter adage: I'm sending it to you... just in case it's true.

### 12. Sunset Over Africa (2003)

Now that's a dazzling photo of Africa and Europe, taken right around sunset from the Space Shuttle Columbia. What makes the image especially amazing is that, while London remains in daylight, night has fallen in Italy (a little to the southeast) and the bright lights of Rome, Naples, and Venice are blazing. Too bad it's a digitally altered photo, most likely



*Continued on page 47*

*Image courtesy of Snopes.com.*

layered from multiple satellite images. To see an accurate, computer-generated illustration, check out the World Sunlight Map.

### 13. Alien Autopsy at Roswell, New Mexico (1995)

Roswell, New Mexico: ground zero of UFO controversy. It's also where the movie of the Roswell alien autopsy was filmed 60 years ago. The story goes that a UFO crashed at this site, and the U.S. government performed a hush-hush autopsy on the dead alien. In the mid-1990s, unnamed individuals "discovered" the secret film and posted it for the edification of a disinformed public. Looks pretty real, right? Now fast-forward to 2006 and a conspiracy-deflating admission: The movie is a hoax created in 1995 by John Humphreys, the animator famous for Max Headroom, in his apartment in north London. ...Or was it???



### 14. Real-Time GPS Cell Phone Tracking (2007)

Have you heard about the Web site that can track the location of your cell phone in real time? It uses satellite GPS in combination with Google Maps, and it's amazingly accurate (not to mention a disturbing invasion of privacy). Go ahead, check it out yourself by going to the SunSat Satellite Solutions site and tracking your own cell phone's location. Select your country, type in your cell phone number, click the Start Searching button, and wait for it. (This is one of the year's best pranks. And I won't give away the ending.)



### 15. Apollo Moon Landing Hoax (1969)

You're aware that we never landed on the moon, right? It was all just an elaborate hoax designed to score Cold War points for the United States against the Soviet Union in a world of falling dominoes. The whole lunar landing thing? It was a video staged at movie studios and top-secret locations.

Okay, you can stop laughing now, but some sites, such as Apollo Reality and Moon Landing, still insist that the Eagle never landed. Of course, enemies of Flat Earthism will point to the Rocket and Space Technology site, which does an in-depth job of debunking the hoax. But true disbelievers should check out this terrific video spoof, complete with outtakes showing lights and cameras.

### Hoaxes 16 Through 20

The world of weird eBay auction items starts off this page, which concludes with a photo hoax purporting to show a 1950s-era vision of the home computer of tomorrow.

### 16. Sell It on eBay! (1995)

**You won't believe what people have sold on eBay--some of the items pranks, some of them for real, and some, well, it's hard to tell. For a sampling of the weird, you need look no further than a haunted tree stump and a pork chop shaped like a grizzly bear.** The Internet itself once went on the market at a modest starting bid of a million bucks, as have a dozen spontaneous images of the Virgin Mary (on toast, on windows, and heaven only knows where else). Bidders have also had a shot at someone's soul, a guy's virginity, and a human kidney, with the price of this last item having reached \$5.7 million before eBay pulled the plug. (Hey, guys, don't you know that what you lose in Las Vegas is supposed to stay in Las Vegas?)

But my favorite eBay offering involves a tattooed guy who, as a joke, dressed up in his ex-wife's size 12 wedding gown and put it up for auction. Only, the dress ended up selling for \$3850, and the guy got five marriage proposals. Nice.

### 17. Chinese Newspaper Duped (2002)

Information on the Internet may want to be free--but if it's posted by a for-profit publisher, you'd better take it with a grain of salt. That's the lesson learned by China's Beijing Evening News, which was taken in by the Onion's Capitol Dome spoof.

Famous for its authentic-sounding but tongue-in-cheek articles steeped in the language of the Associated Press, the Onion reported that Congress had threatened to leave Washington, D.C., and head for Memphis unless the District agreed to erect a new domed Capitol building with a retractable roof and luxury box seating. Having accepted most of the Onion article at face value, the Chinese newspaper at first stood by its source in the face of international derision and refused to back down.



*Continued on page 48*



When it finally published a retraction, it blamed the Onion for the confusion: "Some small American newspapers frequently fabricate offbeat news to trick people into noticing them with the aim of making money."

Right.

### 18. The Muppets Have Not Already Won (2001)

In early October 2001, just prior to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, protesters at an anti-American rally in Bangladesh showed their support for Osama bin Laden by marching, chanting, and waving placards. One of the posters captured on film by Reuters News Agency was a photo-montage of the Al-Qaeda leader, and in one of the shots a yellow felt puppet to his right glowers furiously at the camera. It's...Bert of Sesame Street. Originally a Zelig-inspired creation of San Francisco Webmaster Dino Ignacio, the satirical Web site Bert Is Evil depicted Bert hobnobbing with the worst of the worst in history, tormenting his roommate Ernie, and generally reveling in wickedness. After Ignacio retired from active efforts to expose Bert's career of evil, others filled the Photoshop void, capturing the cone-headed miscreant with all the latest baddies-du-jour.



*Image courtesy of Snopes.com*

Evidently, the company responsible for printing the pro-Osama poster found the doctored dual portrait irresistible, although (according to the Urban Legends References Pages) its production manager claims to have produced about 2000 copies of the Osama-and-Bert poster without realizing "what they signified." Well, if you can't trust pictures you find on the Internet, what can you trust?

