

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE ALAMO PC ORGANIZATION

PC Alamode

TECH ISSUE: WINDOWS 7 BETA

www.alamopc.org
November 2009
\$5.00

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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 (when resumed), Study Group or Sr. Comp classes call:

Registration number **210-736-0700**

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

membership@alamopc.org

If you have questions about Alamo PC call:

Alamo PC office number **210-736-0700**

If you have comments about classes call

Linda Bianchi **210-561-2278**

If you have questions about advertising e-mail

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

Please send change of address and other correspondence to:

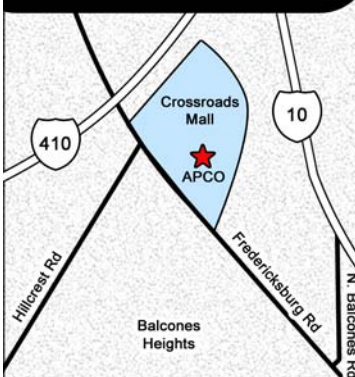
Alamo PC Organization
PO Box 65180
San Antonio, TX 78265-5180

Meetings

Monthly program meetings are normally held the second Monday of the month. Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held at 4888 Whirlwind Drive, located near the intersection of Loop 410 and IH-35 North 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 in the food court 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 and/or Web site. Open to all members.

Alternate Meeting Location:
Crossroads Mall
(see page 3 for map of Crossroads Mall)



General Meeting Location:
4888 Whirlwind



Nov. Calendar

Tuesday Nov. 3, 2009
Board of Directors meeting
6:30 PM Crossroads Mall
Loop 410 at I-10 (see map)

Monday Nov. 12, 2009
General meeting
7 PM 4888 Whirlwind
Loop 410 at I-35 (see map)

Board of Directors

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

Executive Service Officers and other important numbers

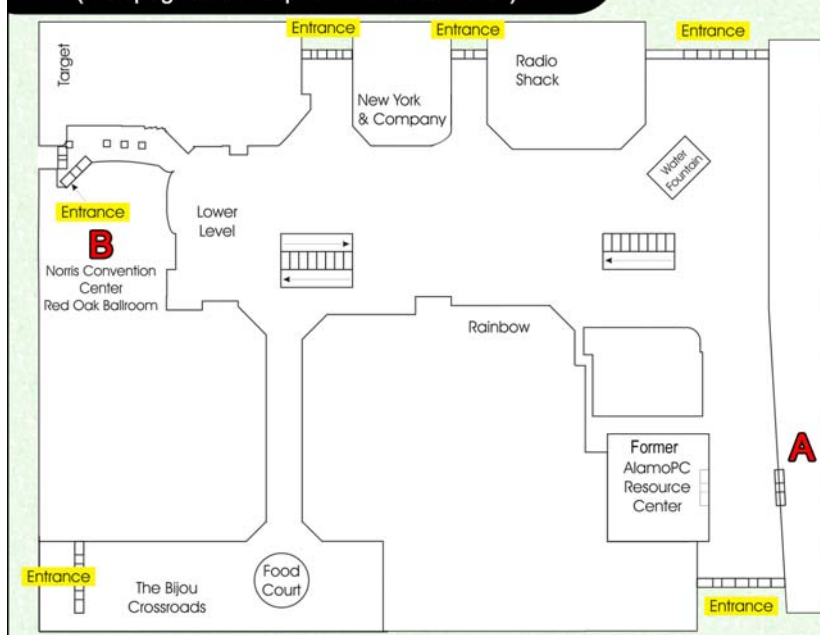
Office Center, 4888 Whirlwind

		736-0700	FAX 736-0032
Office Center Manager	Cary & Jean Hall	736-0700 (Learning Center)	learncenter@alamopc.org
Past President/Programs	David Steward	662-8606 (Home)	dsteward@texas.net
Member Records	Steve Tech	675-2880 (Home)	membership@alamopc.org
Public Relations	Susan Ives	694-4582 (Home)	suives@texas.net
Product Review Coordinator	TBD (David Steward)	662-8606 (Home)	reviews@alamopc.org
Study Groups Coordinator/Ed	Linda Bianchi	561-2278 (Home)	education@alamopc.org
Special Projects	Joe Brazell	370-2207 (Office)	projects@alamopc.org
Registrar	Linda Bianchi	561-2278 (Home)	Registrar@alamopc.org
Webmaster	Mike Bianchi	561-2278 (Home)	Webmaster@alamopc.org
Lab/Network Administrator	Gary Grieve	492-5066 (Home)	netadmin@alamopc.org
Trade Shows	Steve Tech	675-2880 (Home)	stephentechnjr@yahoo.com
APCUG Representative	David Steward	662-8606 (Home)	dsteward@texas.net
Editor, PC Alamode Magazine	Joseph de Leon	unlisted	editor@alamopc.org

For Study Groups and Classes, phone: 736-0700

Crossroads Mall (lower level)

(See page 2 for map to Crossroads Mall)



Alternate Meeting Location

We may meet in several different locations in the mall. Sometimes at the Convention across the hall from our former Learning Center (A) of in the Norris Convention Center (B) near Target. Sometimes we don't know until the day of the meeting. It would be a good idea to check the website (alamopc.org) or call (736-0700) before you come.

For more information call 532-9122

Regular Meeting Location

4888 Whirlwind Drive
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Tech issue: Windows 7 Beta

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Featured this month

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

editor@alamopc.org

Joseph de Leon, Editor, PC Alamode
editor@alamopc.org

product reviews

Hardware Review: Wolverine F2D Slide Scanner
Book Review: How to Be a Geek Goddess
Book Review: iBrain

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Ad rates effective January 2005

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

*Consecutive months

**To be paid in advance

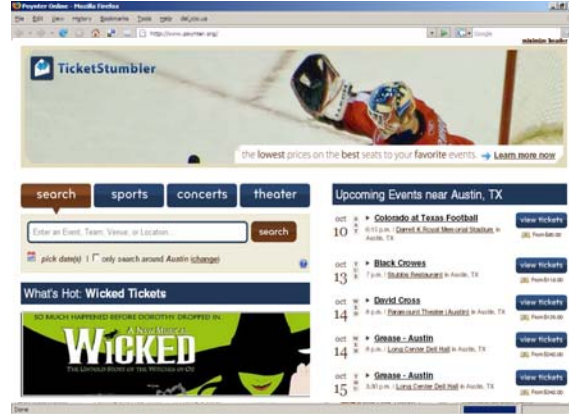
PC Alamode Links List



Google Earth Cool Places

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

See the coolest places on Earth found by Google Earth users. Includes bugs, weird stuff and censored images you won't see in Google Earth.



Ticket Stumbler

<<http://ticketstumbler.com/>>

TicketStumbler is a secondary ticket market search engine and comparison website. The site allows simple ticket comparison, enabling visitors to find the best seats at the best prices.

This month we explore Windows 7 Beta, which sounds like a really useful upgrade to the most common operating system in the world.

I recently upgraded to Windows Vista, but after reading about it for months, I felt like I knew the new version well enough to get through some tips and tricks.

If you've recently upgraded to a new computer, decided to buy a new piece of software or hardware, please consider writing about your experience.

It doesn't have to be anything terribly long or technical. Tell us why you picked your new buy, what you expected before you got your hand on it, what you didn't expect after you starting experimenting and what you'd say to your good friends about it.

That's all there is to a review. Just share your experience. There is no right or wrong answer, just shared knowlege.

Joseph de Leon, Editor

<editor@alamopc.org>



Joseph de Leon, Alamo PC

Joseph has worked in the graphics industry for more than 10 years.

President's Message

Bill Klutz

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

This month has several things that should be of interest to many: 1st - Daylight Saving Time Ends: Date range was expanded in 2008 to help provide more daylight for individuals (Clock movement: Fall Back!) and also All Saints' Day: A Christian holy day observed by many Western groups on this day and by Eastern groups on the first Sunday after Pentecost. The day now honors all those designated as "saints," even those not known by name; 2nd - All Soul's Day (sometimes called the "Day of the Dead") is always November 2 (November 3rd if the 2nd falls on a Sunday). All Soul's Day is a Roman Catholic day of remembrance for friends and loved ones who have passed away; 11th - Veterans Day - Originally begun to remember the end of WWI (1918, when the Armistice was signed) and those U.S. men and women who served. It has grown to be a time to reflect and give honor to those who served/serve in our military forces, especially those who have seen the devastation of war. (As we consider this, keep in mind that those who served in WWII, and survived, are leaving us at the rate of about 1000 per day. Soon they will only be a memory, for those few who may choose to remember and/or think about WWII); 27th (Always the 4th Thursday in November) - Thanksgiving: no explanation should be necessary, but generally it stands for a time soon after this country was begun, when many wanted to thank those already on this new soil for helping make it possible. (We should "give thanks" everyday, especially to those who have helped us, even in some small way, as life is sometimes short. Don't be in the category often identified by "I wish I had")

The October BOD meeting was not officially held, as only three members have been attending in the past and David Steward was in the hospital for a heart recatheterization. He also suggested that since he didn't have a presenter and he would be in the hospital, the meeting should be cancelled. The two individuals who did come (me and Steve Tech), in the event someone wanted to talk to board members, reviewed the latest financial information available for the organization, the declining membership, (only five new members since November '08), expenses associated with the continuing monthly operation of Alamo PC, plus the best guess future of the Organization, the PC Alamode magazine, and other related things. We also agreed that the October General Meeting would be held and I would try to find a presenter on short notice or be the "Presenter" for the meeting.

Because we had already indicated in several places that unless otherwise notified, the monthly General Meeting would be at our current location (4888 Whirlwind, in NE San Antonio), and because we have had some server/modem problems recently, no further action was deemed necessary.

