

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE ALAMO PC ORGANIZATION

PC Alamode

WEB ISSUE

www.alamopc.org

July 2008

\$5.00



The Internet - What is it?

page 38

The Internet - E-mail and the Web

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How I find my "deleted" e-mails

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YouTube revolutionizes the Internet

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Alamo PC Organization

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



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

Registration number **210-736-0080**

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

membership@alamopc.org

If you have questions about Alamo PC call:

Learning Center number **210-736-0700**

If you have comments about classes call

Linda Bianchi **210-561-2278**

If you have questions about advertising call

Joseph de Leon
send e-mail to editor@alamopc.org

Please send change of address and other correspondence to:

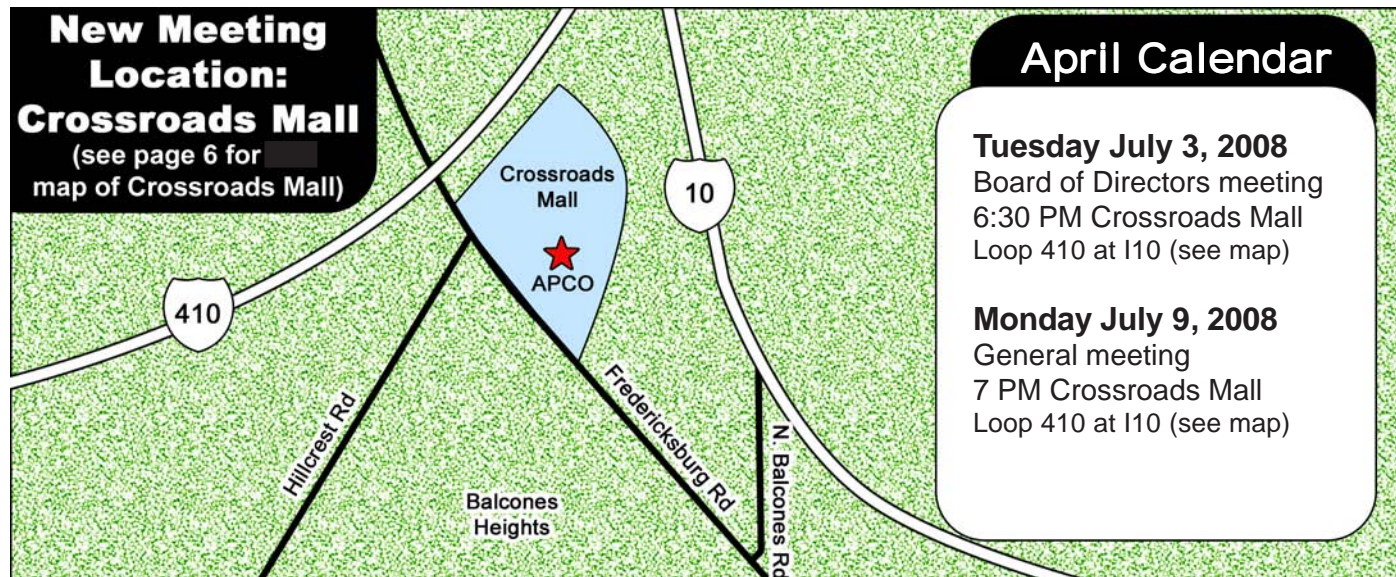
Alamo PC Organization
PO Box 65180
San Antonio, TX 78265-5180

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.

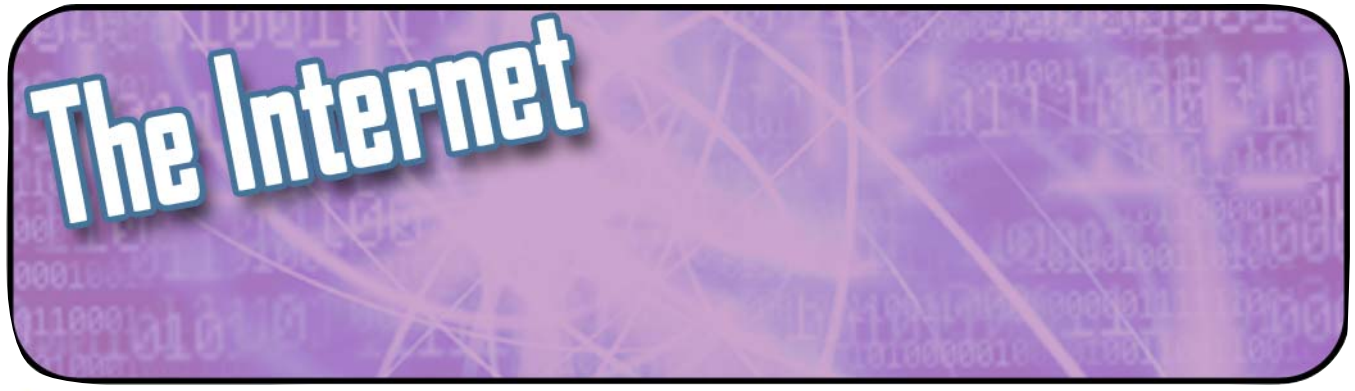
New Meeting Location:
Crossroads Mall
(see page 6 for map of Crossroads Mall)



April Calendar

Tuesday July 3, 2008
Board of Directors meeting
6:30 PM Crossroads Mall
Loop 410 at I10 (see map)

Monday July 9, 2008
General meeting
7 PM Crossroads Mall
Loop 410 at I10 (see map)



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PC Alamode

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 A router can help protect your computer

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*Consecutive months

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product reviews

Computer Crimes
 Hardware Review: Actiontec Megaplug
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Board of Directors

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Executive Service Officers and other important numbers

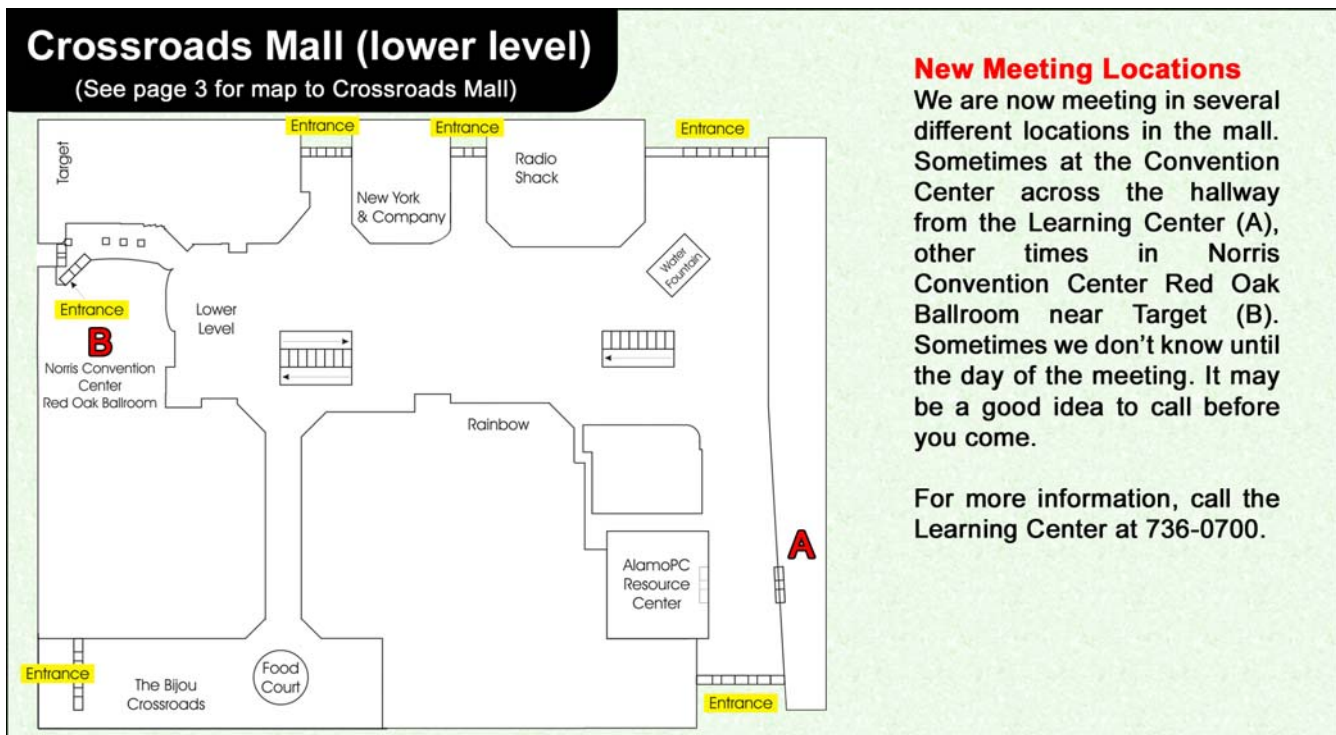
Learning Center, Crossroads Mall

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FAX 736-0032

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



PC Alamode Links List



SoundFlavor

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

Soundflavor helps you make great music video playlists to play, share with friends, and post on Facebook, MySpace, Friendster, blogs, and other websites, using our Video Jukebox™!



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Joseph de Leon, Editor

<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.

I hope everyone is enjoying the season. It may be hot, but it's fixing to get a lot hotter. Just like last year, forecasters are predicting a stronger than usual hurricane season. Let's hope they're wrong!

You'll notice some of the articles in this issue are bit on the technical side. While Alamo PC does help novice computer users make sense of that big fancy box with all the wires coming out of it, it's also a club for professionals and advanced enthusiasts.

Let me know what you'd like to see in the magazine and have a safe summer!

President's Message

Bill Klutz

"July" - Independence Day, Election Process Continues

This month there is only one thing I find on the calendar for the U.S. that would be of interest to most folks: 4th - Independence Day. It commemorates the severance of ties for the New World colonies, and all the people who were here, from previous rule imposed on them.

The flag adopted then has evolved to what we have today - 13 stripes for the original 13 colonies and 50 stars for the current 50 states.

Out of town trips have prevented me from attending recent BOD meetings and the monthly General Meetings. Since no one has communicated with me about either, I am not sure they were even held. The General meetings, have not had a scheduled corporate presenter, that I know about, and if held, probably only had a hand full of people even showed up. Overall interest in the organization appears to have waned. This is also evident by the ever declining membership and the fact that we have not had a full compliment of board members (one or more vacancy) for the past three years.

It is now late in June, and I have no indication that David Steward has any presenter for our next General Meeting (Jul 14th), other than himself. I keep hoping he will have an announcement posted to the website, but, based on his lack of success since about November of last year, I am confident we will have another in-house presentation. Since things can change, even at the last minute, check the website for the latest information about the General Meeting. On the day of the meeting, call the Learning Center for the most current information on location and presenter. I can only hope that someone will have made something available for the staff to pass along.

Each year when the first day of July rolls around it reminds me that we have finished the first half of the year, and we are starting the second half. I am sure it will bring other thoughts to mind for many, but one should be about the election process for the Alamo PC Organization, specifically for the BODs.


July is Alamo PC's annual nomination time for BOD positions that are vacant or expiring. The Elections Committee will try to seek members willing to serve at the BOD level, but since we have operated with one or more vacant positions since Oct 2005 (despite numerous pleas from me in past messages), it would appear the task may again prove to be difficult. Each member also has a stake in this process - "This is OUR organization." Each member should consider themselves to be responsible for trying to identify individuals willing to serve at the BOD level. The opportunity to submit names will be available at the July General Meeting, for members who are present. Once the list of individuals has been identified, individual biographies will be submitted for inclusion in the August PC Alamode. During August, the online election

process will be conducted to determine the list of Board members for the coming year (Oct 2008 - Sep 2009).

As in the past, 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, presenter, trade shows, Learning Center volunteer, a 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).

Since almost all of our new members are obtained from walk-in traffic at the Learning Center, I am once again asking that you consider some of the following items available to members and talk to other potential members about them: free class benefit - enroll in one or more of the classes; the "Wish List" - if a class you would like is not on the list, make it known to the people at the Learning Center so they can put it on the list of classes that people have requested; one membership for the family - entitles one family member to vote, but it entitles each

Continued on page 9



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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 ones in the next paragraph. Once it is determined that a class should be started, finding a teacher is usually a daunting task.

As stated previously, we have lost our teacher for the popular Digital Camera & Photography classes (four different levels, each repeated once during the year). We are desperately seeking one or more individuals for the classes, as personal issues may not allow the former teacher to return to the classroom until 2009, if then.

During the past few months, we have also suffered the loss of volunteers who have been diligent in giving a few hours each week to be a part of the Learning Center "Desk Staff." This has been related to health issues and even the passing of some. Without someone present at the Learning Center, we may miss the opportunity to gain new members, that are desperately needed.

We are still trying to improve member retention, but are not as successful as we would like to be. Although new members have almost been sufficient to offset non-renewing members, the member number total continues to slowly decline. We want membership 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." With our past trend of fewer members each month, it may be sooner than later! I hope it does not come to that as it will be like the loss of a friend or family member.

July Program

Bill Klutz

Currently (end of June), I have not been informed that our July General Meeting has a Corporate presenter scheduled. We are hopeful David Steward can secure one. Where the meeting will be held (Norris Conference center, across from our Learning Center, or in our Learning Center) will be determined by the presenter available and the anticipated attendance. Since things can change at the last minute, check the Alamo PC web site (www.alamopc.org) for information on presenter and meeting location. BUT, on the meeting day please talk with one of the Learning Center desk personnel (210-736-0700/0080). Make plans now to come and bring some friends, as we hope to have an interesting presentation.

Volunteer of the Month

Don Child

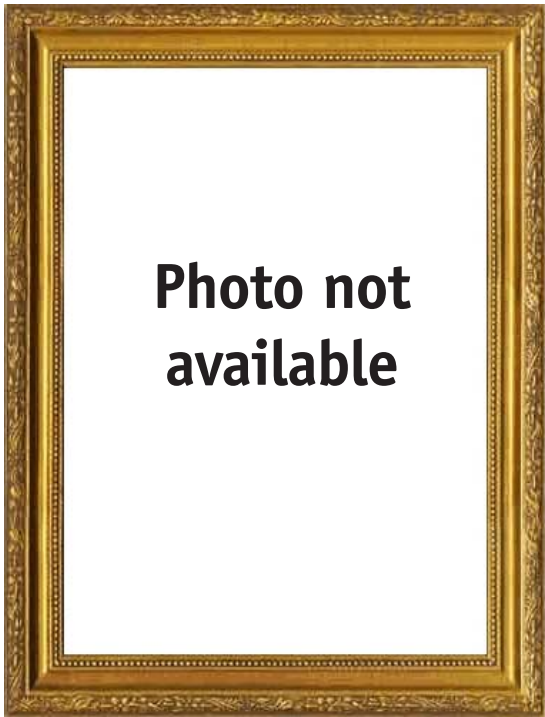


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Volunteers Wanted

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STUDY GROUPS

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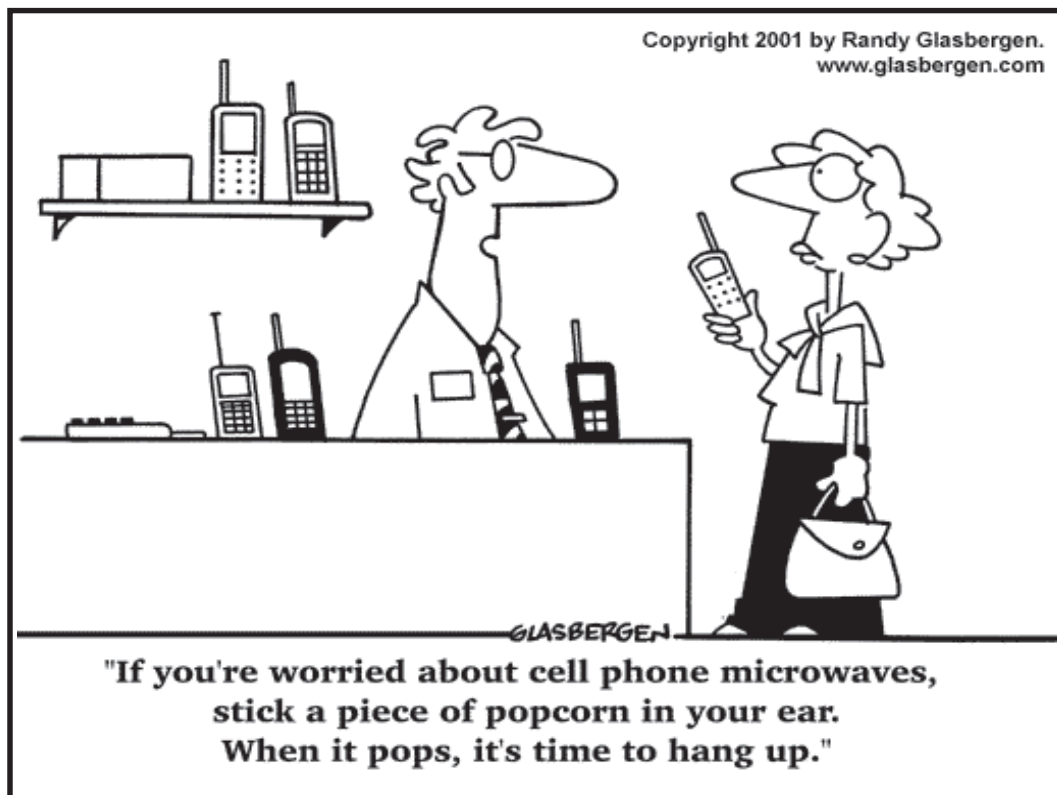
Show Dates:

August 9, 2008
November 8, 2008
December 13, 2008



Funny Bytes

Ken Nash & Randy Glasbergen





Vista Tips (Part 3)

Shane Hicks, (certified certifiable)

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

Welcome to Part 3 of the series of tips for using Windows Vista.

1. Control Multi-Processors with Affinity

We all run a ton of applications at the same time. Windows Vista does a pretty good job of managing our multitasking between the multi-core CPUs most of us have today. However, some applications don't play nice and can take a large amount of system resources (i.e., Norton AntiVirus). In these cases, set the application to run off a single core. This can improve its efficiency. Bring up Task Manager, find the resource-hogging process (i.e., nprotect.exe), right-click it, and select Set Affinity. Then deselect one of the cores, forcing the application to execute on the remaining processor.

2. Control Your Power Options

Windows Vista does its best to help you save power. However, this comes at the expense of overall performance. If you look in Power Options, you'll notice the default power setting is the "Power Saver" plan, which limits the CPU to 50 percent. Change to "High Performance" to regain speed for your system.