### 19. Chevrolet's Not-So-Better Idea (2006)

The ad folks at Chevrolet thought they had a winner: Let site visitors create their own 30-second commercial for the company's 2007 Chevy Tahoe SUV. It'll be fun, they probably thought. We'll give them a choice of video clips and soundtracks, and let them add their own text captions. Yep, viral marketing at its best.

Unfortunately for Chevrolet, a few pranksters decided to use the opportunity to express what they thought of the SUV. One commercial said, "Like this snowy wilderness? Better get your fill of it now. Then say hello to global warming." Another lambasted the SUV as a gas guzzler: "Our planet's oil is almost gone. You don't need G.P.S. to see where this road leads."

### 20. Rand's 1954 Home Computer (2004)

This intriguing image of a room-size computer made the rounds of the Internet, accompanied by a breathless blurb: "This article is from an issue of 1954 'Popular Mechanics' magazine forecasting the possibility of 'home computers' in 50 years." The steering wheel in the picture is the predecessor to today's mouse, and the keyboard looks like those on teletype machines. It even comes complete with a guy right out of the Eisenhower era.

Cool stuff, and easy to believe--but it's not a 1950s Rand Corporation mockup of what a prototype home computer might look like. It's actually a shot that was taken of a submarine display at the Smithsonian Institution and subsequently modified for inclusion in a Fark.com image-manipulation competition.

### Hoaxes 21 Through 25

Our final five takes you from the ultimate instance of Microsoft hubris to an ill-conceived experiment in Internet democracy (or is that Internet anarchy?).

### 21. Microsoft Buys Catholic Church (1994)

More than a decade ago, an e-mail press release--from Vatican City, no less--landed in my inbox. Microsoft was announcing that it was in the process of acquiring the Roman Catholic Church in exchange for an unspecified number of shares of Microsoft common stock. The story was a prank, but it sure looked real, circulating for months and perhaps worrying residents of the Holy See.

Just think: If the press release had been true, it might have stopped the Vatican from using Linux. And no, I'm not kidding about the Linux part. Watch this video interview with the woman who helped build the Vatican's Web site.

### 22. Hercules, the Enormous Dog (2007)

Wow, that dog's almost as big as the horse. That's what I thought when I first looked at this e-mail. The picture depicts a couple, one walking a horse, the other holding the leash of Hercules, a 282-pound English Mastiff and "The World's Biggest Dog Ever According to Guinness World Records."



*Continued on page 49*

Horsepucky. Here's my analysis of the Photoshop modifications. First, take a close look at the grass under the people and the animals. The area has been subtly lightened in order to make all of the shadows match and look authentic. Next, examine the shadows and you'll notice two anomalies: First, the shadows of the dog and the man start at their feet, but the same doesn't hold true for the horse. Second, the woman's shadow is missing altogether; instead, the man's shadow extends in front of her. Oh and by the way, the Guinness World Records site doesn't have a listing for Hercules or for the world's biggest dog. Okay, okay, so the pictures of the big kitty and the big dog are both fakes--but have you seen the shot of Craig Sherwood riding the world's largest jackelope?

### 23. Lights-Out Gang Member Initiation (1998)

People have a tendency to believe e-mail messages that come from authority figures. In 1998, a message purportedly from a police officer working with the DARE program circulated around the Internet. It warned recipients not to flash their lights to inform oncoming cars that their headlamps were off. According to the message, a recently devised gang initiation ritual involved having new gang members drive at night with their headlights turned off until an oncoming car flashed its lights at them; then, in order to become initiated, they were to shoot everyone in that car. It's just another urban myth--and about as silly as the one claiming that gangs mark off their territory by hanging sneakers from power lines.

### 24. Hurricane Lili Waterspouts (2002)

It's weird, it's disturbing, and it's seemingly plausible--all of the elements necessary for a successful e-mail forward. The image shows three dark waterspouts in the distance. The subject is "here comes lili," and the e-mail began appearing in inboxes at about the same time that Hurricane Lili started battering the Louisiana coastline. But three waterspouts, all neatly lined up? According to About.com, the National Weather Service labeled the picture a hoax and said that it was a modification of a genuine photo taken in 2001 by a crew member of the Edison Chouest Offshore supply boat.



### 25. Pranks Shut Down Los Angeles Times Wiki (2005)

It seemed like a bright idea. The LA Times' "A Wiki for Your Thoughts" fandango asked readers to chime in on the newspaper's editorials via a Wiki. In their explanation of how it would work, the editors even acknowledged that "It sounds nutty." Yet they went ahead with it--and achieved disastrous results. The Wikitorial (the name was nearly as dumb as the scheme) brought out the best and then the worst in readers. On the first day, an editorial about the war in Iraq prompted civil and thoughtful contributions. On day two, pranksters littered the unmoderated Wiki with rude comments, pornography, and profanity. The Webmaster removed the offending entries, but only after they were available for public viewing. By the next morning, the publisher had dismantled the Wiki.

Copyright 2007 Steve Bass and PC World. This column originally appeared on PC world online. Read Bass's blog at <http://snurl.com/BassBlog> and his previous newsletters and print columns at: <http://snipurl.com/tweaks>. Subscribe to his weekly newsletter at <http://snurl.com/homeoffice>.