At the October General Meeting I tried to be the "Presenter," but my computer wouldn't cooperate, so we had a discussion session among the eight people who were present. We talked primarily about the items I had on my agenda: Windows Live Messenger and Skype and the fact that when both programs are installed they compete for webcam time and make it difficult to have a good session. A little free program called SplitCam solves the problem when installed and launched first. Both programs can be run together, if needed. Also, three free online meeting programs (each with the same .com website name - Unyte, Vyew and Mikogo) can be run with Skype, if needed. Just choose the one you prefer after reading the writeup on each. We also talked about checking Microsoft Tweaks for programs/Apps that can help you computer perform better. There is also a program that comes with later versions of Windows that is updated each month during the auto updates. It is called the Malicious Software-Removal Tool (MRT) and can be of help in keeping you computer safe. You can initiate a manual scan by Start>Run>MRT but you should backup or set a restore point first. PDFCreator can help make big PDF files smaller. It's free and acts like a printer when installed. If you have the need, check it out. Lastly, we talked about two places to get info on stock - Yahoo Finance (at Yahoo.com) and an E-Trade supported sight: ClearStation.com. In the discussion I passed along a stock I found on October 6th - NXTH. (Check the chart and you will be amazed at the performance. It had a daily up of about 75% through Oct 27th, fell about 65% that day, then moved up about 60% over the next few days before settling into a sideways move through Oct 30th. With the ups and downs I was able to do about 120% profit. I hope those who listened at the meeting did as well.

It is very late in October, and I have yet to be informed by David Steward about anything regarding the November General Meeting (9th), although Steve Tech asked for information a few days ago in an E-Mail. I can only hope he has something worked out for the meeting. I am hopeful the November General Meeting will take place and be profitable to those attending. The meeting, unless otherwise noted on the web site, will be at our current office location (4888 Whirlwind, in NE San Antonio), regardless of the presenter obtained. It is once again in David Steward hands, as he has previously stated he is "trying" to get something scheduled. We shall see what transpires!

Continued on page 8

Overall interest in User Groups at the corporate and membership level continues to wain. As I have pointed out in many previous messages, this fact is confirmed by the ever declining membership (only about 10 new members since November 2008), plus the fact we have not had a full compliment of board members (at least one vacancy) for the past four years.

Anyone having questions regarding any area or matter pertaining to the Alamo PC organization, and future proposed plans may refer them to membership@alamopc.org, and Steven Tech will try to provide information relating to the request.

With the declining number of individuals who are currently serving the organization in a board member capacity, and who appear to be willing to continue serving, it can only cause me to believe that the future of OUR organization appears to be dimming rapidly.

I am hoping that we will have a presenter for the next General Meeting who can address something beneficial to those present. Since things can change, even at the last minute, check the website for the latest information about the General Meeting. I can only hope that David Seward will have made the latest information available for a posting on the home page of the Alamo PC website at the earliest time.

Again, as previously mentioned, since almost all of our new members were previously obtained from walk-in traffic at the Learning Center, that luxury no longer exists due to our move. Unless we have members helping to obtain new members, at some point in time funds will no longer be available to allow the Alamo PC Organization to continue operating.

We are still trying to improve member retention, but it has not been as successful as hoped. If you do not choose to renew, send a comment briefly giving an explanation as to "Why?" to membership@alamopc.org, with a copy to me (president@alamopc.org, or privately to me - wlklutzjr@juno.com). I appreciate all communications, especially those on how we can improve the Alamo PC Organization and increase member interest!

As, I have said before, "the future of OUR organization will always rest in the hands of its members. Whether WE continue (or not) depends on OUR interest and involvement. But, it primarily depends on membership renewals and/or financial support. Without those, we will not be able to meet our financial obligations and additional '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, and will impact those in the community desiring to learn about computers or improve their computer skills.

November Program

Bill Klutz

It is very late in Octoberber, and I have not been informed by David Steward about anything regarding the November meeting. So, unless I hear otherwise, the meeting location will be at our current office location (4888 Whirlwind, SAT). Since things can change at the last minute, please check the Alamo PC web site (www.alamopc.org) for information on the presenter and meeting location. Make plans now to come and bring some friends. As always, we hope to have an interesting presentation.

Volunteer of the Month

Billy Samples



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

- 🖱 Keyboarding/Typing
- 🖱 Basic Computer Skills
- 🖱 Microsoft Word

Rates for one student

\$35 per hour
\$300 for 10 hours

Rates for two or three students

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

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

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

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

What you can find at the show:

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

Location:

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

Show Dates:

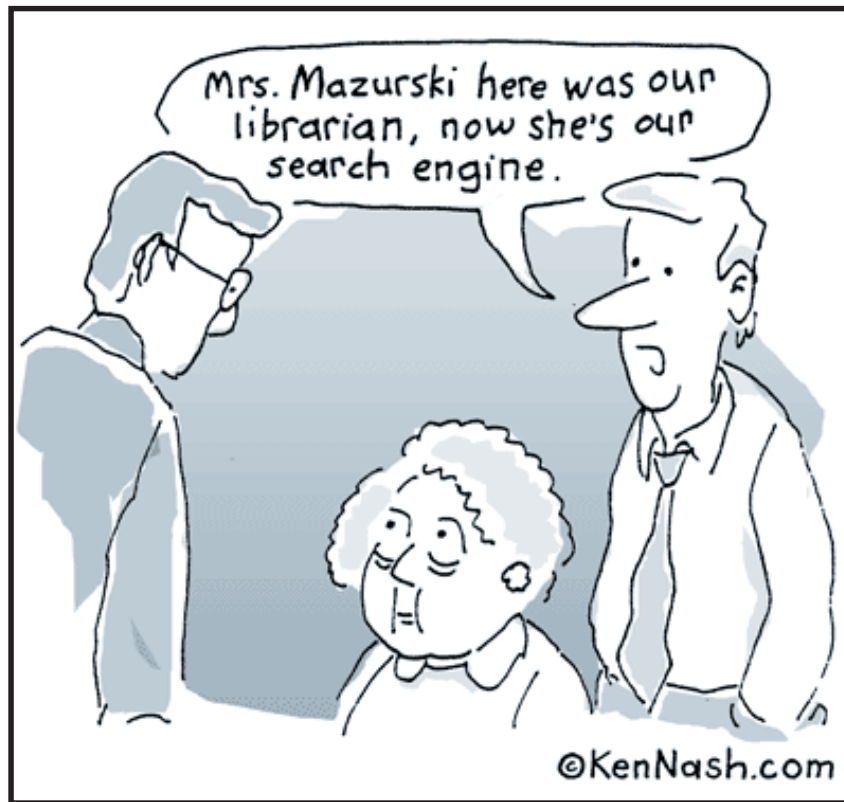
November 14th
December 12th

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



Funny Bytes

Ken Nash & Randy Glasbergen



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www.glasbergen.com



"Encryption software is expensive...so we just rearranged all the letters on your keyboard."



E-mail Tips

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.

When you can't open an attachment, save it to your desktop. If you use Microsoft Outlook, right-click the attachment and click Save As. If you use Yahoo! Mail, click the attachment and click Download Attachment. If you're using Firefox, select Save to Disk. In Internet Explorer, click Save. Once the file is saved, right-click it and click Open With. A menu will pop up. In Windows Vista, click Choose Default Program. For a WMV file, find Windows Media Player, select it, and click "Always use the selected program to open this kind of file." Windows Media Player may not be on the list.

In that case, click Browse. Scan the folders until you find Windows Media Player and then double-click the folder. Find the file "wmplayer.exe." Again, click "Always use the selected program to open this kind of file," and click OK. The process is similar in Windows XP. Right-click the file, click Open With, and select Windows Media Player. If Windows Media Player is not on the list, click Browse. Find and double-click the Windows Media Player folder. Double-click the file "wmplayer.exe," click "Always use the selected program to open this kind of file," and click OK. What if you don't know which program opens the file? When you double-click the file, you should get a message that there is no file association. Windows should offer to look online for one. If it doesn't, put the file extension (WMV, DOC, or whatever) into Google and do a search. There should be information online about the extension. It should include the name of the program that opens it.

You can also change associations in Firefox. To start, click Tools, Options, select the Content tab, and click Manage. The Download Actions window will open. Put the extension (WMV, DOC, or whatever) in the Search box. Firefox should show the program that opens it. If the association is not working, click Change Action. At least one other choice should be available.

E-mail Accounts

If you need to establish different e-mail accounts, mYour browser may not support display of this image. ost e-mail programs will retrieve messages from several accounts. But separating the messages based on account takes a little more work. In most cases, you can simply set up a filter that directs messages into separate folders. Setting up a filter is relatively easy, but you want to make sure you get it right. First, set up Outlook so it can retrieve e-mail from all of your accounts. Next, create a new folder for the messages. Right-click on the Inbox folder in the Mail Folders list, select New Folder, type a name for the folder. Then, use the folder tree to select where you would like the folder to appear and click OK. Now, set up your filter.

In versions of Outlook prior to 2007, click Tools, Rules and Alerts. On the E-mail Rules tab, click New Rule, select "Start from a blank rule," and click Next. In the top box, highlight "Check messages when they arrive, and click Next. In the top box, select "through the specified account." In the bottom box, click "specified." Select the account in the dropdown list and click OK, and click Next. In the top box, select "move it to the specified folder." In the bottom, click "specified." Select the folder you created and click OK, click finish, Apply and then OK. In Office 2007, click Tools, Rules and Alerts.

On the E-mail Rules tab, click New Rule. In the box that opens, click "Check messages when they arrive" under "Start from a blank rule." Select "through the specified account" in the top box. In the bottom box, click "specified." Select the account in the dropdown list and click OK and Next. In the top box, select "move it to the specified folder." In the bottom box, click "specified." Select the folder you created for the account. click OK, Finish, Apply and then OK. You can repeat this for each e-mail account you have set up in Outlook. If you don't like this solution, you can set up different profiles in Outlook.