3. Reliability and Performance Monitor

You've probably looked at the Windows Experience score to see how your system handles Windows Vista. However, this isn't all the information that's available to you. Look into the Microsoft Management Console. Navigate to this tool by right-clicking on Computer and select Manage. Select Reliability and Performance and look at your system's Reliability Monitor. The system stability index gives a weighted value of how stable your PC is based on data collected over its lifetime. Red X's show where specific failures occurred.

4. Voice Capability

Have you seen the scene in Road Hogs where William H. Macy searches his computer using speech recognition? Windows Vista actually has this feature built-in. Enable the natural language search feature on the Search tab in the Folder Options control panel. Once you done this you can search by saying things like "files created last month" or "music by Clint Black."

5. Change the Location of Your Folders

Windows automatically creates a default location for your Personal folders. However, this may not be where you want to keep them. You can easily move your folders. Click your username at the top right of the Start menu to open your profile. Right-click Documents and choose Properties. Then click Location | Move and select the new location. You'll be asked if you want to move your documents; hit Yes.

NOTE: Don't do this with the Public folder. There's a Location tab, but no Move button.

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The Doctor is In



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Run tests

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Owner must stay with computer during repairs

6. Program Compatibility Wizard

If you need to run an old program that isn't supported in Vista, don't give up just yet. You can perform a search on Help and Support for compatibility mode. Run the included wizard to select compatibility options to get your program to run in Vista.

7. On-Screen Keyboard

If you find yourself in a situation where your own external keyboard isn't functioning, Windows Vista has a virtual keyboard. Enter OSK, for On-Screen Keyboard, into the Start menu's Search field and click on the executable to bring up the on-screen keyboard and use your mouse to "key" in data.

8. Animated Backgrounds

Vista Ultimate users have an Extra called DreamScene. This allows you to add video desktop wallpapers. It's available as an optional download through Microsoft Update.

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Windows XP Part XVI

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.

There are many ways to increase the performance of your computer with the WinXP operating system. Here are six examples. **Defragment Your Hard Drive** Defragmenting your hard drive puts your data back into sequential order, making it easier for Windows to access it. **Scan Your Hard Disk** Has your computer ever crashed, making it impossible to shut it down properly? Have you ever experienced a power outage? These problems and others can cause damage to your system files. Windows provides a utility called scandisk that will automatically detect and fix much of the damage, improving your system's performance in the process. **Scan for Viruses** Viruses can wreak havoc on your computer. Detecting and cleaning viruses is an excellent way to improve your system's performance. There are many antivirus programs to choose from on the market. **Check for Spyware and Adware** Spyware is software that allows companies to monitor what websites you visit or even access your computer. Adware is software that displays advertisements. Detecting and removing the programs will improve system performance. **Uninstall Unneeded Programs** Removing programs no longer used can free up space on your computer and speed up your system's performance. However, you need to uninstall the programs properly to see much improvement; deleting them is not enough. **Adjust Visual Effects for Better Performance** WinXP provides a number of interesting visual effects like animated windows and fading menus. These effects, however, can slow down your computer. In this tutorial, you'll learn how to customize the visual effects to match your preferences and performance needs.

Calculator

For years, Microsoft has included a free calculator in Windows. Often overlooked, this calculator offers advanced features. For example, you can perform calculations in different number formats, or perform advanced scientific calculations. Well, now there is a free calculator for Windows that will run a tape of calculations. You can even save it or print it, if you'd like. It's called Mofsoft FreeCalc <<http://www.komando.com/downloads/category.aspx?id=4779>>. There are other features you'll like about Mofsoft FreeCalc. So download it and give it a spin!

Security

1. Turn on Automatic Updates in WinXP Automatic Updates is a WinXP utility that allows your computer to download security updates from Microsoft automatically. Turning on Automatic Updates helps to secure your computer since you'll always have the latest critical security updates.
2. Turn on the Free Firewall in WinXP If you have Service Pack 2 installed, you have a free firewall that you can use to protect your computer from attacks. However, you must turn the free firewall on. While the free firewall in Windows XP provides some protection, learn why Windows Firewall may not be enough.
3. Use Internet Explorer Wisely Internet Explorer 6 provides four zones for which you can establish separate security settings. By using the four zones, you'll reduce your chances of being the victim of an attack when you inadvertently visit a malicious Web site.
4. Use Anti-Virus Software Viruses can cause havoc on your computer. Protect yourself by using antivirus software. There are many antivirus programs to choose from, but the About Guide to Antivirus Software provides a list of the Top 7 Antivirus Programs for Windows.
5. Use Spyware and Adware Software Spyware is software that allows companies to monitor what websites you visit or even access your computer. Adware is software that displays advertisements. Protect your computer by using Spyware and Adware software.
6. Be Careful What You Click On Often, attackers must entice you to open an email attachment or visit their Web site in order to attack your computer. If you open the attachment or visit their site, malicious code is executed on your computer. To protect your computer, be careful what you click on.
7. Use Limited Accounts to Better Secure Your WinXP Computer It's harder for someone to attack your computer through the Internet if you're using a limited account. Learn why it's best to use limited accounts for daily use and how to create a limited account.

WinXP Service Pack

Windows Vista Service Pack 1 is available, and Win XP Service Pack 3 (XP SP3) is following close on its heels. If you've been using Automatic Updates to keep XP up-to-date with the latest fixes, you won't notice many changes when XP SP3 is released. However, collecting all the fixes previously released into one service pack certainly makes it easier to setup a new XP system. If you aren't an Information Technology manager and you have been installing WinXP updates, XP SP3 only offers two new features. SP3 updates the menu text in the security options control panel. The second feature has to do with Windows Product Activation Update, which makes XP installation more Vista-like. With this update, you won't have to input your Windows product activation key in re-installing XP. Microsoft plans to release XP SP3 in the second quarter of 2008.

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Shutdown

WinXP has a little program called Shutdown.exe that puts a shortcut on your Desktop. To create the Shutdown shortcut, right-click the Desktop, select New and then Shortcut. In the Create Shortcut dialog browse to C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32\Shutdown.exe. Enter a space after the .exe and type -s for shutdown. Click Next give the shortcut a name and then click Finish. When you want to shutdown your computer just double-click the Shutdown shortcut. You can also create a shortcut for logging off or rebooting. In that case, enter the space and add -l for log off or -r for reboot.

Slide Shows

There are a couple of ways to run slide shows of photos in different folders. XP's Windows Picture and Fax Viewer will run slide shows of your photos. You can select one or more folders to include in your slide show. Nested folders will also be included. You simply open your My Pictures folder. Select the folders containing the photos you'd like to include in the show. You can use the CTRL key or Shift key to select multiple folders. Next, click "View as a slide show" in the Picture Task Pane. Your slide show will begin. You can use the controls to navigate through the photos, or, you can simply let the slide show run on its own. Things are slightly different in Windows Vista. It uses Windows Photo Gallery to run slide shows. Again, you can include multiple folders in your slide show. Nested folders are also included.

From your Pictures folder, select the folders you would like to include by clicking them. For multiple folders hold down the CTRL key or use the Shift key. Then, click the Slideshow button at the top of the windows, or, you can opt to run a slide show of all the photos in your Pictures folder. Don't select any photos or folders in the folder. Just click the Slideshow button at the top of the window. You can let the slide show run through the photos on its own. You can use the navigation tools to move through the photos. If you want more advanced options, try IrfanView. This free program will create slide shows for you. While you have more options, it is more complicated to use. I have a download link on my site to IrfanView. Once you install IrfanView, click File, Slideshow. You can use the navigation tools at the right side of the Slideshow box to find your photos. When you find a folder you'd like to add, simply drag it to the box at the bottom. Nested folders won't be included by default. You can add those separately, or you can select "Include subdirectories (for Add all)." Then, click a folder on the right and click Add all. The nested folders will be included. Add the folders in the order in which you would like them to appear and use the Move up/Move down buttons to rearrange the order.

To view your slide show, click Play Slideshow. You'll be able to see how it looks. Tweak the settings of your slide show using the tools on the left. Once your slide show is finalized, you can save it. Click "Save slideshow as EXE/SCR." This will save the slide show as a standalone program. It can also be used as a screen saver. You can save the slide show to CD, too. Click "Burn slideshow to CD." The CD you burn will work on other computers.

Start Menu Customization

You can customize the Start menu by changing its properties. To start playing, right-click on the Start button, choose Properties, and click the Customize button. Here are a few things you might consider:

Icon Size: Switching to small icons packs more icons onto the menu, yet keeps them easily recognizable. Programs: Try increasing the number of frequently used programs to about 15. That lets the Start menu display nearly all my frequently used programs with a single click. Show on Start menu: The Start menu normally lists Internet Explorer and Outlook along its top. Click here to show other programs, instead. Advanced tab: You can go wild here. You might turn off Highlight Newly Installed Programs to stop new programs from sending their annoying announcement pop-ups. Under Start menu items, you could choose Display as a Menu for the Control Panel. That lets you browse the Control Panel's options directly from the Start menu, saving lots of time.

Remote Assistance

Remote Assistance was introduced in WinXP. It will let you log on to a computer expert's machine if you are in need of help to solve a computer problem. It is much more cumbersome to set up than GoToMyPC, which is an alternative way of seeking outside assistance. To set it up, click Start, Control Panel and double-click System and open the Remote tab. Next select "Allow Remote Assistance invitations to be sent from this computer" and click Advanced and select "Allow this computer to be controlled remotely." You can also set a time limit after which an invitation will expire. Click OK, OK. To send a Remote Assistance invitation, click Start, Help and Support and then click "Remote Assistance: Invite a friend to connect to your computer" and click "Invite someone to help you." Both parties can use Windows Messenger or Outlook/Outlook Express to communicate.

On the next dialog box, you can send an invitation to a contact in Outlook/Outlook Express or you can use Windows Messenger. Once it is received, the remote work can begin! Things are different in Vista. To get started, click Start, Control Panel and double-click System and click Remote Settings. Now select "Allow Remote Assistance connections to this computer" and click Advanced and select "Allow this computer to be controlled remotely." You can specify an expiration for the invitation if you choose this option. Also, you can select "Create invitations that can only be used from computers running Windows Vista or later." Vista's settings are very different from XP's, so click OK, OK. To send a request for help, click Start, Help and Support and click "Use Windows Remote Assistance to get help from a friend or offer help." Next select "Invite someone you trust to help you" and click "Use e-mail to send an invitation." Enter a password, confirm it, and click Next. At this point an e-mail will be generated with an attached file and you can then enter the recipient's e-mail address.



Finding a Home for your Home Page

The Lazy Webmaster

Susan Ives, Alamo PC

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

After you design your Web site you need a place to host it. A Web host is a service that gives you space on their server, a computer that is configured for public access to Web sites.

1. Paid Shared Hosted Site:

This is by far the most popular solution. Web hosting companies will host your site and register your domain name for a modest monthly fee. You will be sharing a remote computer with many other hosted Web sites. Two companies that I have used are Hosting Matters and 5 Dollar Hosting. For less than \$100 per year you can get a year's worth of Web space and get a registered domain name <www.yourname.com>. Everything is arranged online with a credit card, and your name and space should be ready to use in a day or two. Two terms you need to know:

Storage space:

This is the megabytes (MB) of files that you can store on a server. At the least expensive level this is usually 25MB. Most Web sites will easily fit in this amount of space.

Data Transfer/Mo:

Each time someone views the front page of the SAVAE site they transfer 15 files totaling 41KB. If he or she clicks on the "Music" link they transfer another 34KB. If they decide to listen to the audio clip of Mananitas, they are transferring 125KB more. At the least expensive level you will get 2-5 gigabytes (GB) of data transfer per month. If you exceed it the Web host will alert you and charge you more or, if you prefer, close down your site for the remainder of the month.

Don't buy more than you need, but make sure you can scale up if your needs change.

For example, you might not need a shopping cart with the ability to accept secure transactions on your initial business Web site, but if this is in your future plans, make sure that it is available. Same with SQL (Structured Query Language), a standard interactive and programming language for getting information from and updating a database.

Some Web hosts will provide tools to make it easier to construct and design your site. Yahoo, for example, offers a program called Site Builder, that walks you through menus to design your site.

If you use Microsoft Front Page make sure that your host supports Front Page Extensions. Also, make sure it supports FTP and doesn't require you to use a clunky Web-based interface to upload your files to their server.

Most of the Web hosts will also give you free e-mail addresses and other services, but note that your Web hosting does NOT include basic Internet access – you're just buying space for your Web site, not access to the Internet.

Most Web hosting services offer a complete package – you can register your domain name, contract for the space and be online within a day or so.

One of the advantages to having your own domain name is that you can transfer your hosting service to another company and still keep the same Web address. Take the time to make the best choice for your needs, but take comfort in knowing that if it doesn't work out you can always switch.

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STUDY GROUPS

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

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Call the Learning Center to volunteer to assist ongoing classes or help keep day-to-day tasks under control. Your computer user group can't function without volunteers.

Please call (210) 736-0700

Free Web Hosts.

This is free service that you pay for indirectly by agreeing to include advertising on your site. Some of the most popular are

- * Tripod
- * Angelfire
- * Geocities

All of these include Web page building tools that use templates and wizards to help you build your site, or you can design them from scratch. The advertising - popup ads - are added automatically by the service. All of these also allow you to upgrade your service, for a fee, to eliminate the ads or use your own domain name. Your address will look something like www.geocities.com/yourname. Free is good, but most people find popup ads irritating. Use this for a personal site, but not for a business one.

ISP hosted services

Many Internet Service Providers — the company you get your basic Internet service from — include some free Web space. The address of such a site will look something like yourname.ispname.com or www.ispname.com/~yourname.

Some ISPs restrict the kind of site you can host for free - some prohibit business sites.

Contact your ISP to see if they offer free Web space.

It is, of course, possible to manage your own server, but this is complicated, expensive and beyond the scope of the Lazy Webmaster.

This is a decision you don't have to make right away - your Web site can be designed totally off-line and only uploaded to the public server when you are ready to go public.

The extra experience and breathing space might give you more data to ensure you are making the right decision.

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

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Owner must
stay with
computer dur-
ing repairs



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.

*Biometric Lock Update

I said I was going to return the Kwikset Biometric (fingerprint) Lock for my door because it was very unreliable, but I really liked it and wanted it to work better. I watched the video on their Web site and tried changing my finger scanning technique. It's working better for me and mostly opens on the first scan, but not always. However, my wife still has poor luck so she always uses her key, or waits for me to unlock it. Kwikset had a booth in a hardware show we worked so I asked a rep how to improve my wife's success getting the lock to work. He told me the lock can hold 50 different fingerprints, so, if I didn't need them all for other people, try scanning her finger several times in different ways with the chance that things might go better with more choices for the lock's computer to compare. He said it actually scans the skin makeup, not the fingerprint. It's worth a try!

*For What It's Worth!

When I wrote up the USB Medical flash drive deal, my proof reader told me no medic in his right mind would plug it into their laptop, if they even had a laptop in the ambulance, because an unknown device might cause damage to the computer or entire system. It made sense so I talked to a few medics about that and there seems to be varied opinions. One told me that he only looks to see if the patient has a wallet card or medical necklace, and they would not plug anything unknown into their computer. Another medic told me that if she saw the USB device with the medical logo on it, she would indeed plug it into their laptop to see what it revealed, and that their computer system would not allow any damage. In spite of the varied opinions, most said they would want to see the USB drive's content because the patient's welfare was important. Some said good advice is to post a conspicuous note in your wallet about the device. Would anybody fake a serious injury just to damage computers?

*Interesting Business

Bill Shook is the editor of a great newsletter for The Northwest Arkansas PC User Group and I really enjoy reading it each month. He seems to be the editor for life and doesn't mind. I read a very interesting tidbit in their March issue that had me wondering if it was for real, or just an April fool joke, considering the month. NWA-PCUG's President, Wes Eckles Jr., starts the NL with the "President's Corner," and in his March Corner, he included an item about "cheap broadband service available from Space Data Corporation by way of shoebox sized transmitter/receivers carried aloft via ten balloons launched each day by ranchers and dairy farmers." Sound fishy to you?

I surprised Bill with a phone call to inquire and he said he also wondered about that, but later was astonished to read it in their local newspaper. He even sent me an article taken from the Wall St. Journal about the company. Here's the URL to read that President's Corner <<http://pcgroup.nwark.com/pres--38.htm>> on their Web site and also the URL <<http://www.spacedata.net/news022008.htm>> to read this interesting article about Space Data Corporation, who also provides data services for truckers and oil companies. You'll find it fascinating.

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Volunteers Wanted

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David's Essential Domains



Website Hosting Starting at \$3.95/month!

Economy	Deluxe	Business
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The Boca Raton users group just lost their long-time ISP so maybe they should consider this method with various members launching the balloons each day. <G> That's another way to beat the big guys.

Anyway, I had a very interesting visit with Bill Shook and you'd be surprised to know he publishes most of his interesting newsletter using a DOS version of Word Perfect (5.1), but does use MS Windows XP every day. How many editors would you find sticking with their favorite DOS program yet today? I assume his philosophy is "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." Sort of like "in with the new," but not necessarily "out with the old." He said that like many other user groups, not many members write articles/reviews for their newsletter any more and is indebted to Judy Tylour for putting the APCUG editor articles together; as well as to APCUG's Ira Wilsker and his articles. He also thanked the "World Renowned DealsGuy."

***What a Show!**

I worked the Sapphire Show by SAP and it includes the SAP Users Group organization. <<http://www.sap.com/us/sapphire>> It was a large show in the West Concourse of the Orange County Convention Center. All the SAP partners, along with Microsoft and their partners, were there. There was food set up all over the exhibit floor from the time the show opened in the AM to the close at 5 PM. No food concession stands were open in the building. The dock I worked at was one entry point for the food to be brought in so I managed to get a snack more often than I should have.

I visited the exhibit floor briefly twice and it was interesting. I was really curious about what the "War rooms" were that were associated with the IT section. Eric Clapton was the featured entertainer one evening and Tom Brokaw (Legendary ABC newsman) was the speaker another evening. This show usually comes here each year and is attended by people from around the world.

We also worked an IBM show, held at the Dolphin hotel on Disney property. They recently had a show that I didn't get to see, and now this one, which is their Tivoli Pulse08 show. <<http://www.ibm.com/tivoli/pulse08>> Lance Armstrong was one of the featured speakers and Hootie and the Blowfish entertained on the final evening. They packed a lot of exhibitors on the show floor; many had a "booth on a post" (a post with a shelf for equipment) that took up a very small area and the rest of the booths were still quite small. 4000 attendees were expected. IBM has another show there in two weeks; The IBM Rational Software Development Conference.