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World, a 23 year veteran of PIBMUG, and a founding member of APCUG. He's also the author of *PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things about Your Personal Computer*, O'Reilly Press. It's still available on Amazon at dirt cheap prices. <http://snurl.com/annoy2>.

## WaterWare

**Home and Small Office  
Computer (Win & Mac) Support**



- All Types of Computer Training
- Hardware & Software Installation
- Web Page Development
- Your Location / Your Schedule

210-219-2560

support@waterware.net  
In business since 1983

www.waterware.net  
Durand C. Randy Waters

#### Volunteers Wanted

Call the Learning Center to volunteer to assist ongoing classes. For more info, call 736-0700.

#### STUDY GROUPS

Call the Learning Center for schedule information 736-0700 or see page 59-63.

# Improve Computing Pleasure with **Free Widgets** for Windows and Mac

By **Ira Wilsker**, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX; radio and TV show host; [Iwilsker@apcug.net](mailto:Iwilsker@apcug.net)

## WEBSITES:

<http://widgets.yahoo.com>

<http://widgets.yahoo.com/gallery>

Many of us are extremely busy, and often lack the time to search the internet for items of frequent interest. Many of us have dull and boring desktops displayed on our monitors, often using the default images of our computer or software maker. Fortunately for us, there is a free service offered by Yahoo!, called “widgets”.

Widgets, also known as “gadgets” by some web services, are small programs that display a wide variety of information on the otherwise wasted space on our desktops. This information is automatically updated on a frequent basis, providing the user with current data without loading another program or browsing to a website, as widgets are displayed on the desktop on a full time basis.

Widgets is the name for the products distributed by Yahoo!, and gadgets are distributed by other web service providers. While similar in appearance and function, widgets and gadgets are generally not interchangeable, and in order to conserve system resources, users should choose gadgets or widgets, but not both.

Yahoo!’s widgets can be found at [widgets.yahoo.com](http://widgets.yahoo.com). Upon opening that page, the user is greeted with a button to download the widget engine, which includes about a dozen popular widgets, including a picture frame (displays digital photos on desktop), weather display, notepad, daily planner, maps, stock ticker, and others. The opacity of widgets can be controlled to make them nearly opaque, hiding the desktop behind the widget, to almost totally transparent, fully displaying the desktop. Widgets can be dragged and dropped anywhere on the screen. I have a lot of icons on my desktop, and my widgets cover several of the icons, but this is not a problem as I drag the widget out of the way whenever I want to access those previously covered icons.

The widget engine works on Windows XP with service pack 2, Windows 2000 with service pack 4, Vista, or Macs with OS X 10.3.9 or higher. An internet connection is necessary in order to update the widgets, and 512 megabytes (minimum) ram is recommended for improved performance.

Among the default widgets included with the widget engine, I personally have the stock ticker and weather widgets loaded and running, and also have a TV widget which displays the shows for the next few hours on the channels of my choice.

The stock ticker widget is very easy to use, and is automatically updated every few minutes. The default listings are for popular quotes, such as the Dow Jones Industrial Averages, NASDAQ, Yahoo!, and similar issues. It is very simple to modify the listing to show any desired quotes and indices, and the number of issues displayed is only limited by the space available on the desktop.

The weather widget is customizable for any city or zip code, and graphically displays the weather for five days, current conditions, temperature, and moon phases. By moving the cursor over the weather widget (sometimes it also requires a mouse click), a balloon opens which displays the humidity, barometric pressure, wind chill or heat index, wind direction and speed, and the time of most recent update.

The widget I seem to refer to the most is the TV widget called “TV Tracker”, which can be downloaded from the Widget Gallery. Once downloaded and installed, a city and zip code is selected, which displays the on-air, cable, and satellite options and carriers locally available. Selecting the appropriate carrier displays a two hour grid of what is on television. Different genres, such as



sports and movies are highlighted in different colors for easy viewing. Clicking on a highlighted title will “fetch” the description and details of the movie or sports event, displaying it in a sub-widget adjacent to the primary widget. I will be honest and say that there are several cable channels available to me that I simply never watch, and TV Tracker easily allows for the display of only selected channels, making the display that much easier to follow.

The widget gallery, [widgets.yahoo.com/gallery](http://widgets.yahoo.com/gallery), currently lists 4242 Windows widgets available for download, and 3977 widgets for Mac, in a variety of categories. As I type this, Yahoo! is featuring Motor Trend Magazine’s “Gas Alert Savings” widget which displays a localized list of the lowest priced gas stations in the area, and is available for both Windows and Mac. Widgets can be searched by name, type, or date. The widget categories listed in the gallery are latest (4242 widgets), updates (2158 widgets), fun & games (575 widgets), date & time (470), news feeds (952), system utilities (354), sight and sound (554), geek stuff (120), cam viewers (273), widget tools (63), app (application) enhancers (109), search tools (352), and various (miscellaneous, 416). Each category may contain hundreds of different widgets, all of which are available for free download.

I have downloaded several other widgets, and selectively load them when I want, and stop them when no longer wanted. In Windows, widgets as a group can be controlled by clicking on the widget icon in the system tray, near the clock. The widget icon is a black background, with two diagonal and interlocked gears. Right clicking on the widget icon displays a comprehensive menu of options which allows the user to control the appearance and function of widgets, load and unload widgets, and otherwise control their behavior.