This is more complicated. To create a new profile in WinXP, click Start, Control Panel, and double-click Mail. Click Show Profiles and Add. Name your profile and then click OK. Follow the on-screen prompts to set up an e-mail account to use with the profile. You can add more e-mail accounts to the profile later from within Outlook. Now, you'll want to specify what Outlook does when it starts. Click Start, Control Panel, double-click Mail, click Show Profiles, and select "Prompt for a profile to be used." In Vista, click Start, Control Panel, double-click Mail. click Add, name your profile, and click OK. Follow the prompts to set up an e-mail account for the profile. Again, you can set up more e-mail accounts for the profile later in Outlook. You'll also want to specify Outlook to prompt you for a profile when it starts. Click Start, Control Panel, double-click Mail and select "Prompt for a profile to be used," and click Apply and OK. Outlook is probably the most popular e-mail program.

But if you don't want to shell out for Outlook, there's another solution. You can use the free Thunderbird e-mail program. It is produced by Mozilla, the creator of Firefox. Both are free on my site. You can create filters and different profiles in Thunderbird, too.

Continued on page 14

Email Advice from Snopes.com

1) Any time you see an E-Mail that says forward this on to '10' of your friends, or sign this petition, or you'll get bad luck, good luck, or whatever, it almost always has an E-Mail tracker program attached that tracks the cookies and E-Mails of those folks you forward to. The host sender is getting a copy each time it gets forwarded and then is able to get lists of 'active' E-Mails to use in SPAM E-Mails, or sell to other spammers. 2) Almost all E-Mails that ask you to add your name and forward on to others are similar to that mass letter years ago that asked people to send business cards to the little kid in Florida who wanted to break the Guinness Book of Records for the most cards.

All it was is a way to get names and 'cookie' tracking information for telemarketers and spammers to validate active E-Mail accounts for their own profitable purposes. You can do your friends and family members a great favor by sending this information to them; you will be providing a service to your friends, and will be rewarded by not getting thousands of spam E-Mails in the future! If you have been sending out (Forwarding) the above kinds of E-Mail, now you know why you get so much SPAM! Do yourself a favor and stop adding your name(s) to those types of listings regardless how inviting they might sound! You may think you are supporting a good cause, but you are not in the long run. Instead, you will be getting tons of junk mail later! Also, you should know that E-Mail petitions are not acceptable to Congress or any other organization. To be acceptable, petitions must have a signed signature and full address of the person signing the petition.

Email Sized Images

If you want to reduce the size of a photo for the purpose of using/sending it in an email message, the Paint application included with WinXP and Win Vista is perfect. Paint can be found in the Accessories menu by clicking Start, All Programs, Accessories, and Paint. Once you open the file in Paint, select the Image menu and click Stretch/Skew. In the Stretch section, reduce the percentages in the Horizontal and Vertical fields. Make sure you use the same proportion. Click OK and check the image's physical and file size. If the size isn't what you want, then click the Edit menu, select Undo, and repeat the resize steps as needed. Rather than saving over the original image, click the File menu, select Save As, and append the original file name with an "em" to indicate that it's an email sized photo.

Rules of Email Etiquette

The rules of email etiquette are not "rules." They are guidelines for email etiquette.

1. Take Another Look Before You Send a Message - Don't send anything you don't want to send.
2. Do Not Default to "Reply All" - "Reply" is good. "Reply to All" is not better
3. Keep Emails Short - Do not intimidate recipients with too much text.
4. Properly Format Your Email Replies - Here's a very comfortable, relaxed, quick and still clean and compatible way to reply properly.
5. Write Perfect Subject Lines - The key to getting your messages read is not to be clever.
6. Clean Up Emails Before Forwarding Them - Forwarding emails is a great way of sharing ideas, but make sure the original idea is not hidden in obfuscation.
7. When in Doubt, Send Plain Text Email, Not HTML - Not everybody can receive your fancily formatted emails. To be safe rather than sorry, send plain text emails.
8. Don't Forward Hoaxes - Email hoaxes often contain stories that are intriguing, and sure to irritate. Here's how to spot and stop urban legends.
9. Use Current Antivirus Software and Keep it Up to Date - Make sure you're not spreading worms and viruses via email or act as a vehicle for spreading spam. All this can be caused by malicious emails.
10. Do Let People Know Their Mail Has Been Received - Did the spam filter eat my message? Spare others this nagging question and let them know you got their email.
11. Ask Before You Send Huge Attachments - Don't clog email systems with large attachments.
12. Talk About One Subject per Email Message Only - Help make the world less confusing. Try to talk about one subject per message only. For another subject, start a new email.
13. Punctuation Matters; in Emails Too - Comma, colon, hyphen and semicolon all exist for a reason: they make it easier to understand the intended meaning of a sentence. Don't make life more difficult and possibly less interesting for the recipients of your emails. Pay some attention to punctuation.
14. Use Acronyms Sparingly - Not everybody knows every acronym.
15. Resize Pictures to Handy Proportions Before Inserting Them in Emails - When your photos look good in your email, you look good, too!
16. Writing in All Caps is Like Shouting - Don't shout in your emails because all caps are difficult to read.
17. Be Careful with Irony in Emails - Such as No, really! I mean it. Honestly!
18. Catch Typos by Printing Your Emails - You can often find typos or misplaced commas neither your spell checker nor you yourself catch when proofreading on the screen.
19. How to Avoid Embarrassing Emails - Avoid embarrassing emails by sending them to yourself.
20. Set Your System Clock to the correct time.
21. In Doubt, End Emails with "Thanks" - If you don't know how to say good-bye at the end of an email, there's one thing that will almost always be appropriate. "Thanks."
22. Avoid "Me Too" Messages - "Me too" is not enough content, but too much annoyance.



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.

Most people have little interest in what you did on your vacation, but I'll give you a brief run-down on part of what my wife and I did while in Michigan in July. The timing of our family events coincided with a nationally famous event that has been celebrated in Port Huron, Michigan for many years. The Port Huron to Mackinac Island sailboat race attracts people from all over to participate and the town usually ends up with approximately 100,000 people there on the evening before the race starts. It is known as "Boat Night" and while the celebration is not as wild as it used to be, it is still a night of partying by all.

Port Huron is a medium sized city situated where Lake Huron flows into the St. Clair River. That border river (Sarnia, Ontario on one side, Port Huron, Michigan on the other) is about a half mile wide on average and has a very swift current flowing down the Great Lakes Waterway to empty into Lake St. Clair, which then empties into the Detroit River etc. Black River, a smaller stream, flows through Port Huron to empty into the St. Clair River and is the center of the celebration with many very expensive sailboats tied up during a few days prior to the race, not to mention all the large expensive pleasure boats and yachts also tied up there as part of the celebration. There are three bridges crossing major streets that can be raised to allow larger boats to move up to the various marina stalls, although in some places the smaller boats may be tied up four to a boat slip. There's easily many millions of dollars worth of sailboats, yachts and pleasure boats docked there.

Boat Night is always what attracts me, and not the start of the Port Huron to Mackinac Island sailboat race the next morning. However, if you are ever in the area during the middle of July, I heartily recommend taking it in. There are also other events that coincide with this event, such as the antique car show and cruise night. Just watching the bridges go up to allow boats to pass through is interesting. I took some pictures that will be on my Web site by the time you read this column. Of course, there are other items that I can't miss, such as the specially prepared Coney Island hot dogs there, that are not found anywhere else, and you don't have to visit the Coney Island to get them because other restaurants also feature their own style of those hot dogs containing sauce with 11 herbs and spices (their words). There is also a meat market that makes outstanding link sausages. We always try to bring some of them home to stash in our freezer. I assume many people remember foods like no other where they were born and raised.

Since time was scarce for us, we did miss the (some say world famous) Yale Bologna Festival in Yale, Michigan, which always hosts the "Outhouse races" (some say outrageous) and the "Cardboard Boat" races. It was our loss, but we could only spread ourselves so thin and still make our family events.

*Why Fix Me If I'm Going To Die Soon Anyway!

Lately I get that impression from a couple of my doctors. I consider them excellent doctors in their specialties, but I'm surprised by the attitude I've gotten lately, although they still send me for tests, but I'm not sure how much they look at them. I don't know if I'll have a talk with them or simply find new doctors who care, but I hope I'm not ready to kick the bucket just yet, although there's times when I wonder. Other people my age tell me they have also had that experience. I have already dropped the cardiologist I was seeing because his answers to my questions were always "In your case, there is nothing we can do." I don't think a doctor should take that attitude.

*Outlook Express Data Recovery

DataNumen Inc., a developer of data recovery solutions, has released its new product, Advanced Outlook Express Data Recovery (Version 1.0). It enables the users to recover Outlook Express e-mails even if the Outlook Express data (.DBX) files no longer exist. AOEDR can perform recovery in all versions of Microsoft Outlook Express e-mails, and will recover data from any drives or disks (hard disks, flash drives, floppy disks, Zip disks, CD-ROMs, etc.); even in case they are corrupted. AOEDR can also recover a batch of disks. The upper disk size limit for AOEDR is 16777216 TB (i.e. 17179869184 GB).

When will AOEDR prove useful?

- If the Outlook Express .DBX files have been deleted and the Recycle Bin has been accidentally emptied;
- If the Outlook Express .DBX files have been permanently deleted by mistake.
- If the drive containing the Outlook Express .DBX files has been formatted by mistake.

Continued on page 16

- If the partition containing the Outlook Express .DBX files has been deleted by mistake.
- If the disk has been re-partitioned by mistake, and the drive containing the .DBX files has been lost;
- If drive or disk containing the .DBX files cannot be read due to hardware failure;
- If the drive or disk containing the .DBX files cannot be started/recognized due to corruption in Master Boot Record or other reasons;
- In any case, when the Outlook Express data stored in the local drives or disks cannot be accessed.

Advanced Outlook Express Data Recovery runs under Windows 95/98/Me/NT/2000/XP/2003 Server/Vista/2008 Server. A single-user personal license costs \$249.95 US. A 20% discount is offered by using the coupon code DATA-E2OI-TWEN when the user purchases products from our website at <<http://www.datanumen.com/aoedr/order.htm>>. Discount will only be good during Nov. and Dec. Both ShareIt.com and RegNow.com will accept this coupon code and apply the 20% discount to the purchaser. Multi-user discounts are available. Further information on the product, as well as its free trial edition, is available at <<http://www.datanumen.com/aoedr/>>.