***No Announcements With Discounts This Month**

I did receive a number of announcements, but nothing new offering us a product discount. Those will be posted on my Web site. As you can see, my column is mostly personal items that I thought were of interest and I will include some freebies sent to me by readers. I have also seen these in columns published in a few UG newsletters. There are several good monthly "help" articles and I only get a few newsletters, but some of these columns are reprinted in newsletters I do receive. I hope you get some good from these suggestions.

***How About Some Suggestions For Defragging!**

This is a freeware defragging utility that was said to be a good product. I have not used it yet, but I'm passing it on to you. It is called SpeedDefrag 5.2.1 and is located at: <<http://www.majorgeeks.com/download4889.html>>. I'm not sure if it's Adware or Freeware. There is also a free Windows Registry Cleaner there, but I don't know how it compares with cCleaner.



Continued on page 21

*Another Free Defragger

Here is another free Defragging product. Go to <<http://www.auslogics.com/en/software>>. This item was in an article by Joe Shipley, owner of Smart Ideas, a computer consultant firm.

uslogics also offers two other free products; Registry Defrag and System Information, which gives you data about your computer. There are also some products you must pay for.

*Free Picture Resizer

Resize, shrink and crop your pictures for free. Resize photos before posting them on whatever Web site you choose. <<http://www.picresize.com>> Since I have not tried it, I can't offer much of a description. However, they do the resizing for you right there.

*Analyze Everything In Your PC

Here's a free utility that can be used to analyze and even benchmark your computer. It offers information on hardware, including such things as motherboard, CMOS, processor, memory, the display adaptor, keyboard, mouse and all types of drivers. Also shows any peripheral devices connected (such as printer, multimedia devices) PCI/AGP buses, I/O ports, DMA channels, IRQs, Advanced Power Management, memory, resources, DirectX, DirectDraw, DirectSound and the list goes on.

They say it's easy to use and offers an attractive interface. See <<http://www.freshdevices.com/freshdiag.html>> to download it. Before you decide, look at the pro and con remarks on download.com.



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STUDY GROUPS

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

PC 101

Microsoft Works - Vehicle data

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>

This would seem to be one of the more useful tasks available in Works. You can see the range of actions which are covered.



As with most web-related tasks, this one brings up an msn page which allows you to create a personalized My Car page. As you can see below there are all sorts

My Car

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- See live traffic reports
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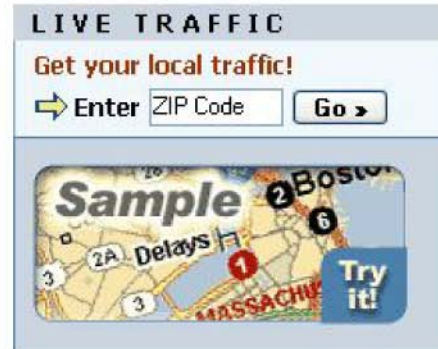
MY CARS

Get Recalls, Service and Oil Change Reminders

Personalize with .NET Passport and MSN Autos

[Click here to sign up.](#)

of data which you can maintain. Check below to see how you can get your live traffic reports and local gas prices.




I can vouch for the value of the next items from personal experience. I have just gone through the somewhat daunting exercise of replacing our aging Mercury Villager. Our first thought was to avoid the new car hit when driving off the showroom floor by getting a late model used vehicle. There were a number of them which seemed to fill the bill for us. The question, as always was what is the history of the one you're looking at. Msn offers a free Vehicle History Report from CARFAX. All you need is the vehicle identification number (VIN) which you can find under

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the bottom of the driver's side of the windshield. Modern day VINs consist of 17 characters that do not include the letters I, O or Q. Copy them carefully and enter them in the space provided.

If you're working with a dealer, most of them will be willing to provide you with a CARFAX report on any vehicle that you're seriously considering. They pay for the service. When I tried to use CARFAX on my own, I discovered that there was a \$19.95 fee for one report, unlimited reports for \$24.95. I haven't tried the msn free check, so can't vouch for what you may receive from them.

Now that I've found my car - actually wound up buying new - we're planning a trip. Here again msn comes through with Detailed Maps and Directions.

VEHICLE HISTORY REPORT

Free CARFAX Record Check

Get instant information about your car's history!

Enter a VIN

Go

[What is a VIN?](#)



MAPS & DIRECTIONS

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FROM THE EDITORS



Entry Sports Cars

The pep and style of sporty cars promise more than a regular ride.

Wild Test Drives

One-of-a-kind concept cars can often provide some 'interesting' test drives.

There are other options for the same type of thing from Yahoo Maps, MapQuest to name a couple. I plan to use the Microsoft Streets and Trips program with the GPS locator. If you can run a laptop in your car, this program will tell you (vocally) where to make each turn on your planned route - with a warning a few tenths of a mile before you get there. It also tracks your speed and the compass direction of your current heading. As with the others, it also calculates distances between way points and time based on a given speed and type of highway.

Moving on in the task list, there is another item I could have used in my quest for a car. That is the Compare Cars area. This too is another msn function. Check the list at the upper right to see the range of options available to you.

The Vehicle Logs invokes a group of Works Spreadsheets, in various categories. Check these at the right.

Find a Car:

☒ New ☐ Used

Make:

Model:

Find by Category:

Category:

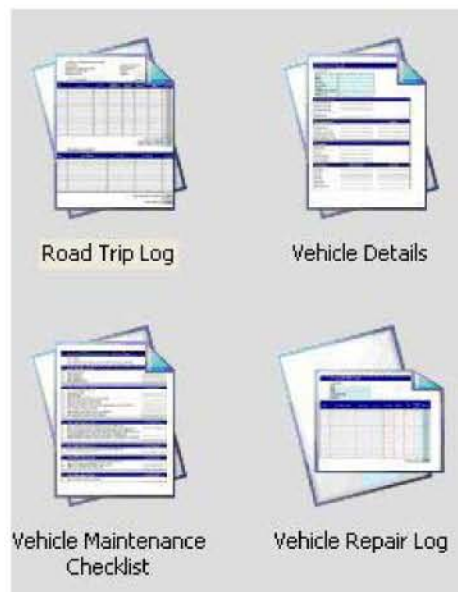
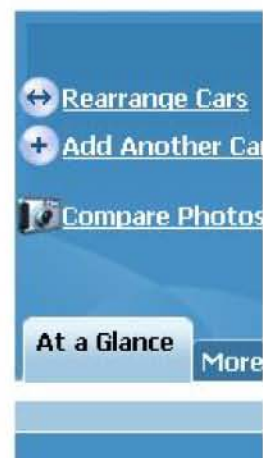
Home

New Cars

- Prices
- Rebates
- Dealer Quotes
- Reviews
- Consumer Reports Snapshots
- Reliability Ratings
- Safety Ratings
- Compare
- Decision Guide
- Trade-In Values
- Sell Your Car

Compare Cars

Viewing 0 of 0



The Payment Calculator is another msn.com function which allows you to determine what you can afford to buy.

Finally, I could have used the New Car Reviews and Pricing to advantage, although we did the same thing on our own. Msn.com offers both professional reviews and comments from owners. Check this task out for yourself.. One of the more useful.



Earth Probe

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

One stormy night, a long, long time ago, at the witching hour, I was reading "scifi" being a bibliophile at one of my favorite haunts that seemed to be a kind of nocturnal magnet. At the long table next to me, a strange conversation was going on that I could not cipher. I glanced out of the corner of my eye to see if they might be aliens but there were no antennas or a third eye on their foreheads. However, they could be humanoids! I then confessed to the strange group I had been listening and understood nothing that they were talking about and was curious about their group. (I did not ask them whether they were aliens wanting to be polite.)

They explained they were "BBSers" who were humans of a strange tribe called "Geeks" who seemed to enjoy the fact that I could not understand their conversation with a strange kind of hilarity. Well I was relieved they were not aliens but simply strange human "Geeks" and perhaps disappointed at the same time but still curious. I had been warned many times in my life that curiosity killed the cat, but I always reminded those skeptics that cats have nine lives!

The female Geek explained that they were all "SysOps" (System Operators) running local Bulletin Board Systems ("BBSes") in our area. While they were friendly to me, I sensed some social discomfort since they apparently preferred to interact with machines (computers) more than people unless of course they were members of their "Geek" tribe or the same breed of cat whichever you prefer. I further categorized them in my mind as "machine people."

Further, the female "Geek" said that I was a natural for computers since I was a reader. I then became paranoid thinking that she might be a humanoid using some kind of "Vulcan mind link" to know that I was a bibliophile. She further explained that she had seen me reading several times previously at our haunt during their various "Geek" tribal meetings. She then seemed to be determined to take me on as a "Geek"

transformation project especially when I explained that I was not technical and knew then nothing about computers and was from a liberal arts background. I soon learned that "Geeks" love challenges!

Let the learning begin! The Bulletin Board System (BBS) was created from software that allowed remote users to connect via an analog phone line run by a "SysOP" to perform various social and recreational tasks and communicate with others on the system. Remote users could perform functions like downloading software ("Shareware" was very popular.) and data, uploading data, listening to music, playing games, reading news, and exchanging messages with other users.

From the early 1980s to the mid 1990s, "BBSes" were run as a hobby free of charge by the "SysOps" while other BBSes charged their users a subscription fee for access. Internet Service Providers often had BBSes as part of their service to subscribers. The BBS was a local phenomenon and in many ways was a precursor to the World Wide Web and the Internet.

To avoid costly long distance charges, many "BBSers" were from the same area and often would meet socially but also were a bit reluctant to leave their computers for very long, lest they experience acute machine withdrawal.

The BBS survives today as a nostalgic hobby and via telnet offers free email accounts, web interfaces, ftp file downloads, irc chat, and all the protocols on the Internet. The website www.textfiles.com has a collection of historical data involving the history of the BBS.

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Curing Lens Distortion

Elizabeth B. Wright , Computer Club of Oklahoma City

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

First, the good news. The camera which quit working on our vacation last month was still in warranty (just barely) and Sony repaired it at no cost and it has been returned to me in working order. I was out the postage to send it to Sony, but I didn't mind that since I now have a working camera back.

On to more about the replacement camera I bought to use during the rest of our vacation. Many of you will remember the recent past when serious photographers tested their film camera lenses for flaws. There were all kinds of tests for "vignetting", "distortion", etc. The photo magazines were full of articles on the subject along with suggestions for what to do if bad problems were encountered. I shudder to think of what those solutions involved using darkroom techniques. But now we have: (drumroll) "Digital Cameras".

Last month I talked about buying a replacement digital camera for the one which quit working suddenly while we were on vacation. The original camera was a mid-range priced camera, not cheap but also not out of the ballpark. It took great pictures and had a lot of good features. The second camera was too expensive for what it is, but again, not unaffordable as long as I didn't buy anything else while on vacation. I had a similar one at home which I have used on occasion and should have had with me as a backup. Lesson learned.

So why am I rehashing old news? The explanation is that SONY, in my estimation, really goofed with the Cybershot DSC-S600. While still touting their line of Carl Zeiss, Vario-Tessar lenses, the lens itself had a terrible barrel* type distortion. I discovered this when I downloaded my pictures at home and found pictures I had taken of a doorway looking like something seen in a funhouse mirror. My immediate reaction was that SONY had accidentally put a defective lens in the camera. I now have a replacement DSC-S600 instrument, and it has the exact same distortion as the first one. I feel my money has been poorly spent, but that might be another story for later.

What to do with the pictures. Ah, that was a challenge. The doorway pictures were obvious, so it was back to finding an imaging program which could easily make the necessary corrections. JASC PaintShop Pro9 turned out to be quite adequate for the repairs. Below you will see the original picture and the one using the effect tools in PSP9 and the final cropped image. As usual, there was some trial and error to get the right combination of effects, but eventually I got something that resembled the actual door.

1. After starting JASC PSP9 and using the browser, open the picture to be adjusted. The first step for my picture was to rotate the it 90° as I had originally turned the camera to take a vertical view of the doorway. Once this was done the following steps are as follows:
2. Click "Effects" on the menu bar, then click "distortion effects / lens distortion". This will open the dialog box where you enter values to change the picture.
3. Since my picture demonstrated a "Barrel"* type distortion, I needed to use the option that would reverse this phenomenon.

Under "Settings", I chose "pincushion" from the drop down menu (accessed by the small downward arrow at the right edge of the "Distortion type" choice line) for the effect I wanted to create. After trial and error for this particular picture, I chose the values under "Center offset" of: Vertical 0, Horizontal 25 and in the "Strength" box I input a value of 15. I chose "Color" for the "Edge mode".



before



after

4. When the program made the calculations and came up with the altered picture, I then had to crop out the black spaces created by the pincushion effect. Obviously you will lose some of your picture when cropped, so if there is any element you want to keep, you might choose to live with the black pinched edges. The pictures below will show the results of these actions.

*Digital Photography Review website at: dpreview.com/learn/?key=barrel+distortion

"Barrel Distortion By Vincent Bockaert" "Barrel distortion is a lens effect which causes images to be spherised or "inflated". Barrel distortion is associated with wide angle lenses and typically occurs at the wide end of a zoom lens. The use of converters often amplifies the effect. It is most visible in images with perfectly straight lines, especially when they are close to the edge of the image frame. See also the opposite effect, pincushion distortion."



Access-Tools to Document New System

James D. Duncan , Computer Club of Oklahoma City

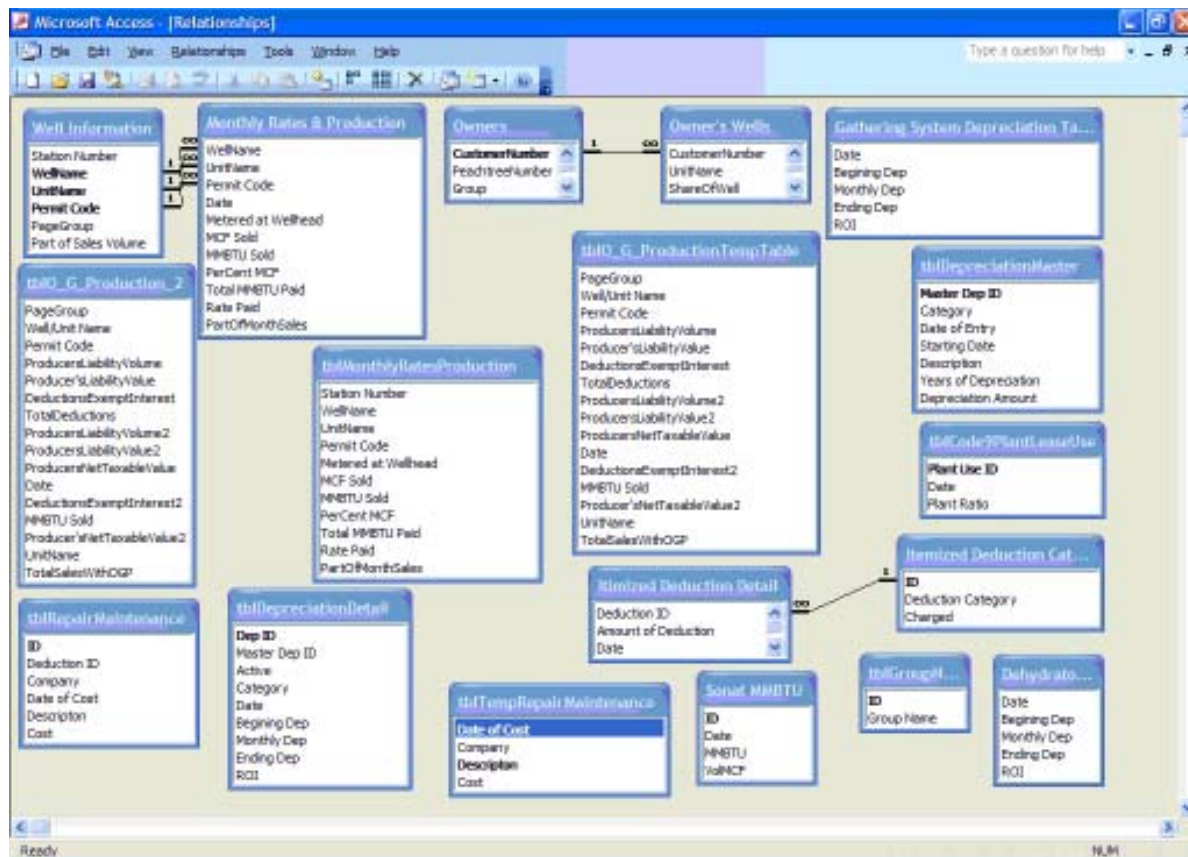
James is a member of the CCOKC and an expert in Access and Excel.

Sometimes you are asked to fix or improve a system that you are not familiar with. I thought I would give you two tools to speed up this process. One is just how to print the file relationships, which is very straight forward and the other is how to create a query and report to print files specifications. As usual, neither is hard once you see them the first time.

Printing the file relationships is very easy. Assuming the person has defined relationships and you have something to print. Of course that is another whole chapter on file design.

To print the file relationships click on Tools and then Relationships. You will see what has been setup for this system. Listed below is the relationships window. I can see that I have a few issues (read that as looks like not much has been set up!) because only three files have relationships defined. Table field names are not standardized; depreciation table is missing information (type, other tax information). This is why we want to print this out. I can then get my box of crayons out and start marking.