Some widgets that I selectively use are news feeds which display real time news headlines from hundreds of sources, live weather radar, streaming audio from dozens of radio stations from all over the globe, and many others. Although I have never used it, there is even a pregnancy calculator widget!

Widgets can be a fun adjunct to improve the satisfaction and use of our computers.



**SAN ANTONIO • PC-HELP**

**(210) 748-5311 • [SAPCHELP@ATT.NET](mailto:SAPCHELP@ATT.NET)**

## **Seniors — Computer troubles ?**

*We understand that making the jump to computers, E-mail and the Internet can be a real challenge.*

*When you are stuck or your computer just doesn't seem to be working as you expected, call us. In the comfort of your own home, let us help you work through the problem. We provide on-site service for the individual PC user and small to medium size business.*

**Call PC-Help today!**

**SE HABLA ESPANOL**

**(210) 748-5311**

**9 AM - 4 PM • Monday - Friday**

# Apple's New Safari Browser for WINDOWS

By **Ira Wilsker**, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX; radio and TV show host; [Iwilsker@apcug.net](mailto:Iwilsker@apcug.net)

## WEBSITES:

<http://www.apple.com/safari>

<http://www.apple.com/safari/download/plugins.html>

Apple recently released a free version of its Safari 3 browser for Windows. While this is the first public release of an Apple produced browser for Windows, many of us already have some Apple software on our computers. Many of us have viewed QuickTime videos on our computers, and QuickTime is a long standing Apple product.

One may ask why Apple would produce a browser for Windows, when there are other, well established Windows browsers available. Microsoft's Internet Explorer still has the vast majority of Windows browser market, followed in distant second by Firefox, and then Opera and Netscape. According to published reports, Apple sees Safari 3 for Windows as a marketing tool to better acquaint Windows users with Apple products, in the hopes that they would buy more Apple offerings, such as the new iPhone. The default startup page for Safari, which is easy to change, is an Apple marketing and support website.

I already have four browsers installed on my main computer, with Firefox being my primary browser, followed by Internet Explorer with occasional use, and Opera and Netscape which I only rarely use. There is no conflict or problem having more than one browser installed, as they do not interfere with each other. Despite what I already have installed, curiosity dictated that I download and install Safari 3. Clicking on the download link at [www.apple.com/safari](http://www.apple.com/safari) offered the choice of two Windows downloads, a 28 meg download of Safari with QuickTime for XP or Vista, or a smaller 8 meg download of just the Safari for XP and Vista. As may be already obvious, Safari for Windows will only run on computers with XP or Vista.

Apple has done a good job trying to create demand for Safari for Windows, by proximately posting relative performance information on the main Safari website. According to Apple, Safari can load web pages about twice as fast as Internet Explorer version 7, and 1.6 times faster than Firefox. Java scripts execute 2.8 times faster in Safari 3 than they do in Internet Explorer 7, and 1.6 times faster than Firefox. Application load time of Safari 3 is also faster than Internet Explorer or Firefox, while the much smaller Opera loads in about the same time as Safari 3. If Apple's claimed performance advantage survives scrutiny of the trade media, then it may indeed have an edge in the highly competitive market.



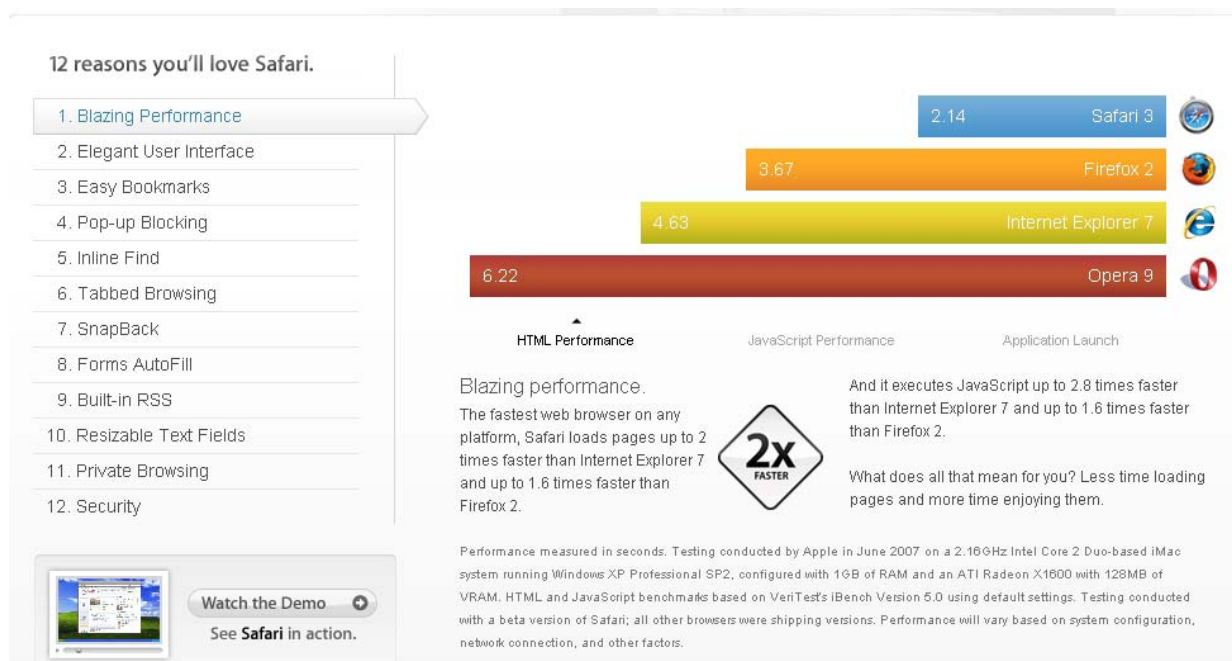
I downloaded the full version of Safari 3 with QuickTime. And it installed smoothly with minimal effort. Upon loading Safari 3 the first time, it was immediately apparent that the look and feel of Safari is definitely Apple-esque. While the interface was clean and intuitive, it lacked some of the flair and color of Internet Explorer and Firefox, with a flat gray toolbar and border, which Apple calls “elegant”. The commands and structure of the toolbar are similar to other browsers, and required a “zero” learning curve. As is now universal in other recent browser releases, Safari 3 offers tabbed browsing, where multiple browser windows can be sequentially opened in a single application. Safari 3 is a full featured browser, with easy to use bookmarks, an integral pop-up blocker, integrated search function, auto-completion of forms, a built in RSS reader, and other features. One somewhat unique feature is “SnapBack”, which allows the user to quickly return to previously viewed web pages more efficiently than using the “back” button. An interesting privacy feature is the “Private Browsing” feature (found in the “Edit” menu), which turns off any saving or record of websites visited (history), searches made, cookies received, forms filled, and other current information. In terms of security, Safari 3 supports all of the major internet encryption standards, and proxy configurations. One feature I liked is that Safari 3 automatically imported the bookmarks from my other browsers, allowing me immediate access to the websites I typically visit using those other browsers.