Direct download link: <<http://www.datanumen.com/aoedr/aoedr.exe>> (1.3 MB)

Company web-site: <<http://www.datanumen.com>>

Contact information can also be found at <<http://www.datanumen.com/contact.htm>>

DataNumen, Inc.

1301 Bank of America Tower

Suite 791, 12 Harcourt Road

Central

HONG KONG

Phone: +1-800-998-8826 (US-Toll free)

Fax: +1-800-9917-FAX (US-Toll free)

***Need A New 3D Address Book?**

Studio V5 Corp. has released 3D AddressBook 2.0, the software that enables users to manage their contacts in an innovative, fun, and easy to use environment combining 2D and 3D views. The software includes plenty of visual and sound effects, such as an explosion on deleting records, record zooming in selection, as well as 4 hours of ambient music. You can choose from 30+ ready to use address templates or easily create a customized address book to fit your needs. You can add or edit fields, sort the data by any field, create filters and reports, or search data quickly and easily. The Notes field will help you track record history and while using the import option, you can directly import the data from well-known applications such as Windows Address Book, MS Outlook, MS Excel, etc.

Main features include:

- Innovative and easy-to-use user interface which gives both 2D and 3D data view;
- Built-in ambient music;
- Easy address book creation from a scratch or using one of 30+ templates;
- Customize or add new fields: text, numeric, image, formula, attachments, etc;
- Easy data find using quick or full search;
- Sort data by any field;
- Create, save, and apply customized filters;
- Create customized reports for printing;
- Use notes field for record history and to-do items;
- Easy data import directly from MS Excel, MS Outlook, Windows Address Book, MS Access, Comma-Separated text files and more.



System Requirements: Windows XP/Vista, Pentium 1.4Ghz, 256 MB RAM, 32 MB, OpenGL compatible video card, DirectX 8.1 compatible sound card and 500 MB free space.

The price of software registration is \$29.95, but a 33% discount is available by using the coupon code

“2AEJ-55PC-VVR3,” valid only during November and December.

Product page: <<http://www.studio-v5.com/3d/db/>>



Using a computer chair

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/>>

Work-related musculoskeletal disorders result when there is a mismatch between the physical capacity of workers and the demands of the job. Each year thousands of workers in the United States report work related injuries such as tendonitis, epicondylitis, carpal tunnel syndrome, and back injuries. Many of these are caused or aggravated by work related stressors such as lifting, reaching, pulling, pushing, bending and working in awkward postures.

Many of these injuries are treated successfully with Chiropractic care. Companies, both large and small, have developed ergonomic programs that use a logical approach to identify and solve their ergonomic problems. While helpful, outside consultants or experts are not necessary. The majority of ergonomic problems can be satisfactorily addressed by low cost interventions utilizing in-house resources and proper use of equipment.

Over the past 20 years ergonomic injuries have gained recognition as a major factor in occupational health. About one-third of all work related injuries and illnesses stem from over exertion and/or repetitive motion. Cost to the United States in direct work's comp costs range as high as or exceeding \$20 billion. Several high profile studies have been conducted over the last few years by respected scientists from the National Academy of Sciences, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and others.

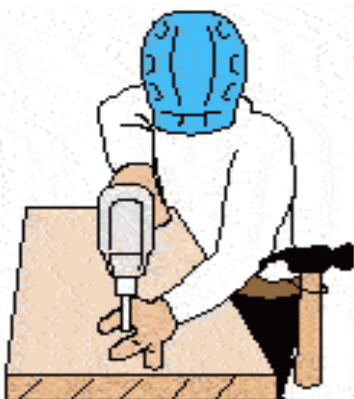
Here are a few key ways to determine if there are ergonomic problems at the workplace:

Observe operations to see if any of the previously listed risk factors are present, such as heavy lifting or repetitive motions.

Analyze injury records to see if higher injury rates occur within certain departments or job classifications.

Be aware of common problems within industry or job classifications. If other companies in the same industry have ergonomic-related problems, then it is possible these potential problems of concern.

Also, be aware that if every body does their part, a lot of ergonomic injuries can and will be prevented.





Driver Query Helps Resolve Driver Problems

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>

Anyone using Vista for any length of time knows that most of the common driver problems were resolved long ago. Advances in computer technology including removable devices however, have called attention to problems that may be caused by device drivers that are no longer needed, but still installed on the system. These drivers can become corrupt over time. If they become inadvertently enabled they can cause memory conflicts which under some circumstances could crash your system.

Most people beyond the novice level have some familiarity with Device Manager, but are usually not knowledgeable with its limitations. They know that Device Manager will allow a rollback to a previous version of a driver if problems are encountered, but few know that Device Manager has no way of keeping track of a device driver's history. This is important because you can't document which version of a device driver is good and which version could cause problems.

You can get around this limitation by using a command-line tool called Driver Query that will track the history of all the device drivers on your system. From the Start Menu, open Accessories, and activate the Command Prompt. Type driverquery.exe at the command line and you will see a list of all the device drivers with some basic information included. This list by itself won't do you much good. You need to use some command-line switches to get the information that you need. At the command prompt type:

Continued on page 18

Microsoft Excel - DRIVERINFO										
Type a question for help										
Go to Office Live Open Save										
A1 Module Name										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
1	Module Name	Display Name	Description	Driver Type	Start Mode	State	Status	Accept Stop	Accept Pause	Paged
2	ACPI	Microsoft ACPI Driver	Microsoft ACPI Driver	Kernel	Boot	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE	
3	adp94xx	adp94xx	adp94xx	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
4	adpahci	adpahci	adpahci	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
5	adpu160m	adpu160m	adpu160m	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
6	adpu320	adpu320	adpu320	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
7	AFD	Ancillary Function Driver for W	Ancillary Function Driver for W	Kernel	System	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE	
8	agp440	Intel AGP Bus Filter	Intel AGP Bus Filter	Kernel	Manual	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
9	aic78xx	aic78xx	aic78xx	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
10	aliide	aliide	aliide	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
11	amdide	amdide	amdide	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
12	AmdK8	AMD K8 Processor Driver	AMD K8 Processor Driver	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
13	arc	arc	arc	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
14	arcsas	arcsas	arcsas	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
15	aswFsBlk	aswFsBlk	aswFsBlk	File System	Auto	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE	
16	aswMonFit	aswMonFit	aswMonFit	File System	Auto	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE	
17	aswRdr	aswRdr	aswRdr	Kernel	System	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE	
18	aswSP	avast! Self Protection	avast! Self Protection	Kernel	System	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE	
19	aswTdi	avast! Network Shield Support	avast! Network Shield Support	Kernel	System	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE	
20	AsyncMac	RAS Asynchronous Media Driv	RAS Asynchronous Media Drive	Kernel	Manual	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE	
21	atapi	IDE Channel	IDE Channel	Kernel	Boot	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE	
22	bowser	Bowser	Bowser	File System	Manual	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE	
23	BrFiltLo	Brother USB Mass-Storage Lo	Brother USB Mass-Storage Low	Kernel	Manual	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
24	BrFiltUp	Brother USB Mass-Storage Up	Brother USB Mass-Storage Up	Kernel	Manual	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
25	Brserid	Brother MFC Serial Port Interfa	Brother MFC Serial Port Interfac	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
26	BrSerWdm	Brother WDM Serial driver	Brother WDM Serial driver	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
27	BrUsbMdm	Brother MFC USB Fax Only M	Brother MFC USB Fax Only Mo	Kernel	Disabled	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
28	BrUsbSer	Brother MFC USB Serial WDM	Brother MFC USB Serial WDM	Kernel	Manual	Stopped	OK	FALSE	FALSE	
29	BthEnum	Bluetooth Enumerator Service	Bluetooth Enumerator Service	Kernel	Manual	Running	OK	TRUE	FALSE	

DRIVERQUERY /FO:CSV /V > C:\ DRIVERINFO .CSV

DRIVERQUERY is the primary command that tells the operating system to run the query.

The /FO switch says you want the output to be formatted.

CSV (Comma Separated Variable) tells Vista to format the output so it can be displayed in a spreadsheet.

/V (Verbose) tells the query to blab its head off and tell everything it knows about each driver in the system.

C:\ says to put the output file in the root (primary) directory of the primary drive where your operating system is installed. This makes the file easy to find in case you can't remember where you put it.

DRIVERINFO.CSV is the name of the file with an old DOS style extension. You can name the file anything you want, but do end it with the CSV extension or you might confuse your spreadsheet when you try to open it.

After creating the file, open your spreadsheet, click the file open icon and in the File name: box type:

C:\DRIVERINFO.CSV

By opening the file this way you don't have to get into DOS commands. You may, of course, use DOS if you feel Vista isn't complicated enough.

Your spreadsheet will resemble the illustration. After expanding the columns you will have to scroll horizontally to see all the available information. The amount of information for each driver has greatly increased, but you still don't get the driver version. Tracking driver changes is possible if you run the query periodically and compare the Link Date column for changes. It's clunky and cumbersome, but it does the job.

Another important piece of information that's missing is any data about whether or not the driver is signed. A signed driver is a device driver that includes a digital signature which is an electronic security mark that tells you who published the driver. It also indicates if the original software has been altered in any way. Signed drivers provide assurance that the software actually comes from the manufacturer and hasn't been changed.

This exercise is an excellent illustration of the laws of information availability.

1. The information you have is not the information you want.
2. The information you want is not the information you need.
3. The information you need you can't get.
4. The information you can get is either too expensive or too troublesome to obtain.