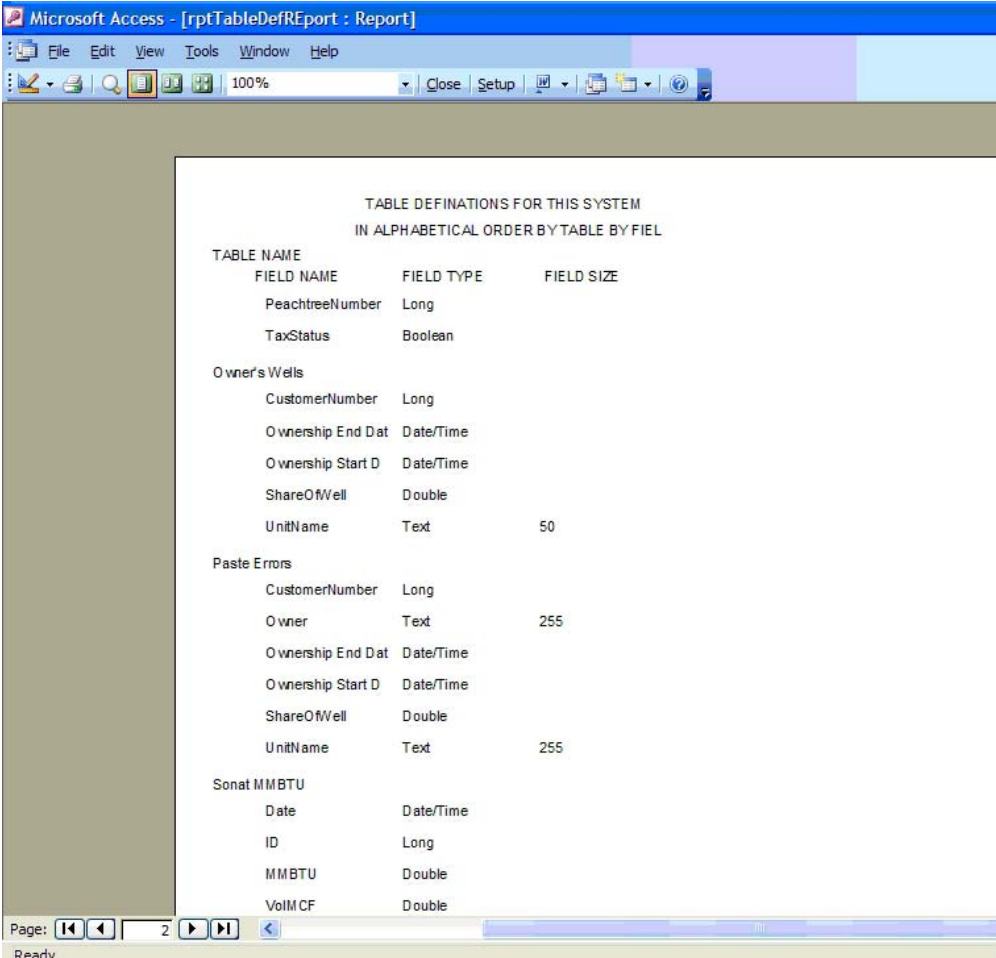
To print this all we have to do is click on File and then click on Print Relationships. Guess what, print is built in to this. You may be finished or you may need to adjust this to print landscape, widen the margins and/or move the tables around on the screen to make it print so you can handle it. Or you can use a plotter to print out relationships 32 inches wide by 60 feet long. That does get a little extreme but makes a really neat wall hanging or conversation for the next planning meeting. And you can redesign this to show department dependencies, data flow, and all other sorts of data relationships. This of course is a discipline all its own. Take the course on Visio and you will disappear into diagram theory.



The other thing I want to have in my hands is the file specifications printed out. Technical term is data dictionary. I can look at them on the screen but I like to get something I can write on with my portable word processor (pencil). The spell checker has long sense failed on this and the upgrade seems to be stuck on the version in 1975. ha ha

All we want to do is print out file specifications. The process is to copy the temporary file, TableDefReport, query TblDefReport, and Module tabledefs from your tools diskette (old media like my portable word processor) into the mdb you are working on. Do this by File, Get External Data and Import. I am not going to put all the code here. You can e-mail me or search Google for “Building a data dictionary” if you want to do this. This has been written up many times. I am just telling you this capability exists.

After you have the module, query, report and table copied, save the mdb. Open the module and run the subroutine “gettabledefs()”. It will not display anything. You can add debug.print variable name at the appropriate place is you want to see things happening. Hard work is done. Now run the report TblDefReport and you have listing of table definations. If there are some extra long fields you will have to tidy up the report some.



Microsoft Access - [rptTableDefReport : Report]

TABLE DEFINATIONS FOR THIS SYSTEM
IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY TABLE BY FIEL

TABLE NAME	FIELD NAME	FIELD TYPE	FIELD SIZE
	PeachtreeNumber	Long	
	TaxStatus	Boolean	
Owner's Wells	CustomerNumber	Long	
	Ownership End Dat	Date/Time	
	Ownership Start D	Date/Time	
	ShareOfWell	Double	
	UnitName	Text	50
Paste Errors	CustomerNumber	Long	
	Owner	Text	255
	Ownership End Dat	Date/Time	
	Ownership Start D	Date/Time	
	ShareOfWell	Double	
Sonat MMBTU	UnitName	Text	255
	Date	Date/Time	
	ID	Long	
	MMBTU	Double	
	VolM CF	Double	

Page: 2 Ready

You may want the formatting different or lines or boxes. Go into the design mode on the report and just fix anything you want. Getting the table of data build is the hard part. Now you can format the output anyway you want.

Creating a database from scratch and inheriting one are two very different things. When you create one, you know your thought process. When you are deemed the resident Access guru and can handle just a “little” change to someone else’s thought process is totally different process from your own. I should not have to say this but I will. Never, never assume you understand the system or process. Trust me, you do not understand! And you can prove that to yourself if necessary. Just change something without proofing it!

Take some time to help some one else. Volunteer your time and efforts. If you volunteer, my congratulations go to you. The world is a much better place because of volunteers and helpers. I just love the program “Extreme Home Make Over”. A Tulsa builder will be in an upcoming program. Thousands of volunteers that never get to be on screen or recognized by name. Tremendous hours of work are done by these people. I say “wow, what a job you did” to these people. This is what makes America great.



Computer Glasses

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/>>

Today it is almost unavoidable to spend considerable time looking at a computer screen. Not only do we use the computer for both work and play, but, with the development of the Internet, we are using PC's for nearly all aspects of our life.

Viewing a computer screen is a visually challenging task that requires good functioning of the eyes. It also requires good acuteness of vision, focus of the eyes on the screen and reference materials, and good eye movement and coordination. If you're like many PC users, you may need a pair of glasses for your computer work that is different from your normal glasses, either with a different prescription or a different lens design.

Or, you might need computer glasses for a vision disorder that would not otherwise require correction if you weren't performing a demanding visual job like using the PC.

Bifocals¹ or progressive addition lenses², usually prescribed for presbyopia, don't work well for computer work. The best solution for the presbyopic computer user is a lens that is specifically designed for the ergonomics of the computer workstation. Special computer glasses³ are designed to accommodate the unique viewing distances and angles at a computer; they work for presbyopic computer users and can also work for others who need lenses for their computer. These lenses also work well for common office work.


Here are some Website links where you can find computer glasses for purchase.

www.soothers.com/Welcome.html

www.prio.com

www.dinapoliopt.com/computer_glasses.html

Continued on page 29



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Eye Care

Because we computer users don't blink as often as normal, we can endure eye irritation: dry eyes, tearing, uncomfortable contact lenses, blurred vision and so on.

The following steps can help improve the symptoms:

Use artificial tears to re-wet and lubricate your eyes, making sure to follow the doctor or manufacturer's prescription for use.

If you're seated in a draft or near an air vent, try to reduce the flow of air past your eyes.

If possible, repair any low humidity or fumes problems.

Concentrate on blinking whenever you begin to feel symptoms.

Every once in a while (especially when you feel the symptoms), close your eyes and roll them behind your closed eyelids.

Press firmly on your eyelids with the palms of your hands and hold for 10 seconds.

1 Bifocal, having one segment for near vision and one segment for far vision. Bifocals don't make good computer glasses because they correct only near and far vision, not intermediate.

2 Progressive lenses, (also, progressive addition lenses or PALs). Multi-focal lenses whose corrective powers change progressively throughout the lens. A wearer looks through one portion of the lens for distance vision, another for intermediate vision, and a third portion for reading or close work. Each area is blended invisibly into the next, without the lines that traditional bifocals or trifocals have.

3 Computer glasses is a cover term for glasses that are prescribed to improve the eyesight of employees whose work at a computer terminal means that ordinary corrective glasses are not adequate. Computer glasses are an aid/tool in the work place. In other words, glasses that are used in ordinary circumstances, and not only while working at the computer terminal, are not classified as computer glasses. Computer glasses are particularly appropriate for persons who spend a lot of time in front of the computer screen.

Computer Buffet With Dr. Herb Goldstein



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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>



Trojan horse awareness

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>

For many years the most acute danger to your computer was some kind of destructive virus. Today the danger has shifted from software that is programmed to destroy files, corrupt programs, and disable systems to something more insidious, and perhaps even more treacherous. This threat comes in two broad categories known as Spyware and Trojan Horses.

Spyware started out as a stealth program surreptitiously installed on your system to track your web surfing habits. The developers of spyware didn't want to damage your computer. They wanted only to sell you something. That may be annoying, but there is nothing criminal about it.

A Trojan Horse is a program that pretends to be something other than what it really is. For example, a screensaver could be designed to install a program that will take over your system to forward spam to other machines. Trojan Horses have been used to initiate denial of service attacks, where the target such as a bank, credit card service or other high profile web site becomes so saturated with external requests that it cannot respond to legitimate traffic.

When selecting an anti-spyware program, start out by selecting one with a comprehensive signatures database. The best anti-spyware programs have databases that can recognize more than 750,000 different kinds of spyware and Trojan Horse programs. Read the documentation or call the company. This is important.

The best signatures database won't do you any good if it isn't updated frequently. The bad guys never seem to rest. They release new poison daily. Don't buy any solutions that require manual updates. You have better things to do. Insist on automatic updates.

Another important capability is active monitoring of your system. Wouldn't you rather prevent a malicious program from installing rather than removing it after the damage has been done? Avoid any program that removes infections found only after conducting a manual scan. This probably means avoiding some otherwise adequate free programs. There's an old saying about getting what you pay for. The best anti-spyware programs prevent spyware and Trojan Horses from ever being installed on your system.

Go for a program that allows you to customize your scans. We don't all use our computers in the same way. Some people require more comprehensive scans than others. If you are constantly browsing the internet, you are likely to benefit from a daily scan that checks active memory, system folders, the registry, and all hard drives. If you rarely use the internet or find yourself visiting the same six sites over and over, a weekly scan may be all you need.

You should be able to schedule unattended updates and scans. Your machine should be yours to use as you wish. Any decent anti-spyware program should be able to run in the background unattended, and not require interrupting your activities. The program should work according to your preferences, not the other way around. Choose a program that permits unattended maintenance and administration.



Continued on page 31

It's also important that an unattended scan can quarantine infections without requiring intervention from you. Why do some anti-spyware programs ask if you want to remove infections? Of course you do! Of all the features in anti-spyware programs, that is the dumbest.

There are innumerable derivations and iterations of spyware being created. This makes it difficult for even the best anti-spyware programs to catch and destroy them. If you open the Processes tab in Windows Task Manager, you will observe the Process Manager in action. You will see a list of objects running on your system. Some of them are applications like word processors. Others are mysterious entities that don't provide a clue as to what they do, but you can't run Windows effectively without them. Among them would be Windows Explorer, Internet Explorer, Media Center, Windows Mobile Control Center, and many others.

Beyond shutting down a process or resetting its priority, there isn't much a non-specialist can do with this feature. Clever programmers can create spyware that won't show up in the Process Manager. Any decent anti-spyware program has to have its own built-in process manager that will recognize, track down, and eliminate malevolent software that may not even be in the signatures database.

Anti-spyware programs should be able to monitor programs that load when Windows starts up. There are many very sophisticated spyware programs that do not show up in the Process Monitor or in Control Panel's Add/Remove section. If your anti-spyware program lacks this capability, find another one.

Assuming your anti-spyware program has the capabilities mentioned above, it is an excellent choice for individuals. However, businesses or organizations with multiple computers will require even more. Whoever is in charge of PCs will not have time to manually monitor or administer individual machines. It is simply impractical in a large organization for support staff to visit every workstation, apply updates, schedule scans, and ensure that infestations are removed. If this applies to you, look for a program with a centralized administration console. This capability has the unfortunate drawback of being quite expensive, but the time saved generally justifies the cost.

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Upgrading with the Joneses

By Elizabeth B. Wright, a member of ccOKC and a frequent contributor to the eMonitor, Computer Club of Oklahoma City, www.ccokc.org, james@qns.com

How much time are you spending upgrading, both hardware and software? New operating systems, programs that won't run on older systems, changes in the internet, memory hog programs and graphic cards? If you are keeping up with the trend toward power, then all of these things probably apply to your computer life. But are they worth it?

For myself, I have found that so much time and money have been invested in trying to keep up with the times. Keeping up with the Joneses doesn't even apply here. Just trying to stay current on the internet is enough to make most of us upgrade, upgrade, upgrade. But all of this has come with a severe penalty.

I find it is taking much too much of my valuable time and that not enough of that time is being spent productively. If there wasn't a deadline for this column, would I even find the time to write it? Some big changes in direction are in order I think.

Until Microsoft makes everything we already own completely useless, I find that most of what I need to do with the computer can be done with much older programs. For instance, if I want to be sure someone can open and read a document; I still save it as ASCII text.

Oh yes, we have .pdf and other so-called portable text formats, but so what? The most portable is still the above mentioned ASCII. The output is usually in exceedingly small files. There is no formatting possible, but if you are merely transmitting information, what need is there for more than an old-fashioned typewritten letter?

Most word processing programs still offer the option of saving the file as a .txt file. Personally, when I want to be sure the file can be accessed by someone else, I type it in Notepad. I've even been known to use really archaic programs, just for kicks.

If you are earning your living with mathematical programs such as accounting, then where do you draw the line on updating? Does your older software do the job, and does your older computer do that job fast enough to ensure that you meet your deadlines so you can get paid for your work?

But if your clients upgrade their software and you find that you must submit spreadsheets, etc. to them in a new format, then you are caught in the trap. So far most new programs will read some of the data from older versions of their software, but when will that change? About the same time as the printer manufacturers found out they could make more money selling ink rather than printers, one can only assume that the software companies were probably thinking "why can't we do something like that?"

When it comes to graphics however, don't even think about using older software and computers, unless of course you have all the time in the world to wait for changes to take place when you are enhancing your photos. Once again, if this is your job, you simply can't afford to be slow. But even for hobbyists, speed is really essential to graphic manipulation.

Where is the bottom line on speed versus money? Each of us has to decide on the point at which we achieve the balance of using our computers for productive output without further upgrades. It is just as easy to write this column on my oldest computer, but since working with photos is my hobby; my fastest computer will have to be used.

However, from now on, the two machines will be used to do a specific job, rather than keeping everything on just one of them. As for the internet, as long as it can be accessed with something other than the computer dedicated to the photos, then that is the one that will be used.

Hopefully I can keep my useful work separate from the internet, the object being to avoid contamination as much as possible. But I'm not sure how long the older, slower computer will serve my internet connection. If you are limited to one computer, you might look into removable hard drives in order to keep your data safe from the bad guys out there. But that takes us back to the money issue.

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The Nightmare

By Berry F. Phillips, a member of ccOKC and a frequent contributor to the eMonitor, Computer Club of Oklahoma City, www.ccokc.org, bfpdata@1access.net

My computer growled like some prehistoric monster rebelling at being awakened from a deep slumber and then checking my financial data online almost by habit. Terror pulsed through my veins as I no longer existed; all my personal data had been deleted!

I then checked to see if my credit cards were in my wallet, which gave me a momentary feeling of security that I still existed. However, the panic returned when I remembered the credit cards while having a physical reality actually have only a cyber reality. What did I do wrong? Do you suppose the last time I kicked my computer out of frustration caused this animosity? On the verge of hysteria, I shouted, "I am too young to be cyber terminated and deleted into nonexistence!"

Looking for something to save me from termination, I am very appreciative of the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) for their contribution to this article. NCSA is a go to resource for cyber security awareness and education for the home user, and small business, and education audiences. NCSA is a private partnership whose sponsors include the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Trade Commission, and many private-sector corporations and organizations.

"The widespread availability of computers and connections to the Internet provide everyone with 24/7 access to information, credit, financial services, and shopping. The Internet is also an incredible tool for educators and students to communicate and learn.

Unfortunately, some individuals exploit the Internet through criminal behavior and other harmful acts. Criminals can try to gain unauthorized access to your computer and then use that access to steal your identity, commit fraud, or even launch cyber attacks against others. By following the recommended cyber security practices outlined here you can limit the harm cyber-criminals can do not only to your computer, but to everyone's computer.

However, there is no single cyber security practice or technological solution that will prevent online crime. These recommended cyber security practices that highlight that using a set of practices that include Internet habits as well as technological solutions can make a difference. The National Cyber Security Alliance's Top Eight Cyber Security Practices are practical steps you can take to stay safe online and avoid becoming a victim of fraud, identity theft, or cyber crime."

Here are the eight NCSA cyber security practices to stay safe online: "1. Protect your personal information. It's valuable. 2. Know who you are dealing with online. 3. Use anti virus software, a firewall, and anti-spyware software to help keep your computer safe and secure. 4. be sure to set up your operating system and Web browser software properly, and

update them regularly. 5. Use strong passwords or strong authentication technology to help protect your personal information. 6. Back up important files. 7. Learn what to do if something goes wrong. 8. Protect your children online."

Upon awakening after having once more dozed off in front of my computer while online, I saw my personal data that confirmed I really did exist. I am alive! I have not been deleted! It was only a nightmare. I simply must stop watching those late night horror movies, kicking my computer in frustration, and improve my online security practices to avoid cyber fireworks.

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Checkmate

Berry F. Phillips, a member of ccOKC and a frequent contributor to the eMonitor, Computer Club of Oklahoma City, www.ccokc.org, bfpdata@1access.net.

Man-vs-machine has been a theme that has intrigued the public for many ears. The Turk was a chess playing automaton that was a sensation in Europe in the 1770s. The Turk was a wooden cabinet with a chess board on top played by a life-sized mannequin dressed in Turkish style. This mysterious device could play against and often defeat human chess opponents including Napoleon Bonaparte and Benjamin Franklin. In truth, the Turk was a clever illusion as the cabinet concealed a human chess expert who moved the Turk's arm and played the games. The Turk was created by Wolfgang von Kempelen and was not only a success in Europe but later in the United States. Eventually the Turk was no longer popular and was destroyed in a fire in Philadelphia in 1864. Edgar Allen Poe wrote a widely read 1836 essay proposing that the Turk concealed a human chess player.

The best known of the man-vs-machine devices was the world-famous Deep Blue. Deep Blue began as a chess program named Chipset (later Deep Thought) and was created by Fenghsuing Hsu and Thomas Anantharman at Carnegie Mellon University. The creators later joined IBM Corporation which supported the development of the system. Deep Thought was eventually renamed Deep Blue, a twist on IBM's corporation nick name, Big Blue. Deep Blue was a RS/6000 SP parallel processor with specialized microchips for chess and calculated 200 million chess moves per second. Deep Blue lost a six-game match to world chess champion, Gary Kasparov, in 1996. But in the 1997 rematch, Deep Blue made history by defeating Kasparov 3.5 games to 2.5 games.