Safari 3 allows the use of plug-ins, much like Firefox. Unlike the well established Firefox, with thousands of open source plug-ins available, the recently released Safari 3 only lists six plug-ins at its site at [www.apple.com/safari/download/plugins.html](http://www.apple.com/safari/download/plugins.html). These six plug-ins offer features that may already be integrated into other browsers, such as an Acrobat PDF viewer, Java, Flash viewer, Real Player, QuickTime, and Windows Media Player. As Safari 3 gains popularity among Windows users, it is conceivable that more plug-ins may appear.

There is a potentially interesting feature built into Safari 3 that I personally do not yet feel comfortable with, but others may find very useful; this feature is “Bonjour for Windows”. Bonjour ([www.apple.com/bonjour](http://www.apple.com/bonjour)) allows the user to network computers, printers, and other smart devices through the Safari 3 browser. Bonjour uses the open standard IP protocol, and can connect items hard wired through an Ethernet cable, or wirelessly through an 802.11 system. One example that Apple lists is using Bonjour to automatically configure a printer by going to an appropriate Bonjour compatible website which provides the information to configure the printer. Apple lists printers from Brother, Canon, Epson, HP, Lexmark, and Xerox that are compatible with the Bonjour feature.

In using Safari 3 for Windows for a few days, I noticed some interesting usability features. One I especially liked was the feature that allows the size of the screen fonts to be instantly changed, which may improve readability of a web page. The feature in Safari 3 is identical to the same feature in Firefox, and uses the same command (CTRL +) to make the fonts larger, and “CTRL -” to make them smaller. This feature in Safari 3 is superior and more flexible than the method used in Internet Explorer to change font sizes. In terms of readability, most web sites were easier to read in Safari 3 than in Internet Explorer 7. I did notice some minor negative difference between Safari and the others, and that was in terms of page formatting. One minor annoyance was displayed when viewing my weather page ([www.beaumontweather.com](http://www.beaumontweather.com)) which is written in fairly pure HTML, the basic web page language. On Safari 3 some items that used the HTML “center” command did not appear centered, while the same items looked fine in Firefox or Internet Explorer. On some other pages, such as the starting page for a local TV station, some graphics do not appear to load at first, but this is usually rectified by reloading the page. Except for these anomalies, almost all other web pages I visited appeared correctly, and were very readable.

I found Safari 3 to be an attractive alternative to Internet Explorer, and may be of interest to those who might want to try something different in terms of a browser. It is clean and full featured, as is typical for Apple products. As another free browser, users may want to download it and try it.





# YAHOO!

## Internet Powerhouse

**By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX; radio and TV show host; [Iwilsker@apcug.net](mailto:Iwilsker@apcug.net)**

**B**ack in the earliest days of the internet, in January, 1994, two Stanford graduate students created one of the first canonical websites "Jerry's Guide to the World Wide Web" which was among the first searchable guides of websites. In April, 1994, Jerry Yang and David Filo renamed their website Yahoo!. By the end of 1994, while the internet was still in its infancy, Yahoo! had received over one million hits on its website. Now, according to Wikipedia (source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yahoo>), Yahoo! is the most visited website on the net, with over 412 million unique users, and over 3.4 billion page views a day (October, 2005 data).

Yahoo!, which started as a menu based directory of internet websites, now is a comprehensive source of online services. According to an interactive directory on the main Yahoo! page at [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com), there are just 21 distinct services listed, with over 100 total Yahoo! services listed on the "Everything Yahoo!" page (More Yahoo! Services) at [www.yahoo.com/r/xy](http://www.yahoo.com/r/xy).