Module Name	Display Name	Driver Type	Link Date
ACPI	Microsoft ACPI Driver	Kernel	11/2/2006 1:35:03 AM
adp94xx	adp94xx	Kernel	9/5/2006 12:55:58 PM
adpahci	adpahci	Kernel	9/5/2006 12:51:11 PM
adpu168m	adpu168m	Kernel	10/24/2005 10:00:45 PM
adpu320	adpu320	Kernel	3/13/2006 6:47:51 PM
AFD	Ancillary Function Dr	Kernel	11/2/2006 1:58:41 AM
agp440	Intel AGP Bus Filter	Kernel	11/2/2006 1:35:06 AM
aic78xx	aic78xx	Kernel	4/11/2006 5:20:11 PM
aliide	aliide	Kernel	11/2/2006 1:51:35 AM
amdagp	AMD AGP Bus Filter Dri	Kernel	11/2/2006 1:35:06 AM
amdide	amdide	Kernel	11/2/2006 1:51:35 AM
AndK7	AMD K7 Processor Drive	Kernel	11/2/2006 1:30:18 AM
AndK8	AMD K8 Processor Drive	Kernel	11/2/2006 1:30:18 AM
arc	arc	Kernel	8/21/2006 4:08:39 PM
arcsas	arcsas	Kernel	8/14/2006 3:02:44 PM
AsyncMac	RAS Asynchronous Media	Kernel	11/2/2006 1:58:10 AM
atapi	IDE Channel	Kernel	11/2/2006 1:51:34 AM
BCM43XU	Broadcom Extensible 80	Kernel	10/3/2006 7:38:08 PM

Web issue: social networks and productivity

Act Quickly to Get A Deal on Windows 7

by **Ira Wilsker**, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner,
Beaumont, TX; Radio Show Host, Iwilsker@apcug.net

In case you have not heard, Microsoft is about to release a new operating system intended to replace Vista, and the almost phased out XP. This new operating system is known as Windows 7, and preliminary reviews indicate that it is far superior in most aspects to Vista, and as stable as XP.

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While the new Windows 7 will not be in full release or installed on new computers until this fall, Microsoft is offering a short term deal for those who would like to pre-order Windows 7. Anyone interested in partaking of this deal where Microsoft will sell Windows 7 with deep discounts must act quickly, as the promotion will end on July 11. Microsoft and select retailers are offering the pre-order of Windows 7 Professional for \$99.99, which will have a retail price of \$319.99 when officially released. Windows 7 Home Premium is available on pre-order for \$49.99, and will sell for retail price of \$199.99 when officially released. Locally, the offer should be available at Best Buy, Sam's Club, Walmart, and Office Depot, and online from Amazon and other stores, and directly from Microsoft Stores. The projected delivery date for the pre-ordered copies of Windows 7 is October 22.

For those buying a Vista equipped computer with one of the premium versions of Vista (but not Vista Home Basic) after June 26, but before October 22, Microsoft has announced a free upgrade policy to Windows 7 with some qualifications. The upgrades will be available through the PC manufacturer, and not directly from Microsoft. According to a Microsoft release, "Under the program, designated PCs pre-installed with premium versions of Windows Vista will qualify for licenses of the equivalent Windows 7 product." Users purchasing a new PC with Vista Home Premium will get Windows 7 Home Premium; Vista Business will get Windows 7 Professional; and Vista Ultimate purchasers will get Windows 7 Ultimate. While Microsoft is not charging users for the upgrade, some PC makers may charge a fee to cover the cost of shipping the disc. The free upgrade program will expire on January 31, 2010, and eligible Vista users must exercise their upgrade privilege by that date.




For those not purchasing new Vista equipped computers, but considering upgrading their existing XP or Vista computers, Microsoft has made available a free Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor, a small utility that will scan the installed hardware and software on the computer, and display whether or not your computer can run Windows 7. Microsoft designed Windows 7 to be able to run on almost any computer that can successfully run Vista. Any incompatibilities on the current computer with Windows 7 will be displayed, and any drivers that need to be updated in order to be compatible with Windows 7 will be noted, along with a link or other information on obtaining an updated driver that will work with Windows 7. Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor is available directly from Microsoft at www.microsoft.com/windows-7/upgrade-advisor.aspx.

The system requirements for Windows 7 are about the same as those for Vista, but Windows 7 offers improved performance and stability over Vista on similar machines. According to Microsoft, Windows 7 has minimum system requirements of a 1 gigahertz speed CPU, either 32 or 64 bit; 1 gigabyte RAM on 32-bit systems or 2 GB RAM on 64-bit machines; 16 GB available hard disk space for 32-bit installation or 20 GB hard drive space for 64-bit systems; and a video card (or integral video device) that supports DirectX 9 graphics with WDDM 1.0 or higher driver. Additional system requirements may be necessary in order to utilize some of the enhanced features available.

Windows 7 Professional and higher versions (but not Windows 7 Home) have an interesting feature that will run XP compatible software that would not otherwise run on Vista or 7, by running the software

Which one is right for you?

Compare Starter Home Premium Professional Ultimate

	Home Premium	Professional	Ultimate
What does it take to run Windows 7?			
Features			
See the top features			
Make the things you do every day easier with improved desktop navigation.	✓	✓	✓
Start programs faster and more easily, and quickly find the documents you use most often.	✓	✓	✓
Make your web experience faster, easier and safer than ever with Internet Explorer 8.	✓	✓	✓
Watch, pause, rewind, and record TV on your PC.	✓	✓	✓
Easily create a home network and connect your PCs to a printer with HomeGroup.	✓	✓	✓
Run many Windows XP productivity programs in Windows XP Mode.		✓	✓
Connect to company networks easily and more securely with Domain Join.		✓	✓
Recover your data easily with automatic backup to your home and business network.		✓	✓
Help protect data on your PC and portable storage devices against loss or theft with BitLocker.			✓
Work in the language of your choice and switch between any of 35 languages.			✓

Continued on page 21

on a virtual XP machine. This feature is called Mode Virtualization or Virtual PC/Windows XP Mode (sometimes referred to as XPM), and allows Windows 7 to run XP software on the desktop, making it appear that the software running in XP virtual mode (XPM) is running as a Windows 7 program.

Windows 7 Home Premium is clearly intended for the common home user, and contains features that Microsoft has determined that home users typically want. Home Premium offers improved desktop navigation, faster startup, watch and record TV (on properly equipped computers), and simplified home networking.

Windows 7 Ultimate, not currently offered for pre-order, has all of the features of Home Premium, plus the XP compatibility mode, automated backup, BitLocker encryption, and support for 35 languages.

Windows 7 Professional, available for pre-order, has basically the same features as Ultimate, except for the BitLocker encryption and the multi-lingual support.

If you currently have a Vista computer and are unhappy with Vista, then this limited time pre-order is an excellent deal if you want to try Windows 7. If you have a fairly powerful and modern XP computer, and would like to see if Windows 7 will run well on it, then download and try the Advisor before purchasing Windows 7. In any case, if you are considering purchasing Windows 7, do it before the offer expires on July 11. If you are currently considering purchasing a new computer, confirm from the seller that it will be eligible for the free upgrade to Windows 7.

Windows 7 looks like a much improved operating system over Vista, and may be a worthwhile purchase and installation.

Windows 7 system requirements

If you want to run Windows 7 on your PC, here's what it takes:

- 1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster 32-bit (x86) or [64-bit \(x64\)](#) processor
- 1 gigabyte (GB) RAM (32-bit) or 2 GB RAM (64-bit)
- 16 GB available hard disk space (32-bit) or 20 GB (64-bit)
- DirectX 9 graphics device with WDDM 1.0 or higher driver

Additional requirements to use certain features:

- Internet access (fees may apply)
- Depending on resolution, video playback may require additional memory and advanced graphics hardware
- For some [Windows Media Center](#) functionality a TV tuner and additional hardware may be required
- [Windows Touch](#) and [Tablet PCs](#) require specific hardware
- [HomeGroup](#) requires a network and PCs running Windows 7
- DVD/CD authoring requires a compatible optical drive
- [BitLocker](#) requires Trusted Platform Module (TPM) 1.2
- [BitLocker To Go](#) requires a USB flash drive
- [Windows XP Mode](#) requires an additional 1 GB of RAM, an additional 15 GB of available hard disk space, and a processor capable of hardware virtualization with Intel VT or AMD-V turned on
- Music and sound require audio output

Product functionality and graphics may vary based on your system configuration. Some features may require advanced or additional hardware.

Exploring Microsoft Windows 7 Beta 1

by **Lee Reynolds**, Contributing Editor, Boca Raton Computer Society, Florida, Boca Bits, www.bcrs.org, leetutor@earthlink.net

Lee presents an overview of what the new operating system might look like, as well as what it is likely to have for features.

The Start Menu And Its Properties

As you can see from the screenshots below, the Windows 7 Start Menu is very similar to the Vista Start Menu.



Figure 1 – Vista Start Menu

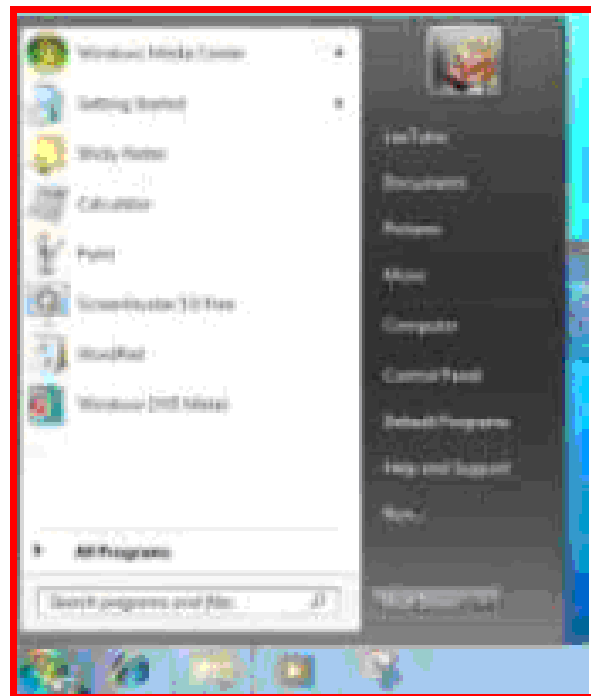


Figure 2 - Win7 Start Menu

One difference is that doing a search in the search dialog box at the bottom will turn the entire Start Menu into a display of the search results.

Figure 3 – Win7 Start Menu Search

In Vista, the search results only occupied the left half of the Start Menu.