Many in the chess world believe that Gary Kasparov is the greatest human chess player. He had never lost a game previously and was unnerved at his loss and began ascribing almost human features to the computer. While Deep Blue had access to all of Kasparov's games, Kasparov was not allowed to see Deep Blue's previous games for study. He received \$400,000 for his loss and would have received \$700,000 if he had won. IBM retired Big Blue after the match.

Another famous chess playing computer was Deep Fritz backed by a German company ChessSise and written by two programmers, Franz Marsh and Mathias Feist. The word, deep, is a nod to IBM's Deep Blue. Deep Fritz was in the news in 2001 when a chess match ended in a 4-4 tie with Russian chess expert, Vladimir Kramnik.

In 2003, the long awaited chess match between Gary Kasparov and Deep Junior, a three-time world champion computer developed by Amir Ban and Shay Bushinsky who were both from Israel was played in New York City. The match ended in a 3.0 to 3.0 tie. Kasparov quipped to his mother, "at least I didn't lose." Well, this subject is getting too "deep" for me. Now I don't have to worry about anymore literary "moves" since I have been officially "checkmated."



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What's Your E-mail License Number?

By Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

Washington is considering legislation that will force you to get a license before you can send e-mail. No, don't worry, you'll still be able to receive e-mail without any restrictions. Sure I'm kidding. But it's no joke: People send out lots of email, with much of it needlessly long, valueless, bandwidth-hogging, inaccurate, and, of course, dumb. (Did I miss anything? Right—e-mails full of Fwd: Fwd: Fwd: and >>.) Over the years, I've collected e-mail tips: ways to help you create e-mail that not only doesn't annoy others, but actually makes your e-mail worth reading.

Think in Paragraphs: You'd be surprised how many e-mails have one, long paragraph. Oddly enough, you may be using paragraphs but your e-mail program may be missing the hard carriage returns. Suggestion: send yourself, or a buddy, an e-mail and see how it looks. If necessary, add two "returns" between paragraphs when creating the e-mail.

Write Short: Keep your sentences short and limit yourself to three short paragraphs. Go beyond the Bass Int'l. limit of, say, four paragraphs, there's a good chance it won't be read.

No Subject? Adios: Here's my steadfast rule: If I don't know you very well and your message has a blank subject line, it goes into the trash. The reason is there's a strong possibility a virus or worm is attached.

Use Smart Subjects: Say the right thing in the subject line and your recipient gets fair warning what to expect in the message. For instance, even before I started using Yahoogroups, I started my message subject with "PIBMUG." For one thing, it helps AOL and Hotmail users, the people who get tons of spam, sort out real messages. (Others thought PIBMUG messages were spam, but that's another story.)

More important, it makes applying rules or filters to e-mail easy. For example, after a Home Office column hits the newsstand, I sometimes receive 100 messages a day. That's in addition to the usual stuff from PR flaks and PIBMUG correspondence. So I've encouraged everyone who sends me jokes to start the subject line with "jokes" enabling me to separate them from business messages.

"Fwd Fwd Fwd": Of course if you get lots of email, your threshold for junk isn't very high and subjects can give strong clues for what to delete right off the bat. For instance, if I see more than two "Fwd: Fwd:" in the subject, it's immediately sent to the trash. Adios.

That's Not Funny: Make sure you at least read the joke before sending it. That's a great technique for determining if it's really funny. No, really—people often send me lame jokes that are excruciatingly bad. Keep a mental note of the type of joke you send and match it up with their response (or non-response). You may notice you rarely hear back when you send a text joke but often get an "LOL" from a cartoon.

Want to see if people are reading your mail? Flood them with lame jokes—I mean fifth generation forwards of ribald stories or cartoons that weren't funny when they first ran in Playboy 20 years ago. Then slip in a legit e-mail and see if you get a response. And if you're still going to send jokes, remove the millions of ">>>" brackets. The damn things make everything difficult to read.

No Reply Needed: I send dozens of e-mails each day with an explicit message that the recipient needn't reply. That's only polite because in many times the e-mail's just an FYI. So right above the message, I type, "This is just an FYI so no reply is necessary or expected. —Steve."

Who Are You? Many users haven't changed the "Reply to" name in their e-mail program, and it drives me crazy trying to figure out who's writing. For instance, one person uses a period—that's right, a dot—as his name. So when I look at the e-mail header, I haven't a clue (and still don't) who he is. Another person didn't know what to use so she stuck "Netscape" into the field figuring, well, something needed to go there. Head for your e-mail program's Options and poke around until you find a spot that asks for a "Reply with" or "Real Name" and put in your name.

Avoid HTML: Stick with straight text when replying or sending messages on lists. Not everyone's e-mail program can read all your fancy fonts and formatting.

Keep Files to Yourself: Attachments are usually frowned upon on mail lists to avoid any chance of getting a virus.

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He's also a founding member of APCUG.

The Internet

The Phenomenon of Facebook - Redefining social networking

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

What do Hillary Clinton, Tony the Tiger, and millions of college students have in common? They all have profiles on the contemporary social network known as Facebook.

As a college student, and avid Facebooker, I intend to share my knowledge and experiences with the site in order to uncover the reasons behind Facebook's widespread success.

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As Facebook.com explains, the purpose of this “social utility” is to keep friends connected and help people network in a safe online environment.

Mark Zuckerberg, an extremely intelligent student of Harvard University, created Facebook three years ago. At the age of 19, Mark and his college friends launched the site, which began as a place to connect Harvard students.

Today, Facebook has connections to universities across the globe, with over 25 million registered users. If you have a high school or college age child, chances are they're very familiar with this popular site.



Once a fixation only among college students, Facebook is quickly expanding in the hope of connecting a diversity of users. Anyone with a valid e-mail address can register and create a free Facebook profile.

The site is successful because it is changing the ways in which the world can communicate.

Through Facebook, users create a profile where they can express their interests, activities, favorite movies, shows, books, quotes, and basic contact information. They can search for their friends and co-workers, and then click to add them as their ‘Facebook friend’.

There are countless ways to participate on Facebook, such as uploading pictures, ‘tagging’ or identifying ‘facebook friends’ that appear in your pics, sending messages, writing on friends’ walls, customizing your profile, writing notes to publish on Facebook, and updating your status to allow your friends to know exactly what you’re up to at any given time.

With all of these opportunities to connect, it’s no wonder people (especially students) are spending hours on this site, and visiting it repeatedly in order to stay updated with what’s happening in the lives of their Facebook friends.

Through Facebook, I am connected with 73 different networks, and hundreds of people, from the U.S to Australia. I can see what my friends who are currently studying abroad are up to, and view pictures of their adventures.

Some of my favorite professors are now Facebook users. The site is an excellent tool for professors to get to know their students on a more personal level. It’s not uncommon for students to ask academic questions through Facebook messaging instead of e-mail, or to write friendly comments on their professor’s wall.

Employers are also discovering the benefits of Facebook, and can search for the profiles of potential employees. Therefore, it’s smart to keep a clean profile, and to be aware of who you are associating with through the site. Many sororities, fraternities, and campus organizations monitor the profiles of their members and discourage pictures of drinking, and inappropriate behavior.

Facebook’s privacy settings and methods of connectivity separate it from Myspace, and all other internet social networks. Myspace, which has similar features to Facebook, emphasizes individuality and expression through more personalized profiles. Facebook focuses on simple, safe connectivity.

Facebook corresponds more with real life than Myspace, as users typically add people they already know as their ‘Facebook friends’. Myspace, users are often contacted by random locals.

In upcoming articles, I’d like to further examine the role Facebook plays in the life of the student, as well as the advantages (and maybe one or two disadvantages) of the site. Lastly, we’ll uncover how Facebook is affecting the dating world, and improving the love lives of college students everywhere.

The Internet

What Is It?

By Hilton Kaufman, a member of the Chicago Computer Society, Illinois,
www.css.org, hmk Kaufman@earthlink.net

Hilton Kaufman serves as the technical support person for the procedures writing unit of an Illinois state agency, where higher level technical support personnel are concerned with the details of Internet connections and services. As such, he uses the software provided to him to create forms, convert documents into PDFs, advise members of his unit as to how to use the available software, and similar tasks. For his home computer, he can go all out and get a powerful machine that allows him to do things like playing games and surf the web without getting in trouble. He has prepared a number of articles aimed at novice users on the basics of standard computer programs.

The Internet is one of those things that is a bit tricky to define and explain. It is a network of computer networks that provides various services, such as e-mail and the World Wide Web, with a hierarchy of naming conventions to consider. No one can tell exactly how many computers are part of the Internet at any moment as individuals are constantly signing on and off.

There is also the historical aberration that the intended structure of the Internet is not how it works today. It was supposed to be a bunch of independent connections and multiple possible routings so that if one part went down, say the area in lower Manhattan about five years ago, messages could go through on another route. Now everything goes across country on a backbone consisting of maybe five or six parallel main trunk lines.

It also was once for government and educational use only. Many government functions now use newer networks with connections totally separate from what we know as The Internet. They may or may not permit connection to the Internet for routine matters, but severely limit who can get into the secure internal networks. Schools seem to find that the Internet works fine for them. Much of the Internet involves commercial entities today.

While the Internet was originally designed for use within the United States of America, it is quite international in scope. How it works in various countries may or may not be subject to various controls. However someone with the right equipment might be able to tap into a satellite that carries Internet signals. Yet a very great portion of Internet traffic is in or at least involves the United States

It is the services on the Internet that make it interesting to the ordinary user. Historically it was used for short messages and moving files from one location to another. The messages might be nothing more than a notice that a file was ready to be transferred or that it had been successfully received. It grew into something in which anyone could bring useful files to their local computers and send complex messages with files often attached.

The technology for providing and receiving many services has changed and made more complex, yet more user friendly. Internet capable technology is often used in local networks called Intranets, which may or may not be connect to the overall Internet. Different individuals work with the Internet in ways that may be unique to them. The ordinary person does not know or care how it works, just that he or she can use it for the desired services, such as sending e-mail messages.

The Internet can be something mysterious and quite technical. It can also be something that appears easy to use. This may depend on what one wants and what is loaded on a particular computer. Very often a company that one uses to connect and receive services tries to make things look as simple as possible to the end user.



The Internet

Internet connections

By **Hilton Kaufman**, a member of the Chicago Computer Society, Illinois,
www.css.org, hmkaufman@earthlink.net

The method of connection into the Internet varies somewhat among users. At various points, telephone lines, coaxial cables, UHF relays, satellite shots, and a few other methods might be utilized to make the actual connections. It is even possible to bring a lap top computer into a coffee house and reach an internet connection starting with a radio link.

Typically a home or small office user will connect through a company known as an Internet Service Provider or ISP. These could be small local companies or giants, such as AOL, Earthlink, and AT&T-Yahoo. A large company establishes local routing centers known as Points of Presence or POPs to allow for local calls into the system. Small ISPs have local numbers but might also use POPs if covering an area of more than just a few miles. A large ISP might have over 2,000 POPs.

POPs have some equipment that receives the connection from the individual user and routes it to the server, a powerful dedicated computer, at the actual ISP location. The ISP then routes the message toward where it supposed to go, probably eventually through another ISP and POP. Trunk lines owned by a few major long distance telephone service providers are used to send messages across country in this process.

There are also sites known as redirection services. In some ways, they can be used to hide where a message is coming from and going to, but do have other purposes. For example, one can frequently change ISPs based on availability in local areas and price, but keep a constant address with a redirection service. These services might also provide things like a personal web site, useful software, and online storage.

I live in Chicago, Illinois and use a redirection service in California. My ISP also is in California. If I receive a message, it is somehow sent to the redirection service in California; it then goes through my ISP; then to a POP somewhere in Chicago; then through my telephone switch center about three or four miles from where I live; and eventually to my computer.

The person sending me the message might live nearby, but use a different ISP. While the telephone switching center might be the same, the POP and ISP locations would be different. Another major ISP is located in Minnesota. Different trunk line connections would be used to send the message there and then over to by redirection service in California.

A small ISP might go directly into the trunk lines or work through a larger wholesale ISP. Various capacity heavy duty lines go to the ISPs which break down the capacity for individual users. The smallest of these heavy lines is known as a T1 and could be sufficient for a small ISP. A larger ISP or a POP for a major ISP might use a T3 line. Single user service over a T3 line would make normal broadband service look extremely slow, but costs thousands of dollars per month.

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All of these connections take place in seconds.

Government entities, schools, large businesses, and some others might connect in to the Internet in other ways. A unit of government might have a connection to the Internet through a major ISP or might connect more directly into the trunk lines.

In Illinois, all Internet service for agencies under the governor is supposed to go through a Department of Central Management Services. A worker in Chicago searching for something at another site in Chicago would have to go through Springfield. The central agency probably connects to the trunk lines. The central agency for a state that centralizes its computer operations, as does Illinois, might be a computer operations agency or the state library.

Even municipalities might go through a state service. For example, to get to the Brooklyn Museum site at one time, one had to go through a single site that served the entire State of New York. I tried this once from a Chicago Public Library public computer and received the message that the New York state computer was down; I then had to go the old fashioned encyclopedia that was on a shelf about 10 feet away to learn what I wanted.

Firewalls are used to protect data inside a network from outside tampering or prying. They can also be used to control what gets out. Firewalls can be set up at various levels to control access. In the other direction, if I send a message about something to one of my doctors, it will reach them among other messages on their hospital computers; but I cannot get in to see confidential information. One of the hospital systems, VA, can retrieve medical records across country, but no one else can get in. The other can exchange records among three hospitals and numerous scattered clinic sites.

Schools often act as small to moderate size ISPs. Faculty, staff, and students usually have internet privileges through the school. The schools might connect directly through the trunk, a large ISP, a state service, or another school. The main state university might serve as a central point for other schools in the state and have a direct connection to the trunk.



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Enrolled to practice before the Internal Revenue Service

The Internet

Internet addressing

By **Hilton Kaufman**, a member of the Chicago Computer Society, Illinois,
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Hilton Kaufman serves as the technical support person for the procedures writing unit of an Illinois state agency, where higher level technical support personnel are concerned with the details of Internet connections and services. As such, he uses the software provided to him to create forms, convert documents into PDFs, advise members of his unit as to how to use the available software, and similar tasks. For his home computer, he can go all out and get a powerful machine that allows him to do things like playing games and surf the web without getting in trouble. He has prepared a number of articles aimed at novice users on the basics of standard computer programs.

Each individual or computer on the Internet has an individual and unique address in the system. Part of this address might reflect how messages to and from this address are routed, but it is possible to buy or rent what is known as a domain name. Within the system, everything is routed by numbers, but there are tables available to many servers that translate the easier for mere humans to understand names to the proper routing numbers.

There is a regular hierarchy to how these names work and are assigned. Generally if you control a domain name, you can control the individual names under it. There are individuals who only use one individual name under a domain name. This might be done to advertise a company or service. An ISP might have thousands of names under its domain.

An international agency, called ICANN, that is subject to control by the U.S. Department of Commerce if it gets out of line, assigns the high level domains, such as .com. There are between 100 and 150 of these high level domain names. An authority for each of these high level names registers the specific domain names. Every nation-state has its own high level name, such as .de for Germany (Deutschland). Some are general or for certain types of users, such as .com and .edu.

ICANN also arranges for several high level servers in different locations to have the master list for the system. I believe that there are currently seven of these servers. If one is lost or compromised, the others can still function and quickly correct the data on the other ones. Much of this information is also fed down the line to other name translation servers on a regular basis.

The rules as to how a domain will be issued under a specific high level varies with the issuing authority. They may contract the administration out to a service, such as VeriSign, that does this for a profit. Sometimes the rules are strict and might require an actual presence, type of entity and/or citizenship to use a domain name with a particular national high level name. In other cases, it may simply be whether or not one is willing to pay the required fee. The small pacific island nation of Tuvalu covers much of its government expenses by selling .tv domain names through VeriSign. Tuvalu is not even mentioned in the online advertisement for .tv domain names.

Specific names work a bit different for e-mail than for the World Wide Web. Typically an individual will have an e-mail address, but not a uniform resource locator (URL) for the Web. The e-mail format is a bit easier to explain, so I'll start with it.

In an e-mail address, the individual name is to the left of an at "@" symbol, which separates the two parts of the name. Immediately after the @, the specific part of the domain name follows. A dot, or period, separates this from the high level domain name. An example might be something like Joe.Individual@example.com. There may or may not be dots and capitals in the individual part of the name. There is always at least one dot in the domain name.

The individual web site services that go through the consumer ISPs as a free feature are a bit weird looking. Any business would probably have and use its own domain name. With web sites the domain name comes first, followed by a slash and then the individual part of the name. You can control the specific page naming from whatever level you are able to work. It will probably not have names of individuals. It may or may not start with www. If it is directly at the domain name level, it might default to a specific page name, such as index. A technical requirement of the web sort of requires that http:// appear before the actual URL. The frequently seen www is not required. Letters such as http or htm, to indicate how the site is coded, are at the end. An example might be <http://example.com/index.htm>.



The Internet

E-mail and the Web

By Hilton Kaufman, a member of the Chicago Computer Society, Illinois,
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Hilton Kaufman serves as the technical support person for the procedures writing unit of an Illinois state agency, where higher level technical support personnel are concerned with the details of Internet connections and services. As such, he uses the software provided to him to create forms, convert documents into PDFs, advise members of his unit as to how to use the available software, and similar tasks. For his home computer, he can go all out and get a powerful machine that allows him to do things like playing games and surf the web without getting in trouble. He has prepared a number of articles aimed at novice users on the basics of standard computer programs.

The Internet is a network of networks used to transmit messages, which might be web pages. Somehow things arrive at where they are supposed to go. It is the services that go over these networks that make the Internet useful. The two best known services today are e-mail and the World Wide Web.

Different Internet connections work in different ways. If your computer can get to the Internet, it will most likely have a piece of software known as a browser. The browser helps make the connection to the Web and translate a bunch of code into what looks like a web page. It is possible to work without a browser, if you know a bunch of Unix commands and do not want anything fancy.



The best known browser is Internet Explorer. It comes with most PCs today. Macs from Apple come with a browser called Safari. A PC might also come with a browser called Netscape. A computer that I bought a few months ago has both Internet Explorer and Netscape. There are other browsers that you can purchase or download, such as Opera, that are reputed to work better. I find that Internet Explorer works fine for me.