I have been an active Yahoo! user since it was "Jerry's Guide" in early 1994, and made extensive use of its menu to located information on the thousands of websites then listed and categorized. Today the number of websites listed on Yahoo! is in the billions, and Yahoo! is generally considered as the second largest search engine, right behind Google.

In addition to its search functions, which many prefer over Google, I personally use several other Yahoo! services on a regular basis. On all of my computers the startup page displayed when my browser loads is My Yahoo! ([my.yahoo.com](http://my.yahoo.com)). I have this page personalized to display my stock quotes, market summary, weather for several selected cities, dozens of selected news and feature categories, daily and weekly appointment calendar, lottery results, email summary, TV schedule, lowest airfares to the cities I fly to on a periodic basis, and several other items of choice. The My Yahoo! page also supports as a resource the now common "RSS" news feeds, which allows the current display of information from countless other sources. I have tried several other popular startup pages, but have always returned to My Yahoo! which is my personal favorite.

Yahoo! Mail is another very popular service offered by Yahoo! Millions of people have Yahoo! email accounts. I personally have two Yahoo! email accounts, and my wife and daughters also have Yahoo! Email accounts which they use to supplement the email accounts provided by their employers or schools. Yahoo web based email can be accessed from anywhere there is internet access, and is compatible with all browsers. Yahoo! offers a full featured free email service at [mail.yahoo.com](http://mail.yahoo.com). The basic free account currently offers 2 gigabytes of mail storage, and one of the best spam filters in the industry. Yahoo! Mail also filters all email and attachment for viruses and other malware. The free Yahoo! Email also supports almost all email programs, for those that prefer a mail reader, rather than traditional web mail. I periodically download my Yahoo! web mail into either Eudora or Outlook Express, depending on which Yahoo! email account I am using at the moment. For those who still prefer using web mail, as millions do, Yahoo! offers two viewing options; the traditional web mail interface, or the new "beta" email interface that appears on the screen much as Outlook or other email reader would appear. It should be noted that Yahoo! also offers an upgraded (fee) email service for businesses and those with their own domain names. It has been rumored in the media that Yahoo! may start to offer email accounts with up to unlimited storage.

For those interested in investing, and who like to follow the latest financial news, Yahoo! offers a comprehensive and free financial news resource at [finance.yahoo.com](http://finance.yahoo.com). Topics accessible by tabs include investing, news and opinion, personal finance, and "my portfolios". Each tab opens a directory of relevant topics which provides comprehensive financial information. The personal finance tab connects to information on banking and budgeting, career and work, college and education, family and

### WEBSITES:

<http://www.yahoo.com>

<http://my.yahoo.com>

<http://maps.yahoo.com>

<http://mail.yahoo.com>

<http://finance.yahoo.com>

<http://calendar.yahoo.com>

<http://www.yahoo.com/r/xy>

home, insurance, loans, real estate, retirement, taxes, and how-to guides. Active investors may find the "My Portfolios" tab helpful in that it allows the user to enter and save any number of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, as well as indices, and display the current (subject to exchange required delays) values. Charts, news, messages, profiles, statistics, and other useful information are provided on each portfolio item listed. For those who want nearly real-time portfolio valuations, the user can also enter number of shares, costs, and other information, which will then display a detailed table of gains and losses, as well as summary information.

I was recently visiting two of my kids out of state, and needed some information on shopping and restaurants. I went to maps.yahoo.com and entered their address, and generated a street map of selectable scale. On the screen I could select the type of business I was looking for, and the name and location would be displayed on the map. Clicking on the icon created on the map would provide additional information on the selection. We were able to read reviews of restaurants, and with a single mouse click we could generate detailed driving directions from the house to the restaurant or other desired business. I have found this service invaluable when staying in hotels and I want to know what is nearby. When driving directions between points are generated, the user can decide what to print and display, such as directions only, directions and detailed maps, or maps only. This service is useful to both the traveler who needs driving directions and information on waypoints, and the local user trying to find points of interest. According to a recent news article, in April, 2007, there were 29.4 million users of Yahoo! Maps, making it one of the top mapping services on the net. Yahoo also recently announced that it is adding detailed driving directions to Maps for 34 European countries, enhancing its broad appeal.

It should be no surprise to readers of this column that I am a very busy person. By choice, I use Yahoo! Calendar at calendar.yahoo.com. I can enter appointments, events, and other activities with starting and ending times. I can also have repetitive events, such as board meetings, automatically entered on the calendar by specifying "third Thursday" or some similar notation. Yahoo! Calendar can also import and export information between it and Outlook, as well as most PDAs such as Palms and Pocket PCs. Items listed on the calendar can be kept private, or can be selectively displayed as public, such as if an organization desires a public calendar of events. Yahoo! Calendar also offers the free option of emailing reminders, or sending the reminder to a cell phone or other mobile device.

There are many other useful and mostly free services offered by Yahoo!, such as personal webpage hosting (Geocities), and excellent instant messenger program (Yahoo Messenger). I suggest that computer users from novices to geeks explore the offerings from Yahoo!. There is much to like and use.