DIFFERENCES

If you right click the Start "orb" and select Properties from the Context Menu, then you can see a bit better some of the differences between Windows 7 and Vista.

For example:

- There is no Classic Start Menu option.
- There is no option for using Large Icons.

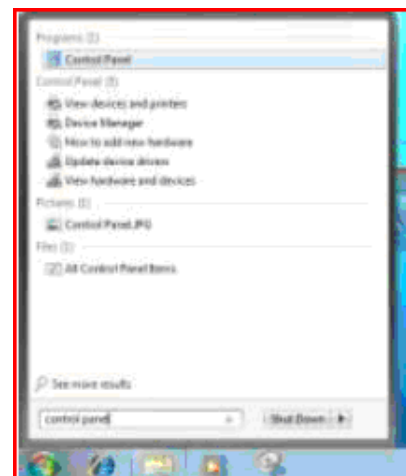


Figure 3 – Win7 Start Menu Search

Continued on page 23

- There are no links for Internet or E-mail.
- The check box for Printers in Vista has changed to one for Devices and Printers in Windows 7.
- There is a check box for Recorded TV.



Figure 5 – Vista Start Menu Properties



Figure 6 – Win7 Start Menu Properties

POWER BUTTON ACTION

And one of the nicest options added to Start Menu Properties is the ability to switch the Start Menu Power button usage among these different options: Switch User, Log off, Lock, Restart, Sleep, Hibernate, and Shut Down.

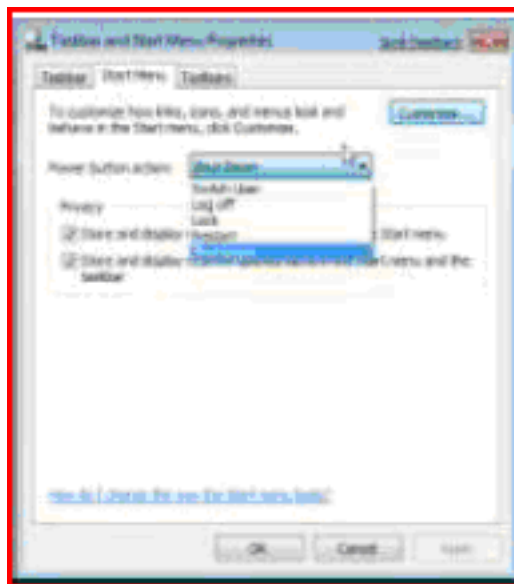


Figure 7 – Win7 Power Button Action

Continued on page 24

Taskbar Properties

- Right clicking the Taskbar, and selecting Properties, takes you to the Taskbar Properties window, as in previous versions of Windows.
- This is similar to Vista's with a few exceptions:
- There is no option for Keep on top of other windows.
- There is no option for Group Similar Taskbar buttons (they are always grouped.)
- There is no option for Show Quick Launch, since the Taskbar has been modified so that pseudo Quick Launch icons can be pinned to the Taskbar.
- There is no option for turning on or off windows pre-views.
- The Notification tab has been replaced by a separate window in Control Panel, and will be covered later.
- On the Toolbars tab, Quick Launch, Windows Media Player, and Documents are missing options.
- A new feature is the ability to select the location on your screen of your Taskbar from the Taskbar Properties page. (Always before, in previous versions of Windows, you had to drag the Taskbar to one of the four edges of the screen.)

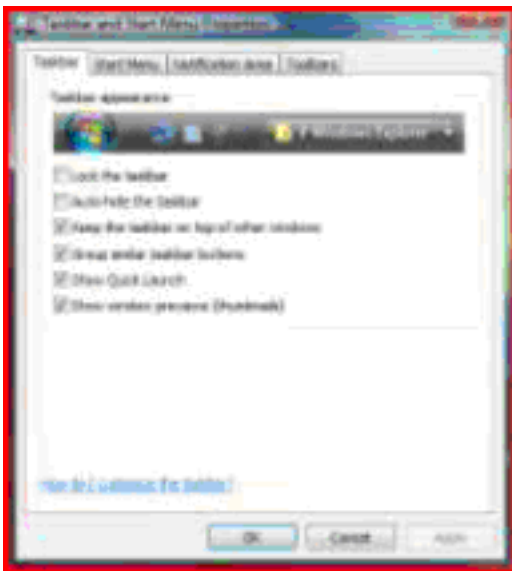


Figure 8 – Vista Taskbar Properties



Figure 9 – Win7 Taskbar Properties

Control Panel

The overall look of Control Panel in Windows 7 hasn't changed that much from Vista if you look at the two screenshots below:

But there are a number of under-the-hood differences. First, there is no "Classic View" link in the left pane of Control, as there was in Windows XP and Vista. Instead, you click on the link for "All Items":

Figure 10 shows the Classic view of Control Panel in Vista:

Figure 11 shows Control Panel (All Items) under Windows 7:

In my Control Panel Classic view in Vista on my desk-top pc, there are 58 different applets. In my Virtual Pc version of Windows 7, there are 57 under All Items.

Continued on page 25

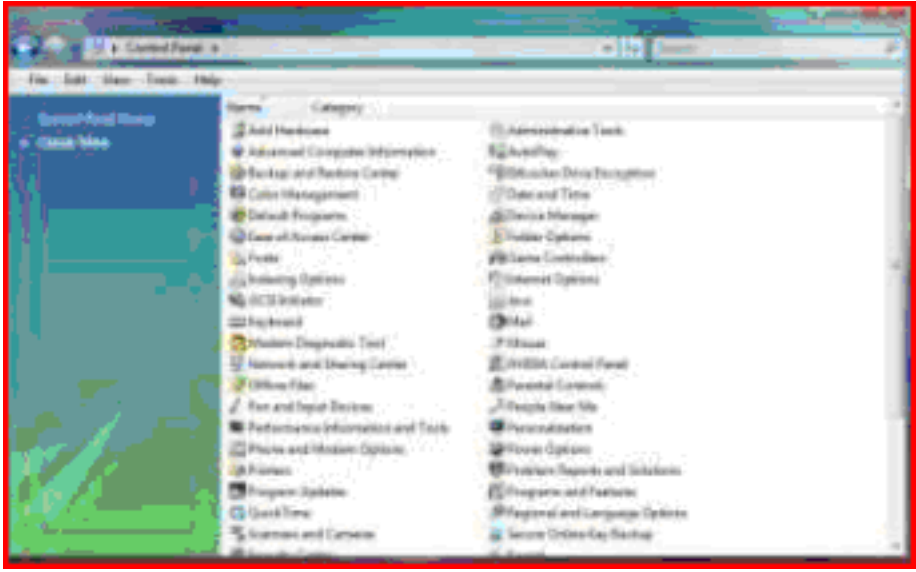


Figure 10 – Vista Control Panel Classic

Now as you compare all the items in Vista and Windows 7, you will see that there are a number of missing applets, a number of new applets, and a number of modified applets.

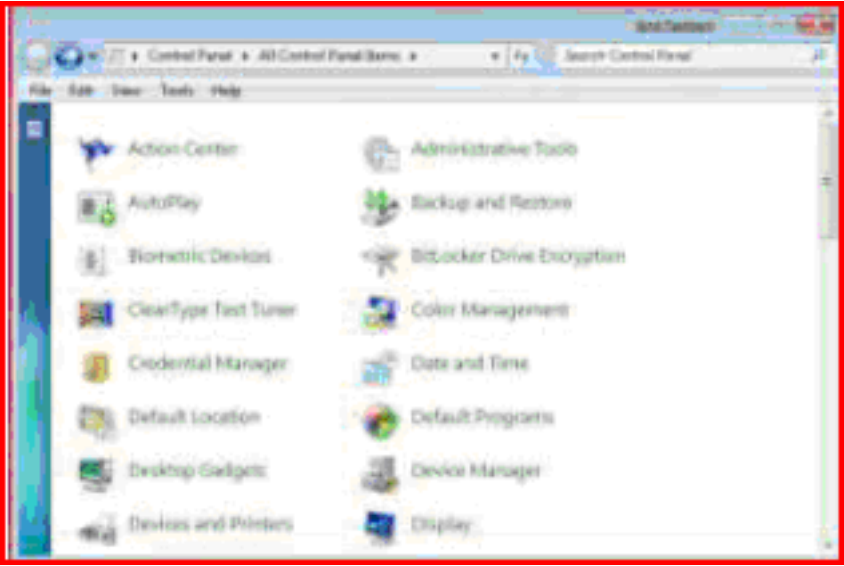


Figure 11 - Win7 Control Panel All Items

MISSING AND REPLACED APPLETS

Some of the missing applets in Windows 7 are: Add Hardware, People Near Me, and Windows Sidebar Properties.

The Welcome Center applet of Vista has been replaced in Windows 7 by one called Getting Started.

Since there are still Gadgets in Windows 7, but no Sidebar to mount them on, the Windows Sidebar Properties applet of Vista has been replaced by Desktop Gadgets.

The Printers applet of Vista has been replaced by one called Devices and Printers. Besides printers, this new applet can also handle devices that are connected externally to the computer, including devices connected wirelessly or over the network, through USB cables, Bluetooth, Wireless USB, Wi-Fi or other wireless connections.

Continued on page 26

System Restore in Vista was one of the tasks in the left pane of the window for the System applet. Under Windows 7, it has its own applet called Recovery.

Windows Security Center is another applet in Vista that has been redistributed differently in Windows 7. Security Center enabled you to handle the Firewall, Automatic Updating, use of an Anti-virus program and the handling of malware by Windows Defender. It also allowed you to turn on User Account Control if it was disabled.

Vista also had an applet called Problem Reports and Solutions which allowed you to research and report problems in your computer. In Windows 7, most of this is handled in the new applet called Action Center.