The `http://` of a web address might not have to be typed into the browser and tells the Internet that you want something on the World Wide Web. Letters, such as `htm` at the end of address indicates that the site follows a standard type of coding. Most browsers will assume you want the Web unless you enter something different and automatically insert this coding. It is not necessary to type in some of the stuff at the very end of the address. Usually browsers are not used to get to other Internet services.

The World Wide Web is a way to find and send pages of information. People, businesses, schools, government agencies and others establish their presence and put up sites with whatever they want. Some are reliable and some are pure junk or worse. Many ISPs will allow subscribers to put up personal web pages, that are usually pretty identifiable as personal pages.

Colleges, universities, and government agencies will usually maintain websites as part of their mission. These tend to be pretty reliable sources of information. Stores and other business are usually advertising what they sell and are good in their way. There are also spoof pages that may look like the real thing or go to places such as porno sites. Much of the information on the Web is advertisement supported. The World Wide Web is a wild place with some good stuff and some horrible things.

There is so much out on the Web that special services known as search engines are used to find information. At one time, there were a number of these engines, each with its own quirks. A few years ago, one called Ask Jeeves was considered pretty good. Now most people use either Google or Yahoo. Microsoft is also pushing one that they have, but it has not yet grown as popular as the others. You type in a word or two and some hits appear. If you are lucky, the first hit gives you what you want. On the other hand, you may get thousands of hits, with none looking very likely.

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In addition to the browser, some software also usually resides on a computer to allow for special features of Web sites. These are things such as Flash, QuickTime, and Adobe Reader. They might allow for movements on the page, video clips, stable or locked pages of text and graphics, and similar things.

E-mail is a message system that holds items on a central server until requested. If you want, this server could be in your house, but is usually at an ISP or similar location. A computer being used as a server must remain on constantly. Anything sent to you, is held on this server until you request it. You send messages in the other direction by using someone's e-mail address. Those message will go to the server for that person.

If someone is online, a message might reach the intended party in seconds. If the person is not online, it can sit on the server indefinitely. A message and response can take under a minute if both parties are available.

One can use a mail reader, or client in Tech-speak, to receive, read, respond to, and send e-mail messages. Usually, a mail reader will accept all messages on the server. Another way to get the messages is go to a special web site and select the ones that are wanted. If you get 30 messages, 20 of them might a type of junk known as spam. You can open the 10 that you want and delete the 20 that you do not without them ever being on your machine. With the web site method, messages can be retrieved from the server from any computer, even in a foreign country.

The most common e-mail reader is probably Outlook Express from Microsoft. It comes with the operating system on a PC or a download of Internet Explorer. I even used it when I had a Mac a couple years ago. There are others that are fancier and do some things that Outlook Express does not do.

News Brief

Gotcha! Geek Squad Caught Stealing Porn

In a three-month sting, the Consumer-ist loaded a PC with porn, set it up with a keylogger, and asked the Geek Squad to install iTunes. The hidden program recorded everything and produced a very revealing video. Watch as the tech pokes around, finds what he wants, and copies files to his flash drive.



<http://snurl.com/geekpornsqad>

Blurbs from Bass

By Steve Bass, PC World Columnist and Author, Stevebass@earthlink.net

Configuring Outlook Express



By **Dick Maybach**, Columnist, Brookdale Computer User Group (BCUG)
Brookdale, NJ, www.bcug.org, n2nd@att.net

You 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 have no trouble adapting these procedures to your version. You should modify them as you get more experience with your particular mix of e-mail messages.

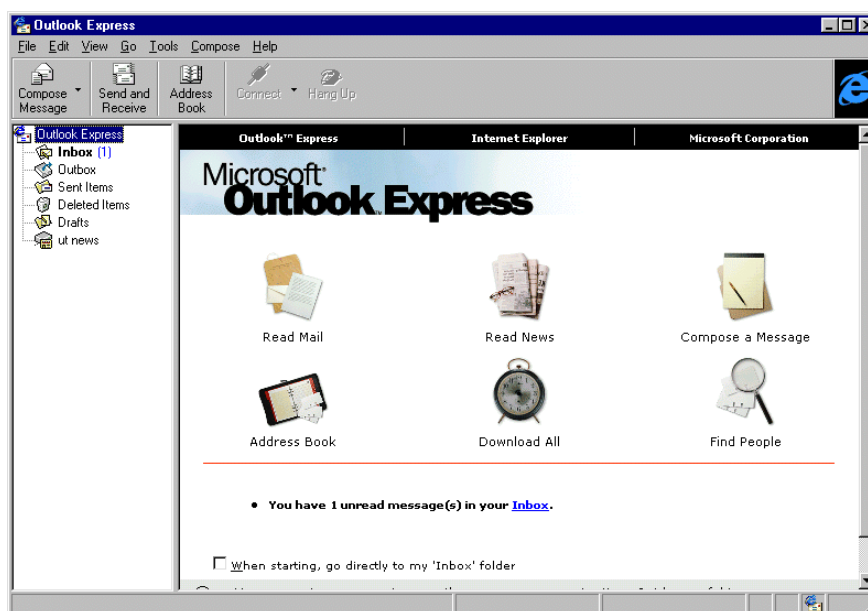
By default, Outlook Express has X folders. You should add to these to organize your e-mail messages to make them easier to find in the same way that you organize your file system by using folders there. Set up a separate folder for each major category of e-mail that you send and receive. With Outlook running, click on "File", select "New", and then click on "Folder...". Put the desired name in the "Name:" box and select "Personal Folders" in the "Select where to place the folder:" box. Move the messages in your Inbox to the appropriate folders. While you're at it, delete any you don't need. You will probably find some messages that don't belong in any folder; just leave these in the Inbox. Consider having Outlook Express empty the Deleted Messages folder every time you exit the program.

You will now set up a series of rules that tell Outlook where to place incoming messages, using the following procedure. Click on the Organize icon and then the Rules Wizard menu item. Click on the New... button to create a new rule or the Modify... one to change a rule. Assuming you are creating a new rule, the first screen asks you what kind of rule you want, which is usually "Check messages as they arrive." At the bottom of each screen is a window showing the rule as you've defined it so far. You can click on any underlined terms in the rule to change them. (When you are defining a new rule, you must define these before you can go the next screen.) The second screen lets you specify for which conditions you want to test. In the third screen you set what to do with the message, and the fourth one lets you add any exceptions. Finally, name the rule.

First, establish the rules to move incoming messages to the desired folder. Make the following choices for the rules screens. Screen 1 – "Check messages as they arrive". Screen 2 – "from people or distribution list". (Select the names from your address book.) Screen 3 – select both "move it to the specified folder" and "stop processing more rules". (Click on specified and select an existing folder or create a new one.) Screen 4 – you probably won't need any exceptions. Screen 5 – give the rule the same name as the folder. Repeat this until you have specified folders for all the people from whom you regularly receive mail.

By default, Outlook indicates junk mail by showing it in gray and adult content in purple. (I love that we use the new-speak term "adult" to describe content that most of us lose interest in by the time we leave adolescence.) To get rid of it, set up the following rule. Screen 1 – "Check messages when they arrive". Screen 2 – "suspected to be junk e-mail or from Junk Senders". (You will see a message asking if this is to be applied to every message you receive; select "Yes".) Screen 3 – "move it to the specified folder", probably "Deleted Items".

Continued on page 45



Screen 4 – no exceptions. Screen 5 – name it “Junk Senders”. Repeat this procedure, but for screen 2 select “Containing adult content or from adult content...”.

You will probably find that these filters are not very effective. The following step is quite effective in eliminating spam, but it deletes all messages sent to you on a “copy to” (cc) or “blind copy to” (bcc) list. I use bcc routing on the Roundtable and Hardware SIG meeting notices.

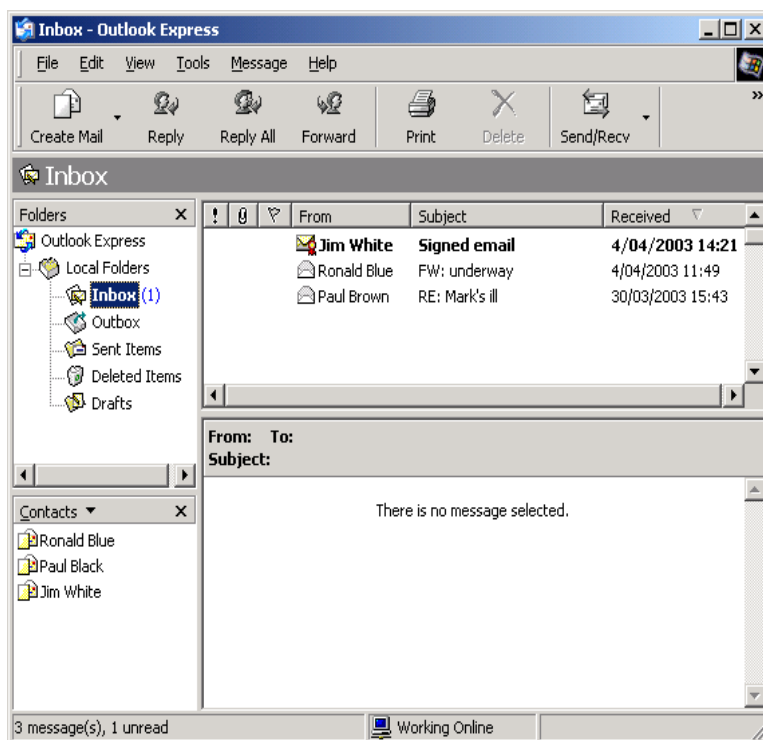
Unless you have set up a rule to route messages from me to a folder and then to stop processing other rules, Outlook will delete these meeting notices. Repeat again but select “Where my name is not in the To box” in screen 2. Monitor the results of this rule in case you need to add exceptions. Note also that if you don’t have your incoming mail sent to folders as above, you will need exemptions for every correspondent that uses cc or bcc routing.

If you follow my suggestions, you are sending all suspect e-mail to the Deleted Items folder. On my PC, everything in this folder is erased each time I exit Outlook, which means that you should look before you exit, at least for a month or so.

By the way, I find that many such messages attempt to access the Internet when you open them. I think that they are just downloading graphics, but I don’t want to take a chance that they are doing something sneaky. After I download my e-mail I disconnect so I can abort such actions. (If you have high-speed access you probably can’t easily do this.)

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, click on “Rules Wizard...” and 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.

You will probably find that some spam still gets through. You can add to your junk senders list by right clicking on the message, selecting “Junk e-mail”, and clicking on “Add to Junk Senders list”. However, many spammers change their e-mail address with each message, making this ineffective. In such cases, see if you can identify the junk in some other way, perhaps by looking for specific words or in one of the fields (address, header, etc.). Keep in mind however, that your goal is not to completely eliminate spam, but to reduce it to a manageable volume. Don’t let yourself become obsessed.





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How I Find My "Deleted" E-mails

by **Tom Thiel**, President, Lake-Sumter Computer Society,
www.lscs.us, tthiel5@Comcast.net

Old E-mails are one of my most frequent retrievals from my backed-up files. My current rate of e-mail accumulation is about 20-30 a day. I've forced myself to maintain my accumulated e-mails in my Inbox and Sent E-mails folders to a maximum of not more than 1,000 each. So periodically I just arbitrarily "loped off" the oldest one-half to one month or so of e-mails. I try to manage some of these by placing them into other folders but that isn't very effective for me.

What this procedure means is that frequently I find myself wishing I still had that old "deleted" e-mail. (The latest one was the Acoustica e-mail sending us Spin it Again software.)

How do I retrieve that e-mail after I've "deleted" it from my Inbox or Sent Items? Here is how I do it with Internet Explorer 6.

Sometime ago I found out where IE stores my e-mails. What I did then was to move the place where my e-mails are stored by default to a folder named "Toms e-mails" in my "My Documents" folder. (How to do this is briefly outlined in the addendum at the end of this article.)

My basic backup procedure is to frequently, at least once a week but usually more frequently, and usually daily with very active folders, copy the contents of my My Documents folder to an external USB connected 300 GB Maxtor drive and to other similar portable USB drives (a 100 GB SimpleTec, and a 40 GB Pocketec hard drive) that are stored away from my computer.

When I do this of course I am backing up the current contents of all my e-mails at the moment the My Documents backup is performed. (Actually, any true backup procedure will work.)

So, when I want one of those old e-mails that had been arbitrarily "loped" off the tail end, I do the following:

1. Open Outlook Express and set it to Work Offline so that new e-mails are not loaded in with old ones (only needed if you are continuously on-line). You may set IE to Work Offline as follows: With IE open select File, and then check Work Offline. No new e-mails can come in under this mode.

2. Now close OE.

3. With Windows Explorer I find the folder "Toms e-mails" in My Documents and rename it to "Toms e-mails Today"

4. Then I try to guess what backup might have the particular e-mail I'm looking for from among the various backups I have on the external USB drives.

5. With Windows Explorer I find the folder "Toms e-mails" on that external backup copy.

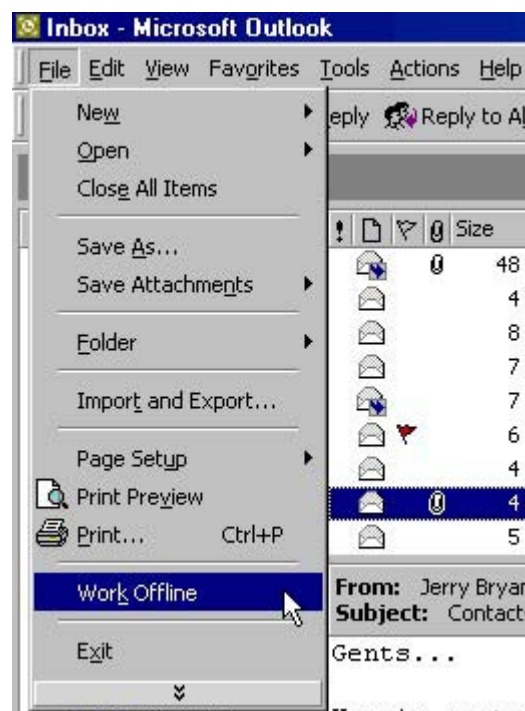
6. Then I Copy that folder and Paste it into my current My Documents folder.

7. I now see two email folders in My Documents; "Toms e-mails" which just was Pasted from the backup copy and the folder "Toms e-mails Today" which had been renamed earlier.

8. Next I open IE again.

9. It asks me "Do you want to work online?"

10. Be sure to say NO!



11. I then try to locate the desired e-mail; sometimes I use IE's Find capability to do this. Hopefully, I have guessed correctly and I find the desired e-mail the first guess.

12. I open it and then copy it to my Desktop by choosing File and then Save As and Save To Desktop.

13. Now I close IE and with Windows Explorer find the folder "Toms e-mails", the one I just loaded from the backup, and from which I retrieved the desired e-mail, and I delete it.

14. Next I rename "Toms e-mails Today" back to "Toms e-mails"

15. Then I open IE and say Yes I want to Work Online.

16. I find the e-mail that I had copied to my desktop and double-click on it to open in IE. I can then save it back into my current e-mails and do whatever I wanted to do with it.

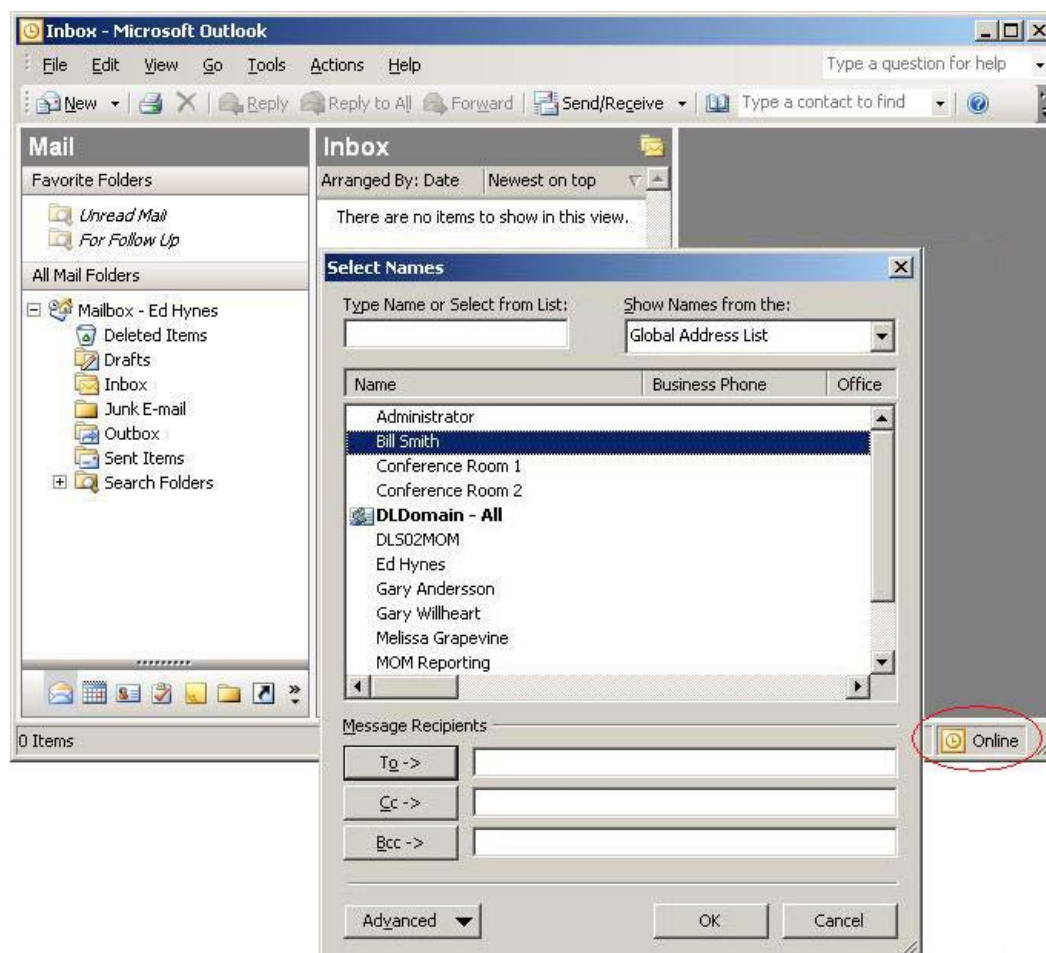
And that's what I do to find that old "deleted" e-mail! Of course it only works for so long as you maintain those backup copies – in my case about six months.

Addendum: How you may change the default location where your e-mails are stored in Outlook Express.