# 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**

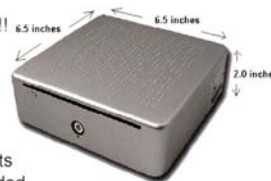
## dvnation.com

The miniPC: The smallest Windows / Linux PC ever  
\* small spaces \* CAR COMPUTER \* any room \* point of sales machine \*



### BASE MODEL FEATURES:

- \* Window XP computer
- \* dimensions: 6.5 in X 6.5 in X 2.5 in !!!!
- \* 1.4 GHZ Pentium M (Celeron)
- \* 512 GB RAM
- \* 40 GB hard drive
- \* DVD / CD-RW combo drive
- \* 10/100/1000 (GIGABIT) LAN
- \* 2 x USB, 1 X firewire (IEEE 1394) ports
- \* DVI video output - VGA adapter included
- \* TV output, S-video & component **HDTV out!**
- \* Sound: stereo out, mic input, internal speaker
- \* Software included: Nero CD burning, Drivers, Windows XP, full Office suite (Open Office)
- \* **Unlimited expansion** via USB and firewire



### UPGRADES

- CPU up to 1.7 Ghz
- Hard drive up to 160 GB
- RAM up to 1 GB
- b / g wireless LAN
- Optical Drive DVD Recordable
- Install your own OS **subtract \$50**

**ALL this for just \$599**  
(Only \$549 if you install your own operating system)

**Call Jason, 210-669-2156**

**Computer Buffet***With Dr. Herb Goldstein***AbsoluteShield**

AbsoluteShield Internet Eraser Lite contains a pop-up blocker and a privacy protector. It protects your privacy by cleaning all the tracks of your Internet and computer activities. The tool is integrated with Internet Explorer and can erase the browser history, cookies, typed URLs, recent documents, Recycle Bin, and temporary folders in one click, completely removing these files from your hard disk without the possibility of any practical software or hardware recovering them. [www.internet-track-eraser.com](http://www.internet-track-eraser.com)

Dr. Herb Goldstein is SPCUG's Software Evaluation Chairman and Review Editor for the Sarasota PC Monitor. Herb is an avid researcher on all things computer and passes on his acquired knowledge each month. <reviewseditor@spcug.org>

**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.



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

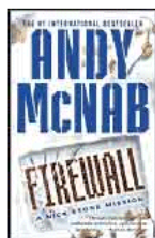


# Computer Crimes

Susan Ives, Alamo PC

## Firewall

By: Andy McNab,  
Reviewed by Susan  
Ives Paperback,  
Seal Books, 2002,  
528 pages, \$6.99



After a badly botched mission, former British SAS soldier Nick Stone is in the doghouse with the Firm. He takes a freelance job with a Russian organized crime boss to infiltrate a chipmunk-cheeked computer nerd into a guarded compound in Estonia to download the contents of their computers onto an IBM Thinkpad. Nick thinks he's engaging in a bit of harmless industrial espionage, but when the target turns out to be military secrets, he finds himself double-crossed and stranded in the bleak, arctic Estonian countryside pursued by skilled and ruthless enemies.

Despite the title, computers take a distant second place to action and adven-

ture. The firewall the Nick must breach is computer security surrounding a program called "echelon," which intercepts satellite transmissions and searches for significant key words. Helsinki, where much of the action takes place, is the most wired city in the world and there are amusing references to infants will cell phones. Although not as thoughtful as LeCarré, McNab is on par with Alistair McClain and far, far better than the best of Clancey. The authenticity is perfect and the suspense exquisite. Recommended.

## Pattern Recognition

By: William Gibson, Reviewed by Susan Ives  
Paperback, Berkley, 2003, 356 pages, \$14.00



Cayce Pollard, a market researcher with uncanny intuition and a physical allergy to name brands, is hired by a tycoon to uncover the source of "the

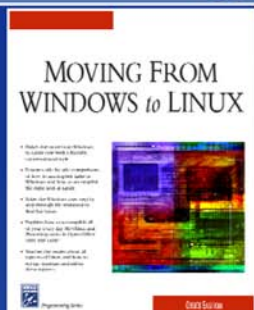
footage," video snippets that appear on the Internet a disjointed clip at a time, attracting a cult following. Her search takes her to London, Tokyo and Moscow, following a trail of marketing, globalization and terror.

William Gibson is an iconic writer: he invented the word "cyberspace." This is his first novel set in the present day, although there is something futuristic in his depiction of everyday objects, events and relationships. Lots of technology - mostly Internet centered - but also a thoughtful, deep analysis of the human condition. Beautifully written, with an engaging plot and delightful characters.

Highly 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 Ave. and Lockhill-Selma), (210) 344-7776, tries its darnest to keep the recommended books in stock.