Vista's feature called User Account Control aggravated a lot of people because it was so continually intrusive on their attempts to do anything with their computers. Many people turned off UAC in Vista, even though this made them much more vulnerable to the introduction of malware on their pcs. Windows 7 has a new version of User Account Control which is much more versatile and less intrusive. You use a slider bar to adjust between 4 different settings. The top setting corresponds to Vista's only setting of UAC "on." The bottom setting corresponds to Vista's setting of UAC "off." In between are two intermediary settings:

- 1) notify me when programs try to make changes to my computer, but don't notify me when I make changes to Windows settings
- 2) notify me only when programs try to make changes to my computer (do not dim my desktop.)

Option 1 above is the default option when Windows 7 is installed.

NEW APPLETS

There are a number of other new applets in Windows 7 with no counterpart in Vista, including:

- ClearType Text Tuner, which helps make the text on the screen easier to read
- Credential Manager, which helps manage user names and passwords and other credentials used to log on to websites, other computers, etc.
- Default Location, which can be used to store your zip code, country/region, and latitude and longitude for use when there is no location sensor such as a GPS receiver attached to the computer Display, which allows a choice between Smaller, Medium, and Larger sizes for text and other items to make the screen easier to read
- HomeGroup, which is the new way of sharing data and other resources in a home network environment
- Notification Area Icons, which allows control of which icons and notification messages appear in the Notification Area of the Taskbar
- RemoteApp and Desktop Connections, which allows you to connect to desktops and programs at your work-place; this takes the place of the Remote Desktop and Remote Assistance capabilities of Windows Vista and XP
- System Icons, which allows control of the following icons and notifications in the Notification Area of the Taskbar: Clock, Volume, Network, Power, and Action Center
- Troubleshooting, which allows access to various troubleshooting wizards on computer problems under the following general categories: Programs, Hardware and Sound, Network and Internet, Appearance and Personalization, System and Security.

Most of the other applets that Vista and Windows 7 have in common have either not changed at all, or have relatively minor differences.

New Aero Effects

AERO SHAKE

Let's open a few windows onto your Desktop to show some of the new Aero capabilities built into Windows 7. We'll put several of them there, all partially on top of one another.

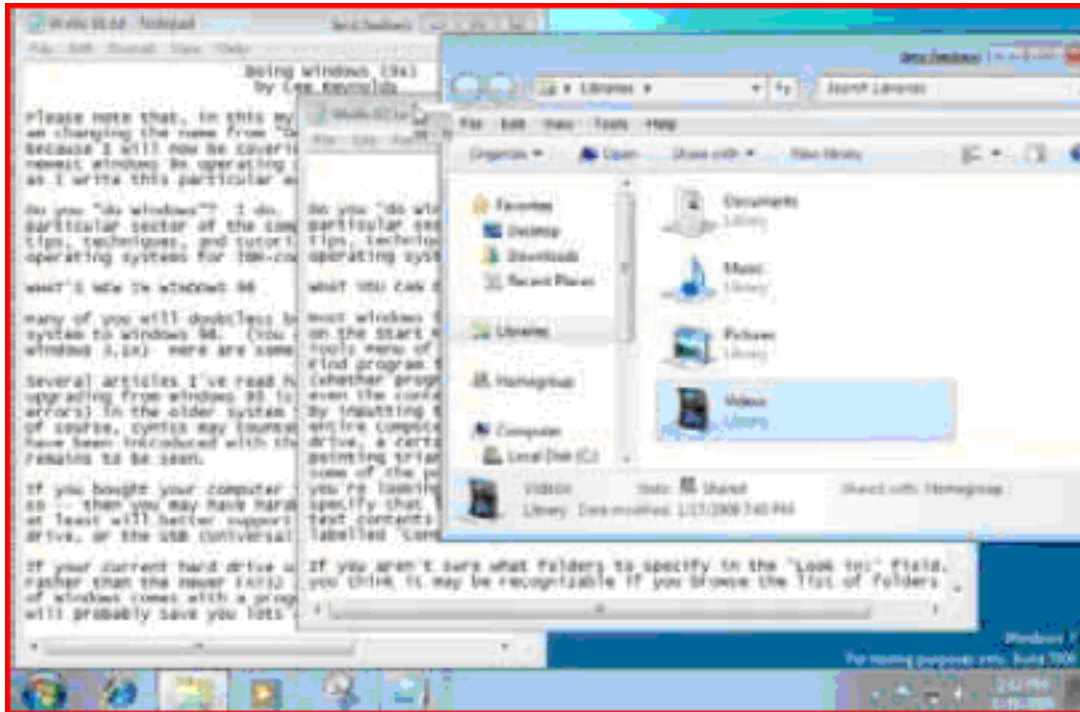


Figure 12 – Three Windows Before Aero Shake

Suppose you wanted to see the window where the mouse cursor is, which is partially obscured by a couple of other windows that are open. If you just click where the mouse is, then that window would come to the forefront, just as in previous versions of Windows.

Suppose as you click with the mouse on that window you shake it back and forth a couple of times, left and right. Magically all the other windows minimize to the Taskbar, and you are left with only the one you wanted to look at.

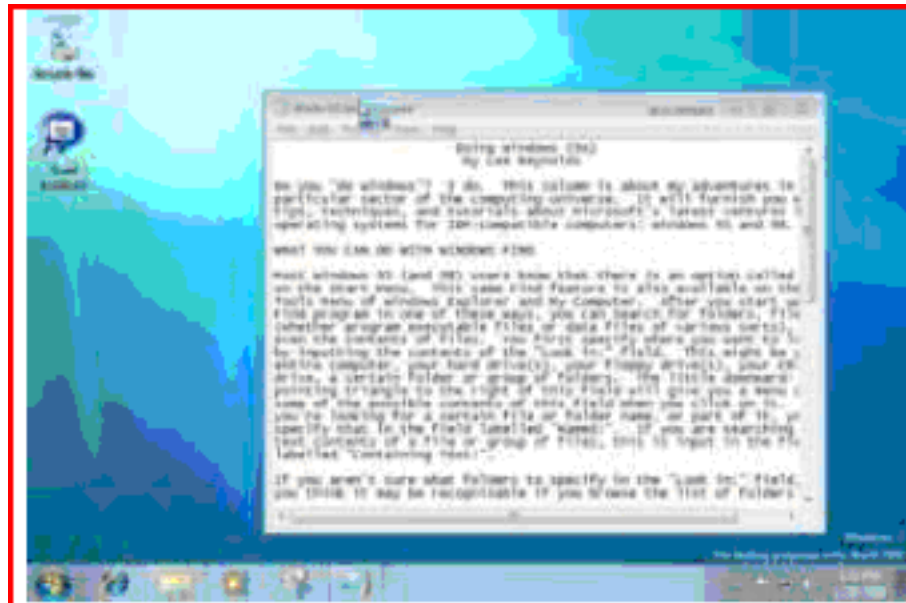


Figure 13 – After Aero Shake

A bit quicker than making numerous clicks to minimize or close all the other windows!

This feature of Windows 7 is called "Aero Shake", but that's only half of it.

If you now shake the one open window left and right a couple of times, all the other windows that were open but partially obscured appear back on the screen.

AERO SNAP

The screenshot (Figure 14) shows two windows open, one partially behind the other. Note that they are two views of similar text documents that have been opened in Windows Notepad.

Take the one on the left, put your mouse near the lefthand side of the Title bar and drag it over to the left until the mouse just barely touches the left edge of your screen. A faint outline of half the Desktop shows up.

If you release the mouse button, then the window that you moved toward the left side of the screen resizes and fills up that half of the screen!

Now take the window on the right, put your mouse near the right-hand side of the Title bar and drag it over to the right until the mouse just barely touches the right edge of your screen. Then the faint outline of the right half of your Desktop shows up, and when you release the mouse button the window will resize itself to the right half of your Desktop. Very easy to see the two windows side by side for comparison purposes, for example.

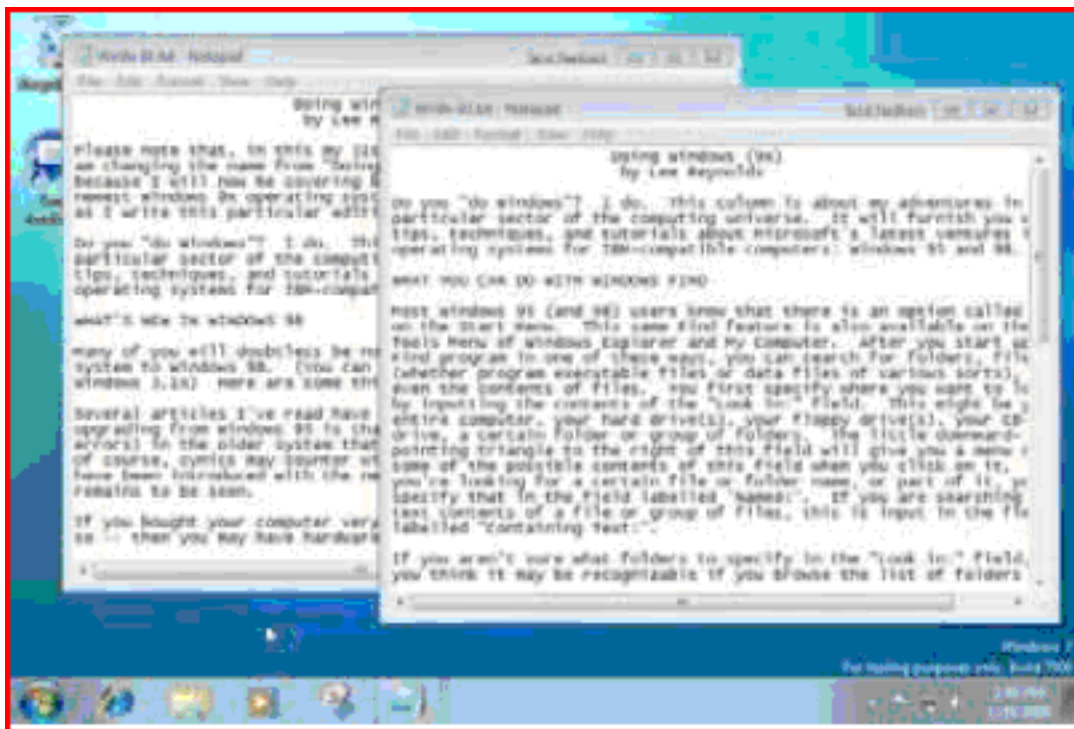


Figure 14 – Two Notepad Windows

But that's not all there is to Aero Snap. Now let's open a single window of our display of a text document through Notepad, and next drag it to the top edge of the screen, until the mouse barely touches it. A faint outline of the entire Desktop shows up, and if we release the mouse button, then magically, the Notepad window maximizes to fill the screen!