In OE, first select the Tools menu, and then Options tab. On the pop-up screen, click the Maintenance tab, then click the Store Folder button.

Outlook Express will show you where it is currently keeping your e-mail files.

You may then select Change and a Browse window will appear where you may choose to indicate the new place you wish to store your e-mails.



Get Organized Now!

By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS,
www.compukiss.com, sandy@compukiss.com

With today's complex world and multi-tasking, it is not surprising that we all seem to have too much to remember. The time-honored "to-do list" is still a suitable way to keep all of your tasks remembered and organized. Now the to-do list has gone high tech with Gubb an online list-maker.

Gubb is simple, effective, and free. Just surf over to www.gubb.net and click on the large Start Here button. Enter your email address and the username and password that you want to use. Gubb will present you with preformatted lists or you can create your own from scratch. Each list can have a different background color or you can make them all the same.

Gubb made PC Magazine's list of the 10 worst application names, but don't let the name throw you. Gubb is a winner despite its name. Gubb's clean and simple interface makes it easy to create lists and to add, edit, or delete items. Important items can have one, two, or three stars. You can sort items by priority, date due, completed items, or alphabetically. Especially useful is the ability to rearrange items in a list by dragging and dropping them. You can also drag and drop the lists themselves to position them on your screen. If your lists get too long, you can collapse them so you see only the title, opening them to full length as you need them.

If crossing items off your list as you complete them gives you a sense of satisfaction, Gubb will let you perform that task quite easily. Just click in the check box next to each item and Gubb puts a line through the item and marks it as completed. Gubb can also move the item to a completed list automatically or you can set it up so that you can archive your completed items at the end of the day, or any time of your choosing. If at anytime you need to see if, or when, you completed a task, you simply click on the name of the list to look at all the completed items and the time and date that you marked them complete.

These features alone make this Web service worthwhile, but there is more. You can share your lists with others. You can email or text message items right into your lists. You can have any of your lists emailed to yourself or to others. If you have an Internet-connected cell phone, lists can also be sent to your phone. So if you were in a grocery store and needed your shopping list, with the right equipment, you could access it from Gubb on your cell phone. All this may sound a bit complicated, but Gubb has done an exemplary job of keeping all these tasks easy to do.

My husband and I have each created multiple lists. We also have several lists that we share. Since we work together, this has really helped keep us organized both at home and at work. He can add items to my office or home lists and I can add anything I like to his office or home "honey-do" list. Gubb is helping us keep synchronized as well as organized.

Gubb is not perfect, but it is close. My complaints are pretty minor. I would love the ability to create several categories within each list. I would also like to be able to easily see if my husband added something to my list or vice versa. The program offers 3 shades of each of the following colors: blue, red, yellow, green, orange, pink, and gray. That's 21 colors to choose from so I am really being picky when I say I would like to be able to use purple, turquoise blue, and lime green for my lists. Okay, I know I am being hard to please, but maybe the Gubb creators will accommodate my wishes.

A recent survey showed that 25% of New Year resolutions are completely forgotten, but now you can use Gubb to resurrect your "I am going to be more organized." resolution. Sometimes getting organized means buying shelves, bins, baskets, and folders, but if you have an Internet-connected computer, Gubb will help you get organized without any expense. Go ahead. Do it. It will feel great to get all those scraps of paper and to-do notes off your desk and to get all those to do items off your mind. I know, because Gubb has helped me do just that!

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Can't Play Online Videos -- Here's What To Do

By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS, www.compukiss.com,
sandy@compukiss.com

Recently I was installing some software at a local business when one of the workers approached me with a problem. She could not play a video on her computer even though co-workers could play it on their computers. The same problem appeared a few days later when I was troubleshooting some computer equipment for a local church and the Pastor could not view a news video on his computer. Since this seems to be happening all over my town, I thought it would make a good topic for a column. So here's the scoop.

Generally, each video you find on the Web will play only using the software that it was formatted for. If you try to play a video and you don't have the proper software, you won't be able to view the video. The area where the video would normally appear will be blank, usually showing either a gray or black square. However, on or near the blank video screen you will see a link that will lead you to the website where you can download the necessary software.

Many of the online news services are now using software called Flash for their videos. To view a Flash video, you need software by Adobe called Flash Player. Just click on the link to get to the proper place on the Adobe website to download the software. If there is no link available, you can access the download by clicking on the "Get Adobe FlashPlayer" button on the front page of the Adobe website at www.adobe.com. It's a free program and it will provide additional functionality to your computer, so don't hesitate to download it.

To get the player, click on the Download or Download Now button. You may have to scroll down the page to see the button, and you may have to agree to their policy. In most cases, the software will download and install automatically. (If it does not install automatically there will be step-by-step instructions for installation.)

One thing that the website may not tell you is that you may have to restart your computer for the new video software to be fully integrated with the computer. So if the software seems to have downloaded and installed, but you still don't see the video, close all the open windows and programs, and restart the computer.

While many online videos use the Flash software that I just talked about, others may use Windows Media Player, Real Media, or a program called QuickTime. If you are using a Windows computer, you will have Windows Media Player already installed. It comes with the Windows operating system.

The Real Player is a free program that can be found at www.real.com. The QuickTime Player is a free program from Apple that can be downloaded at www.quicktime.com. Even though it is an Apple program, it runs on Windows computers as well as on Macs. Both of these pieces of software are downloaded in a manner similar to that of the FlashPlayer.

Be aware that both RealPlayer and QuickTime will offer you an advanced version that you can purchase for a fee. Although you may want to purchase these programs in the future, it is perfectly alright to start with the free versions. The additional features in the paid versions will give you the ability to handle advanced video functionality, but everything you need to play online videos is included in the free versions.

You can download these video software programs as the need for them arises. Or if you like you can download all of these programs before you need them so you will be able to play almost all of the videos on the Web. These programs do not interfere with each other and will simply stay on your computer until they are needed.

Now you're all set to watch all the videos on the Web. Enjoy!

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Revolutionizes the Internet!

by Linda Gonse, Editor & Webmaster, Orange
Country IBM PC Users' Group, California,
Editor@orcopug.org, www.ocropug.org

Just when I thought creative ideas were running out for ways to use the Internet, along comes YouTube, www.youtube.com. Its content includes movie and TV clips, music videos, and amateur works — such as video-blogging. The innovative site's popularity is staggering. Almost 20 million visitors browse YouTube each month, according to Nielsen/NetRatings. And, in confirmation of YouTube's originality, Time magazine named it the "Invention of the Year" in 2006.

Although I only discovered YouTube in December 2006, it was founded in February 2005. In about a year and a half, YouTube has been so successful Google sealed the deal to buy it in November 2006 for \$1.65-billion! Not bad for a site that was launched with a video of a co-founder's cat playing with a dangling string!

Now, "Users upload 6500 new videos to the site every day," according to a January 2007 Time magazine article. Many of the videos are taken with home camcorders and cell phones. In fact, videos that showed L.A. police repeatedly punching a suspect on the ground, a college student being tasered, and an outraged comedian yelling disparaging ethnic descriptions, were shown on television news after first being uploaded to YouTube. These homemade videos, which were a sensation on the news, initially prompted me to check out the site.

Incredibly, YouTube viewers watch 100 million videos each day — up from 10 million last year. The most-watched clip, with over 36+ million views is a compilation of head-butt animations inspired by the one Zinedine Zidane administered in the 2006 World Cup soccer game.

YouTube is free. You only need to sign up if you want to leave comments about the videos, rate them, or upload your own.



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A router can help protect your computer



By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS, www.compukiss.com, Sandy@compukiss.com

A few years ago, you had probably not heard the term “router”, unless you used one in your wood-working class in high school. Today, you hear much more about the word “router” when it is used in conjunction with computers and the Internet. In the computer world, a router is an important piece of equipment and one that is making its way into everyday terminology. So I would like to tell you a little about what a router is and what it can do for you.

A router is a hardware device that connects networks of two or more computers and forwards data across a network of computers. Devices like network printers can also be hooked up to a router. Routers that you might see in home and small business use are generally small rectangular or square devices about 6” to 8” in size. This type of router will have ports on the back where you can hook in computers, broadband modems, and other devices. A router has lights that indicate its status and the status of the connected devices. Wireless modems often have small antennas. Routers can usually sit on a desktop or the floor, but they can also be hung on a wall.

You can think of a router as a kind of traffic cop that stands on the corner and routes the traffic to their final destination. Just as a traffic cop knows which direction a car is coming from and which way it wants to go, a router knows what data comes from each of the computers, what data each computer has requested, and what data to return to each computer. Routers are the workhorses of the Internet. They make sure that your email gets to your intended recipient rather than one of the millions of other computers. Within a smaller network routers make sure that the data or the webpage that you request is returned to your computer and not the computer of your co-worker or other family member.

While routers have been used for years in the Internet and by businesses, the proliferation of home networks has brought the router into the home and into the realm of the average computer user. In a home, a router typically is used to share an Internet connection. It connects a home network of two or more computers with the network of your Internet Service Provider (ISP), giving each of your computers Internet connectivity. Your ISP issues you one address on the Internet, called an IP or Internet Protocol address. If you have multiple machines at home, a router lets you share that single IP address.

The router watches the traffic going out and waits for the response to the outgoing traffic. It then routes the incoming traffic to the proper computer within your home network. Since the router is watching all the traffic, it knows what information you have requested and only allows incoming traffic that is expected. So if your computer has requested a Web page, it will allow that Web page to come into your computer. Other traffic that has not been requested is tossed aside and not allowed to come in.

This ignoring of unexpected incoming traffic has an interesting side effect. It actually protects your computer from many malicious attacks from the outside. So the router, since it protects all the computers on your network, is considered a hardware firewall. In fact, a router plus the firewall that is built-into Windows will, in my opinion, give the average user all the protection that they need. That is, provided that they follow safe computing procedures, like not opening unexpected email attachments and running a good antivirus program.

For heavy duty computer users who want to make sure that their computers are completely protected, third party software firewalls, like those offered by Symantec, McAfee, and Zone Alarm, do offer the added safeguard of watching the traffic flowing in and out of each software program on your computer. However, these firewalls can slow down your computer. They often ask the computer user to permit or deny permission for programs that request Internet access. If you are just an average Joe, it can often be very difficult to determine if you should grant or deny that permission since the names of the files are often nebulous. I can’t tell you how many times I have been called to repair someone’s Internet connectivity only to find out that they had inadvertently told the firewall to deny Internet access to a program that can’t function without it.

So having a router not only lets you share an Internet connection, it also protects your computer without slowing it down. As a matter of fact, even if you only have one computer, you can still use a router between your broadband Internet connection and your computer to help protect your perimeter. With the price of small routers falling to under \$50, a router can be a wise investment for today’s computer user, even if they have to pay someone to come in and set it up for them.

Computer Crimes

Susan Ives, Alamo PC

Women's Place, by Linda Grant

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

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

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

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

Disclosure, by Michael Crichton

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

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

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

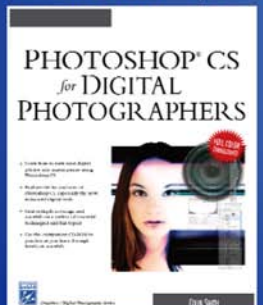
Crichton says in an afterward that it is based on a true story, and the role reversal, although disturbing in places, helps you think more deeply about sex and power in the workplace. Lots of high-tech details, especially virtual reality-enabled databases and the process of bringing a new product to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

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

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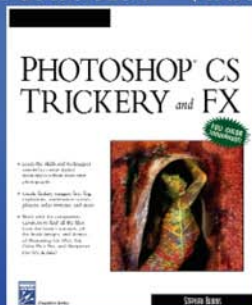
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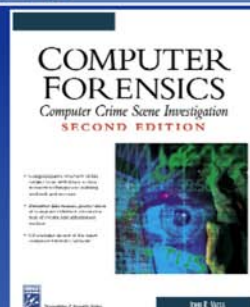
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Hardware Review

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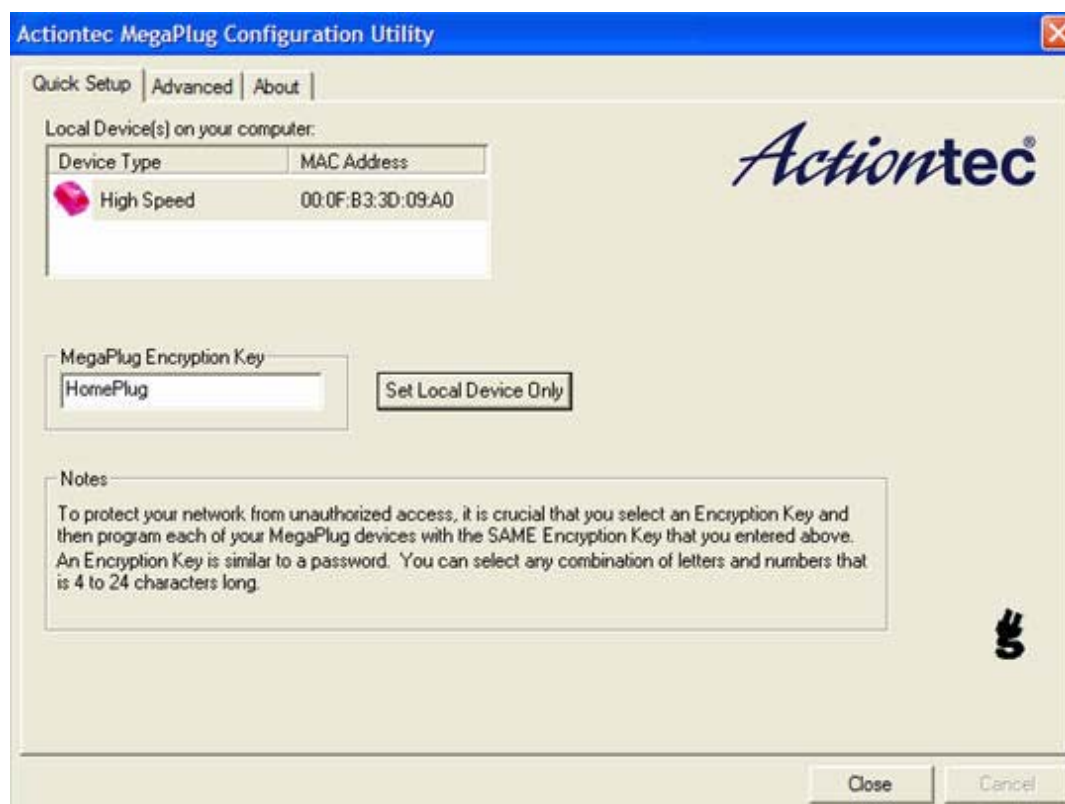
Reviewed by Terry Currier, President, WINNERS, www.windowsusers.org, tcurrier@aol.com



I do like the idea of networking through the power lines. Setting up an Ethernet network is not too difficult, but running the wires thought the house can be. Setting up a wireless network is also not too bad (the latest hardware setup makes it easy), and the signal can go through the walls. At least up to a certain degree, governed by how many walls and the distance. Ethernet is also the fastest network connection, but what if you can not just run a cable to where you may want to connect, or you get no wireless signal? Powerline networking is perfect for these situations.

The old maximum powerline speed was 14Mbps, the MegaPlug from Actiontec is now up to 85Mbps. Using the MegaPlug 4-Port Hub with the MegaPlug Ethernet Adapter makes it easy to extend your network wherever you need to connect. A USB hub extends the range of your USB ports and adds more ports. That is kind of what the MegaPlug 4-Port Hub does. You run one Ethernet cable to it from your router to it's WAN plug. This gives you more Ethernet ports, and allows you to use the already hidden electrical wires to connect to your network. This is especially great if you are constantly short one cable slot on your present router.

According to some reviews with a wireless network you can effectively connect up to about 150 feet. I don't have one myself. I always wonder what the neighbor can pickup even with firewalls. With a powerline network I don't have to worry about that. The signal can cross circuit breakers (wall plugs), but not circuit boxes. So no one outside of my home can steal information. If I do need to secured my computer Actiontec includes software for 56-bit DES Data Encryption.



The only software I had to install was for the computer using the wall plug connection. If a computer is hooked up to the MegaPlug Hub then it would have to install some software for it. Using the powerline network, I downloaded a file from the Internet and achieved a speed of 438Kps which is really good. Below is a comparison of copying a file:

Copy a 415Kb file from main computer

- With Ethernet connection to laptop took 56 seconds.
- With Powerline to laptop took 3 minutes 48 seconds.
- With Powerline to laptop through two surge protectors took 5 minutes 10 seconds.

They tell you not to use a surge protector with it, but with their error correcting software I had no problems. In fact, I connected it from one surge protector through another and it worked. However, it did slow it down.

Powerline networking says it is good up to 990 feet. I could not test it for that far, I didn't have enough cord. What I can say is that it worked perfectly in all of my electrical outlets. Plugging it into my garage outlet about 70 feet away, the connection still had no problems. I then plugged in a 100 foot power cord, and two 50 foot power cords. These three cords were good quality power cords. I still had one more 50 foot power cord of which the gauge was not a high quality; it was made for light duty work. It did still work though. It was fun stringing the cords down the street just to see how far I could get (my neighbor came out asking what I was doing). It took me four houses down and the connection was still pretty good. I could get email and do things on-line with no problems. However, testing the same file download with the lower quality power cord it would have taken 77 minutes to finish. Taking it off so I would still be 270 feet from the network, the same file took 22 minutes to download.

Conclusion

When you need to connect to a network and your wireless router is not enough, this is the perfect answer. More than that it's secure. Their support is very good, with a toll free number to call. Best price I found was at Newegg.com with the MegaPlug 4-Port Hub at \$70, and the wall plug adapter at \$47. www.actiontec.com

Minimum System Requirements

Router, Gateway, or other device with HomePlug capability

Microsoft Windows 98SE, Me, 2000 or XP

TCP/IP Network Protocol Installed

Internet Explorer 4.0+ or Netscape 4.0+



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Software Review

CounterSpy V2

Published by Skype

Reviewed by Lou Torraca, President, The TUG, Hawaii, <http://www.the-tug.org/>,
Af06hi@gmail.com

CounterSpy V2 was completely rebuilt with a revolutionary new design. More powerful and effective than ever, CounterSpy's award-winning spyware detection and removal is now merged with our all-new VIPRE™ antimalware technology to create the industry's first hybrid antispyware engine.