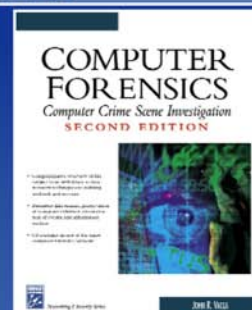
## COMPUTER BOOKS THAT DELIVER



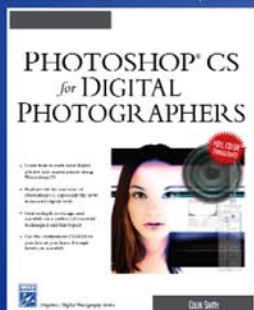
1-58450-280-0 \$44.95



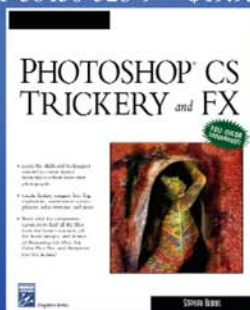
1-58450-328-9 \$49.95



1-58450-389-0 \$49.95



1-58450-321-1 \$39.95



1-58450-297-5 \$39.95



1-58450-387-4 \$41.95




20% OFF AT [WWW.CHARLESRIVER.COM](http://WWW.CHARLESRIVER.COM)

ALSO AVAILABLE AT AMAZON, BARNES & NOBLE, BORDERS, AND OTHER FINE RETAILERS.



# November 2007

<i><b>Sunday</b></i>	<i><b>Monday</b></i>	<i><b>Tuesday</b></i>	<i><b>Wednesday</b></i>	<i><b>Thursday</b></i>	<i><b>Friday</b></i>	<i><b>Saturday</b></i>
<b>Desk Copy</b>				<b>1</b> Student's Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon (a/r) High Growth Stock Investing, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. Excel 7 - 9 P.M., class 1 of 4 *PRR*	<b>2</b> Small Business Server 8 - 10 A.M. *PRR* Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Photoshop Calendar class 1 - 5 P.M., class 1 of 4 *PRR* PC Alamode Magazine & PDF 7 - 9 P.M.	<b>3</b> MCSE (Adv) Publish Your Own Book 10 - Noon Programming C++ 2:30 - 4:30 P.M.
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Genealogy 7 - 9 P.M.	<b>6</b> Movie Maker 9 - 11 A.M., class 1 of 4 *PRR* Windows XP 1:30 - 3:30 P.M., class 5 of 6 *PRR* Board of Directors 6:30 - 9:30 P.M. (Members are welcome to attend)	<b>7</b> Introduction to Windows 10 - Noon, class 5 of 6 *PRR* Introduction to Windows 1 - 3 P.M., class 5 of 6 *PRR* Introduction to Vista® 1 - 3 P.M., class 1 of 2 *PRR*	<b>8</b> Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Excel 7 - 9 P.M. class 2 of 4 *PRR*	<b>9</b> Computer with problems Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Photoshop Calendar class 1 - 5 P.M., class 2 of 4 *PRR*	<b>10</b> MCSE (Adv) 9 - 11:30 A.M. *PRR*
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> General Meeting @ Crossroads 7 - 9 P.M. Presenter:	<b>13</b> Movie Maker 9 - 11 A.M., class 2 of 4 *PRR* Windows XP 1:30 - 3:30 P.M., class 6 of 6 *PRR* Alamo Coders (DotNET - Web Development Technology) 7 - 9 P.M.	<b>14</b> Power Internet, 10 A.M. - Noon Introduction to Windows 10 A.M. - Noon, class 6 of 6 *PRR* Introduction to Windows 1 - 3 P.M., class 6 of 6 *PRR* Introduction to Vista® 1 - 3 P.M., class 2 of 2 *PRR* PowerPoint 7 - 9 P.M., class 1 of 2 *PRR*	<b>15</b> Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Excel 7 - 9 P.M. class 3 of 4 *PRR*	<b>16</b> Computer with problems Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Photoshop Calendar class 1 - 5 P.M., class 3 of 4 *PRR*	<b>17</b> MCSE (Adv) 9 - 11:30 A.M. *PRR* Programming C++ 2:30 - 4:30 P.M.
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Movie Maker 9 - 11 A.M., class 3 of 4 *PRR*	<b>21</b> Investors Business Daily (IBD) / Vector Vest, 6 - 8 P.M. PowerPoint 7 - 9 P.M. class 2 of 2 *PRR* WordPerfect 7 - 9 P.M. (a/r) <b>rescheduled from Nov. 28th</b>	<b>22</b>  Thanksgiving Closed for the day	<b>23</b> Computer with problems Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon	<b>24</b> MCSE (Adv) 9 - 11:30 A.M. *PRR* Learning Center Desk Staff Meeting 1 - 5 P.M.
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> CorelDRAW X3 6 - 8 P.M.	<b>27</b> Movie Maker 9 - 11 A.M., class 4 of 4 *PRR*	<b>28</b> WordPerfect 7 - 9 P.M. (a/r) <b>rescheduled to Nov. 21</b>	<b>29</b> Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon Excel 7 - 9 P.M., class 4 of 4 *PRR*	<b>30</b> Computer with problems Dr. is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Photoshop Calendar class 1 - 5 P.M., class 4 of 4 *PRR*	PRR = Pre-Registration Required

*Alamo P&T 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 McAlexander  
<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@absolutepowercomputing.com](mailto:shane@absolutepowercomputing.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.


## Advertisers Index

BJ Associates of San Antonio	37
Charles River Media	57
Computer Experts	45
Computer Fest	11
Corona Visions	14
Cramer's Computer Services	39
David's Essential Domains	19
DV Nation	55
Global Travel Trends	31
Holiday Ink	34
Inksell	IFC
Laura B. Grover, E.A.	40
New Life Toner	IFC
SA PC Help	51
United Service Association for Health Care	24
Water Ware	48

## 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

PCA JAN05

# 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.