- Heavy-duty antispyware protection treads lightly on system resources.
- Kernel-level active protection.
- Hybrid design combines antimalware technology with our award-winning spyware detection and removal.
- Deep-rooted malware is exterminated at boot time, before Windows loads.
- Incremental definition updates greatly reduce update downloading time.
- Vista compatible: Integrates seamlessly with the Vista Windows Security Center.

Sounds pretty good doesn't it? The description above from Sunbelt Software caught my eye and I decided to check it out. What follows is a list of the features, system requirements, some suggestions before your install and a blow by blow that recounts my download, install and use of CS. As always, I recommend you backup your files and/or set a restore point before you begin.

Features

CounterSpy contains the following key features:

- **System Scan** - The scanning engine checks your entire computer by using in-depth scans of your computer's hard drives, memory, process, registry and cookies. It uses a continually updated database of thousands of known spyware signatures to provide you with ongoing and accurate protection. You can scan for spyware manually or schedule times for CounterSpy to scan your computer.
- **Active Protection** - Active Protection guards your computer's privacy and personal information from hidden spyware threats before they can attack. Active Protection acts as a series of security checkpoints, comparing any unknown activity with the most up-to-date database of spyware threats at Sunbelt's Research Center - stopping new spyware in its tracks.
- **System Tools** - My PC Explorers let you explore and manage key elements of your system that are normally hidden and difficult to change. My PC Checkup helps secure your computer by updating your computer settings to recommended security levels. The History Cleaner is a privacy tool that removes all Internet History usage logs and 75 different activities. The Secure File Eraser is a powerful deletion tool that completely erases any files you want removed from your computer.
- **First Scan** - Before your computer completely boots up, CounterSpy deletes tough to remove or locked files and catches spyware before it has a chance to run on your computer.
- **VIPRE** - VIPRE is an antivirus technology that enables CounterSpy to further analyze each suspect item, using heuristic and detection definition files.

System Requirements

Make sure your computer meets one the following system requirements in order to run CounterSpy effectively:

Operating System Requirements:

- Windows 2000 Professional and Windows XP Professional/Home SP2, Vista
- Intel Pentium II processor (or compatible) at 133 MHz or higher with at least 128 MB of RAM
- 32 MB of available hard disk space
- Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher Recommended
- Intel Pentium III processor (or compatible) at 1Ghz or higher with 256 MB of RAM.

(I wouldn't recommend the minimum and as for the recommended, I'd go for at least 512 MB of RAM.)

Before Installing CS make sure to uninstall any other anti-spyware programs and restart your computer. Also, close all other Windows programs, including programs displayed in the Windows system tray. (I didn't uninstall my other antispyware as I don't have them scheduled to run, I do it manually.) One note-CS turns off Windows Defender, but you can turn it back on as I did, and didn't have any problem running it.

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Installing CS

I downloaded CS to my desktop, then did a scan with my AVG and clicked on it to open the installation wizard. After CS is installed and you have restarted your computer, double-click the icon on your desktop or click Start; then, select All Programs>Sunbelt Software>CounterSpy>CounterSpy. The Getting Started setup wizard opens. The wizard guides you through the initial steps needed to configure CS. After you complete the Wizard and open CounterSpy, the main page is displayed.

It provides general summary information like the last time you ran a scan, when the next scan is scheduled to run, important information, etc. Notice that it also contains buttons for you to access the three main features that are covered next-System Scan, Active Protection, and System Tools. You can also update your security risk definitions by clicking the link in the Important Information box. The updated version is displayed above the current status box along with the software version number. The key thing to note on this page is the red text next to Current System Status: Some Items Require Attention. This text alerts you to the status of key items in the list below; for example, if you have not run a scan, or if Active Protection is disabled.

System Scan

Click the System Scan button on the main page to open the System Scan page. Scanning is CounterSpy's main function. The System Scan page allows you to set scan options, perform scans, access the scanning schedule page, access the Manage Quarantine page, view scan details, and extend your subscription for updating security risk definitions. Take a note of the Scan Options listed on the left side of the System Scan page. You can select from three system scan options: Full System, Quick, and Custom. For the purposes of this review, you should use the default setting, a Full System scan, to scan your computer's processes, registry, drives, and folders.

To scan your computer

- Click Spyware Scan on the main page; then, set the scan options on the left side of the page. I recommend you select Full System scan.
- Click Scan Now. CounterSpy starts scanning your computer. After the scan is complete, the CounterSpy Spyware Scan Results summary window opens.
- Review the summarized information; then, click View Results. You go to the Spyware Scan results page.

Scan Results

After your computer is scanned, a scan results dialog box is displayed. Click OK, to open the Scan Results page. Review the items listed on the page; then, take actions against spyware threats. The dropdown lists under recommended actions provide you with several options. You have four options to choose from when managing the scan results: Ignore, Quarantine, Remove, and Always Ignore. To set a single action for all spyware threats, click the link: Set a single action for all spyware threats; then select the action from the Recommended Action drop-list.

Scheduling Scans


The Manage Schedule link on the System Scan page allows you to set the scanning schedule. The Spyware Scan page offers four main selections: Add a new schedule, view/edit a current schedule, enable/disable a current schedule, or delete a schedule.

When you click the Add New or View/Edit buttons, the schedule wizard opens. Use this wizard to set the dates and times as well as the scan options for the scheduled scan. The options below the Scheduled spyware scan drop-list change depending on the selection you make. Also, CounterSpy must be closed for the scheduled scan to run.


Working with Active Protection When software is installed, or when a change is made to your computer, an internet setting, or an application setting, Active Protection quickly reacts to analyze the change. CounterSpy decides to allow the change if it is not threatening, block the change if it is known spyware, or ask you to decide.

(Place Active Protection graphic here)

Click the Learn about Active protection monitors... link to open a page with detailed information about Active Protection Monitors. Active Protection helps protect your privacy and identity, as well as prevent unauthorized programs from taking control of your computer. It works much like a series of security checkpoints in

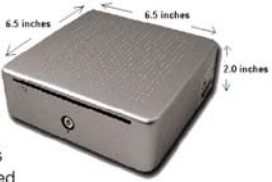


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- * 1.4 GHZ Pentium M (Celeron)
- * 512 GB RAM
- * 40 GB hard drive
- * DVD / CD-RW combo drive
- * 10/100/1000 (GIGABIT) LAN
- * 2 x USB, 1 X firewire (IEEE 1394) ports
- * DVI video output - VGA adapter included
- * TV output, S-video & component 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



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your computer. It monitors system changes, application changes, and internet activity, watching for anything that could be potentially hazardous.

When Active Protection prompts you for action, a small Notice alert window is displayed in the bottom right corner of your computer screen that includes information concerning the change. This enables you to make an informed decision regarding the notice. You can quarantine the item, allow the action, or block the action. You also have the option of remembering the action you select and/or sending feedback to ThreatNet, a community that connects hundreds of thousands of CounterSpy endusers together so they can share and identify spyware risks. These popups will probably bother you, as they did me, at first, but I think they should show up less frequently as the programs learns which are ok based on your checking the remembering box.

System Tools

CounterSpy contains four unique system tools to help you maintain a clean, smooth running computer: My PC Explorer, My PC Checkup, History Cleaner, and Secure File Eraser.

My PC Explorer

My PC Explorers enable you to explore and manage key elements of your system. Use them to view and modify settings on your computer that are normally hidden and difficult to change. My PC Explorers are powerful tools. Use them to find out what applications are currently connected to the internet, what programs automatically start when windows starts, to see and modify which applications are changing your Internet settings, and much more.

My PC Checkup

My PC Checkup helps tighten computer security. It updates your computer settings to recommended security levels. It thoroughly scans your computer for over 1000 different settings, suggests recommended changes, then, allows you to execute the recommended changes.

The first time you run My PC Checkup; there could be many recommended changes. Subsequent My PC Checkups will contain mostly suggested changes.

History Cleaner

The History Cleaner is a privacy tool that removes all Internet History usage logs and 75 different activity histories from the most popular windows and Internet applications. History Cleaner enables you to delete your Web browsing histories and search history, and Windows temporary folders and your search history. You can also erase the history stored by many popular applications, such as Windows Media Player and MSN Messenger.

Secure File Eraser

The Secure File Eraser is a powerful deletion tool that completely destroys files you want to remove from your computer. The Secure File Eraser completely removes all traces of selected documents, images, music, movies, or applications under 10MB in size.

Summary


As you can see, this program does a huge bunch of stuff in addition to just protecting your computer from spyware, malware, etc. The more you use it and review the help program, the more fea-



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

July 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Student's Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon (a/r) HGSI 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.	4 Independence Day Learning Center Closed Small Business Server 2003 (canceled) Computer Diagnostic Clinic Dr. Is In (canceled) Photoshop Beginners Class (canceled) PC Alameda Magazine & PDF (canceled)	5 MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon *PRR* G++ 2:30 - 4:30 P.M.
6	7 Genealogy 7 - 9 P.M.	8 BOD 6:30 P.M. Alamo Coders (DeskNET - Web Development Technology 7 - 9 P.M.	9 Power Internet 10 A.M. - Noon Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M., class 1 of 6 *PRR* PowerPoint 7 - 9 P.M., class 1 of 2 *PRR*	10 Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon	11 Computer Diagnostic Clinic Dr. Is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Photoshop Beginners Class 1 - 3 P.M., class 5 of 9 *PRR*	12 MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon *PRR*
13	14 General Meeting @ Crossroads 7 - 9 P.M. Presenter:	15	16 Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M., class 2 of 6 *PRR* IBD / Vector Vest 6 - 8 P.M. PowerPoint 7 - 9 P.M., class 2 of 2 *PRR*	17 Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon	18 Computer Diagnostic Clinic Dr. Is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Photoshop Beginners Class 1 - 3 P.M., class 6 of 9 *PRR*	19 MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon *PRR* G++ 2:30 - 4:30 P.M.
20	21	22	23 Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M., class 3 of 6 *PRR* (a/r) WordPerfect 7 - 9 P.M.	24 Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon	25 Computer Diagnostic Clinic Dr. Is In 9:00 A.M. - Noon Photoshop Beginners Class 1 - 3 P.M., class 7 of 9 *PRR*	26 MCSE (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon *PRR* Learning Center Desk Staff Meeting 1 - 3 P.M.
27	28 CorelDRAW X3 6 - 8 P.M.	29	30 Windows XP 1 - 3 P.M., class 4 of 6 *PRR*	31 Student Practice Lab 9:00 A.M. - Noon		

AlamoPC Organization

PRR = Pre-Registration Required

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 fix 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. We do the work at the 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

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> 680-0231

Murry Adams

<mnadams@texas.net> 696-0047

Carl Deneke

<cdeneke@Texas.net> 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

<jcinqury@earthlink.net> 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: ★ - ★★★

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, 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. 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: ★★★★★

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.

Volunteers Wanted

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

STUDY GROUPS (cont.)

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, 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. 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) Jan 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 13

Set 2) Mar 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

Set 3) May 14, 21, 28, Jun 4, 11, 18

Set 4) Aug 13, 20, 27, Sept 3, 10, 17

Set 5) Oct 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12

Fees: Registration fee is \$10.00

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) Jan 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb 5, 12

Set 2) Mar 18, 25, Apr 1, 8, 15, 22

Set 3) May 13, 20, 27, Jun 3, 10, 17

Set 4) Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 11

OR

Instructor: Don Robinson

When: 6 sessions, Wed. 1 to 3 p.m.

Set 1) Jan 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 13

Set 2) Mar 19, 26, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23

Set 3) July 9, 16, 23, 30, Aug 6, 13

Set 4) Oct 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12

Fees: Registration fee is \$10.00

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

Where: Computer Learning Center

Technical Rating: ★

Introducing Vista

This course is an overview of the Vista operating system that is the replacement of Windows XP. Students will be able to see what Vista looks like but is NOT hands on. The training will be more of a visual demonstration and discussion of the major differences between the two operating systems from a user's point of view. The course includes what Vista is, the various versions available, hardware requirements, pros's and con's of converting and new functionality. The main focus will be demonstrating how to accomplish the user basics (navigating, menus, control panel, files and folders) in Vista versus Windows XP.

Instructors: Don Robinson

Choose one set

When: 2 weeks, Wed., 1 pm to 3 pm

Set 1) May 21, 28

Set 2) Sept 17, 24

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>

When: Anytime

Where: Cyberspace

Pre-registration: Must sign-up on

<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>

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: need instructor

When: to be announced

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: needs instructor

When: to be announced

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: needs instructor

When: to be announced

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: needs instructor

When: to be announced

Fees: registration fee \$10

Where: Learning Center

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

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.

Visit the Alamo PC Learning Center

Can you help teach?

We're looking for someone to teach one or more of the following classes:

Digital Camera; Photo Editing; Movie Maker; Microsoft Digital Image 2006

Please call (210) 736-0700

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. They 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.

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.

Please Note: All students requesting fee based classes will be placed on a standby list for that class until the fee is received. Please continue to register in advance for the classes.

Beginners Photoshop

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

When: Beginners Photoshop (nine sessions) June Fridays 6, 13, 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8, 1 pm to 5 pm

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

Intermediate Photoshop:

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

When: Intermediate Photoshop
Fridays, August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 12
1 pm to 5 pm

Tuition Fee: \$25 for the course

Advanced Photoshop

Lessons on Rollovers, Animations, Warp Tool, Image Adjustments, Creating Curled Edges, Lighting Effects, Creating Patterns, Photo Restorations, Photo Edits

When: Advanced Photoshop
Fridays October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
1 pm to 5 pm

Tuition Fee: \$25 for the course

Restorations 1 and 2 Photoshop Lessons on Photo Restorations

Restorations 1 (one session)

When: Friday September 19
1 pm to 5 pm

Tuition Fee: \$5 for the class

Restorations 2 (one session)

When: Friday September 26, 1 pm to 5 pm

Tuition Fee: \$5 for the class

Photoshop Holiday Lessons

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

When: Fridays, 1 to 5 pm, dates for 2008 to be announced 1 to 4:30 pm

Tuition Fee: \$25 for the course

Photoshop Calendar Class (taught by Jane Montgomery)

When: Fridays, 1 to 5 pm, dates for 2008 to be announced 1 to 4:30 pm

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: ★★-★★★

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 basic functionality, menus, toolbars, icons and shortcut keys. Learn how to create, format, save and print an Excel spreadsheet.

Prerequisites: Students must have completed the Windows XP course or have the equivalent knowledge. It is also best if the student is familiar with another software package such as Microsoft Word.

When: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.; Thursdays
April 3, 10, 17, 24

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: Six Sessions, Sundays; 2 pm to 6 pm Classes are held in March and September

Where: Learning Center

Prerequisite: Students should have familiarity with the Windows OS.

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-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, Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon

Set 1) Jan 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb 5, 12

Set 2) Mar 18, 25, Apr 1, 8, 15, 22

Set 3) July 8, 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 12

Set 4) Oct 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov 4, 11

Instructor: Don Robinson

Fees: Registration fee is \$10.00

Where: Learning Center

Pre-registration: YES call 210-736-0080

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. |

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. 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: ★ - ★★

Volunteers Wanted

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

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: need instructor

When: to be announced

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. The course outline is as follows:

Wk 1: Opening the application, selecting a template, and saving documents

Wk 2: Formatting, Using Bullets and Numbered Lists

Wk 3: Headers, Footers, Pagination

Wk 4: Developing, Inserting, and Tables

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

When: 4 sessions, 6:30 to 8:00 pm, question session afterwards; Tues. March 4, 11, 18, 25

Instructor: Belinda Ramirez

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: ★

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. Enjoy a comfortable seating area. Call (210) 736-0700.

Student Practice Lab

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

Lab Instructors: Joe Gentry, Sarah Thomas

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

Where: Computer Learning Center

Pre-registration: No

Technical Content Ratings

★ For the beginner, no experience necessary and no prerequisite.

★★ Assumes some basic familiarity with the subject but is not a technical course.

★★★ Assumes that the student is somewhat familiar with the subject and will discuss.

★★★★ Assumes that the student is competent in the material and will be technical.

Help Numbers

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

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

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

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

Step One

1 Computers for Beginners

2 Windows 98

3 Windows XP

Microsoft Office

4 Word

5 Excel

6 PowerPoint

7 Publisher

8 WinFax Pro

Corel Office

9 WordPerfect

10 CorelDraw

11 Quattro Pro

12 Paint Shop Pro

Photoshop

13 Adobe Photoshop

Internet and E-mail

14 Internet Basics / ISP Connection

15 Web Page Development

16 Internet Explorer

17 MS Outlook Express

18 Opera

19 Mozilla

20 Dreamweaver

21 .Net

22 Flash

23 RoadRunner

Open Office

24 OpenOffice

Financial

25 Quick Books

26 Quicken

Auction Online

27 eBay

Genealogy

28 Family Origins for Windows

29 Genealogy

Communications / Management

30 Time&Chaos

31 Act

32 Goldmine

Data Base

33 Access

34 AlphaFour

35 dBase

36 Paradox

37 MySQL

Networking

38 Networking

Other

39 Hardware / Setting Up A New PC

40 Maintenance and Security

41 Home Help

Step Two

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

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

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Classified Ads

E-mail your ad to the Editor, PC Alamode at: 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.

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

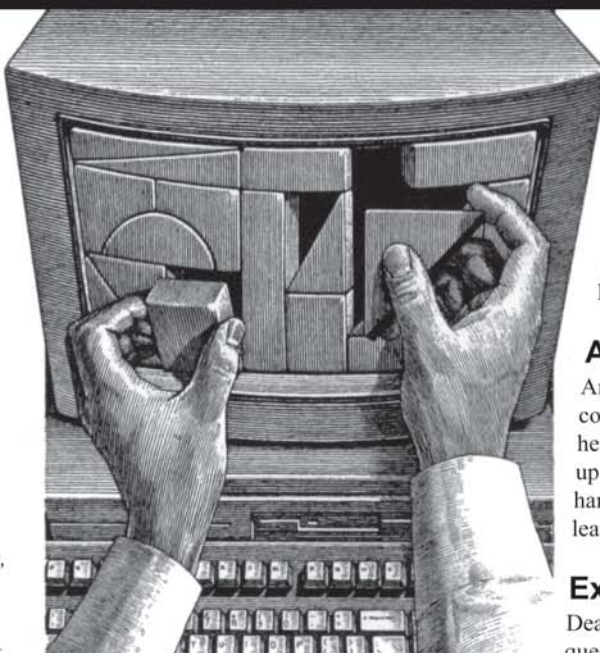
Every month you can attend a presentation meeting, which is open to our 2,500 members. Local and national companies provide the first glimpses of new products and discounts on existing products. There are also drawings for FREE hardware and software.

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)

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. 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 your 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.