(Of course, this works with any window, not just a Notepad window.) Finally, if we drag the maximized window downward away from the top edge, and let it go, it returns to its previous size.

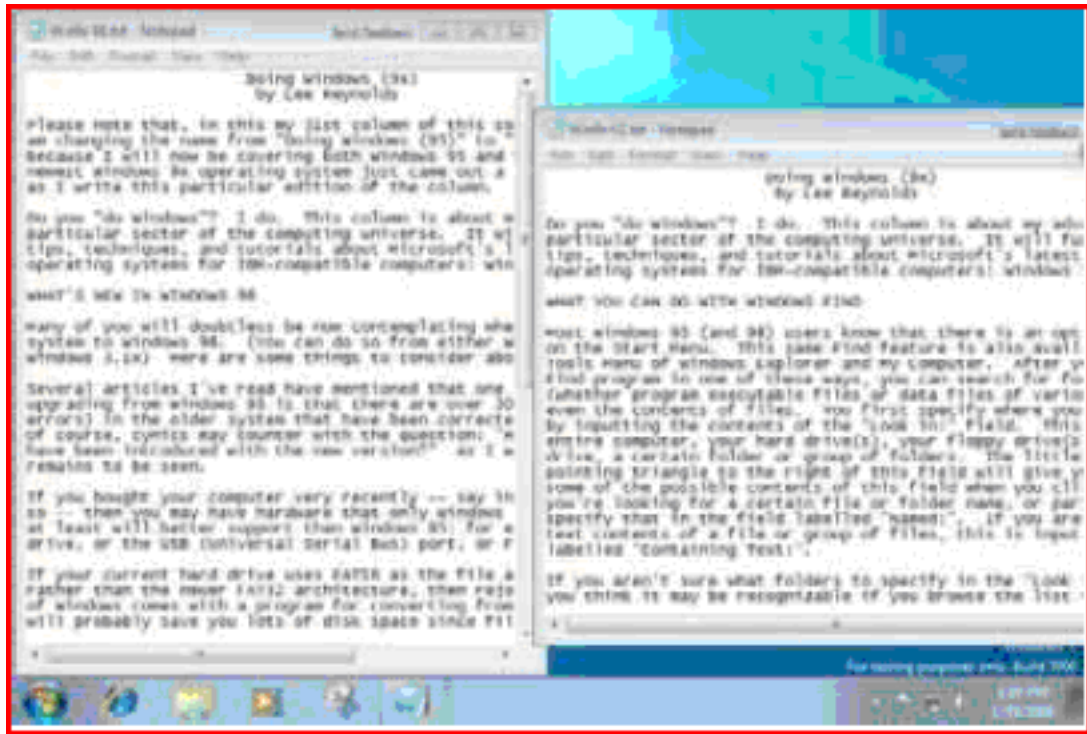


Figure 15 – After Aero Snap

One more thing about the Aero Snap feature: there are shortcut keys for these effects if you would prefer to use the keyboard rather than a mouse:

- Windows key and Up Arrow - same as Maximize window
- Windows key and Down Arrow - same as Restore window
- Windows key and Left Arrow - same as display on left half of desktop
- Windows key and Right Arrow - same as display on right half of desktop.

AERO PEEK

The Aero Peek feature has a number of characteristics. It is particularly useful if you have a number of windows open on your screen. Each of the windows will of course correspond to a Taskbar button.

Some of the Taskbar buttons will appear to be several layers deep (one button behind another, like a row of dominoes), if you have multiple instances of the program open at the same time. If you have several tabs open in Internet Explorer 8, there will be a button for each of the tabs. When this is true, there is a little upward pointing arrow to the right of the taskbar icon which you can use to choose which of the program instances you want to work with.

Hovering over a Taskbar button (one which is not a pseudo Quick Launch button) without clicking it will open up a miniature image preview of that window over the Taskbar.

If you hover over any of those miniature image previews, then all other windows that are open on your screen become transparent and you see only the window whose image preview you are hovering your mouse over.

It is like you can peek through all the other windows to see that one window. (Of course, that is why the feature is called Aero Peek.)

So if you wanted to see what is in a window without transferring control over to it, you can very easily do so. If you actually click on one of those image previews, it becomes the active window.

You can also close a window (or a tab, in the case of an Internet Explorer Taskbar button) by clicking on the small "X" icon in the image preview.

Another part of Aero Peek is the replacement for the "Show Desktop" icon in the Quick Launch bar of previous versions of Windows. This is a small rectangle at the right end of the Taskbar.

If you hover your mouse over this area, you will see a tooltip reading "Show desktop", but also it will show you an image of your Desktop overlaid with rectangular outlines

of any windows you might have open covering parts of the Desktop. So it is as if you are peeking behind all the open windows to see the Desktop.

If you actually click that rectangular area, rather than just hover over it, then it will act like the Show Desktop icon of previous Windows versions: all windows minimize

to the Taskbar and you see your Desktop.

You can also right click the Show Desktop area of the Windows 7 Taskbar and it will give you a context menu from which you can choose one of the options: Preview Desktop, or Show Desktop.

Unfortunately, the Preview Desktop does not work (in fact, it shows as "greyed out" on the context menu) in the Virtual Pc environment. The screenshot in Figure 5 shows this:

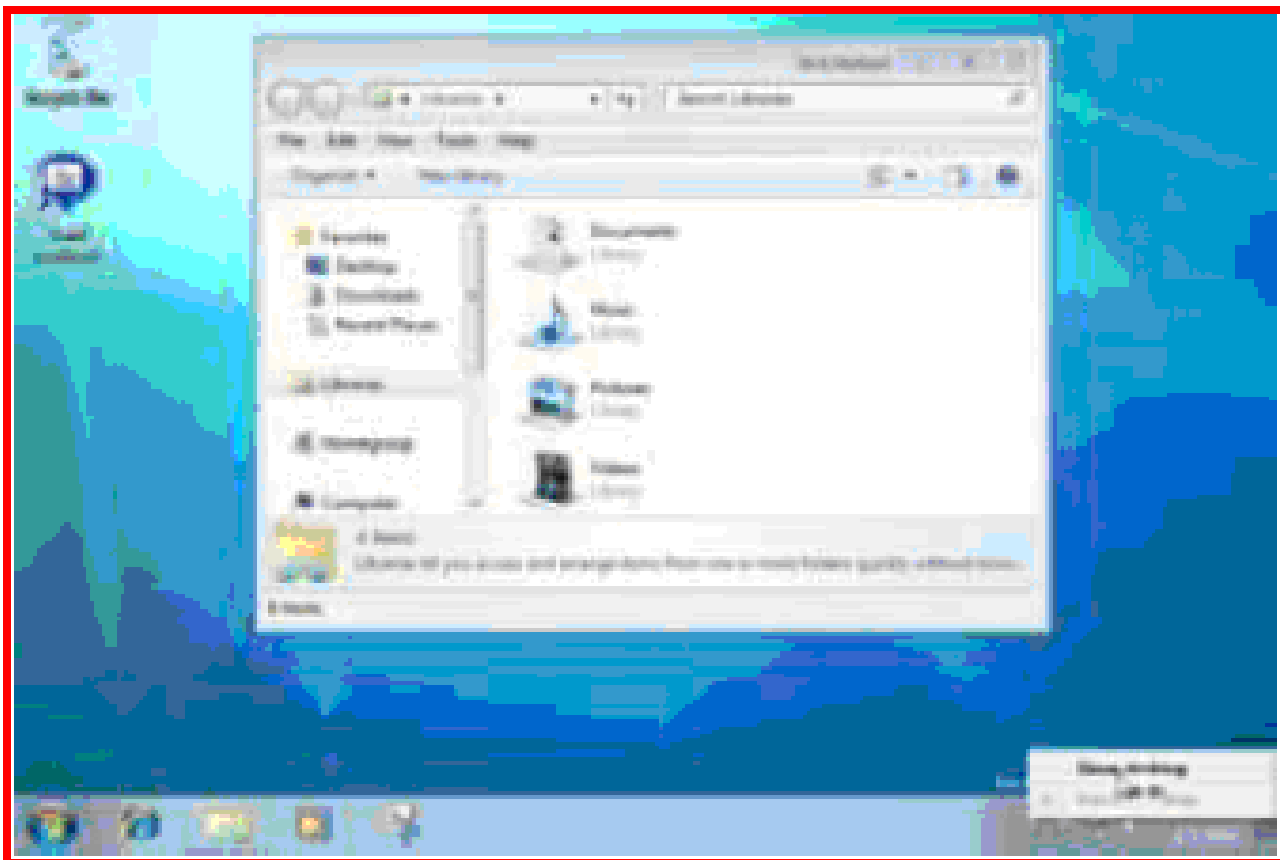


Figure 16 – Show Desktop

Windows 7 XP Mode

by Ash Nallawalla, APCUG Director, Review Editor, Melbourne
PCUG, Australia, www.melbpc.org.au, ash@melbpc.org.au

I will be writing a review of Windows 7 in due course, but here is a preview of a key feature that will interest many readers.

Windows XP Mode

Windows XP Mode is aimed at small business users who wish to run their Windows XP-era applications on their Windows 7 desktop. They might have avoided upgrading to Windows Vista owing to an incompatibility with their old programs or the simple reason of “Windows XP does the job.” However, as they buy new computers later this year or by January 2010, they might find a copy of Windows 7 included with the purchase, or they may have other compelling reasons to upgrade.

An exciting optional feature that was kept under wraps until recently was Windows XP Mode (XPM). This feature will work in certain editions but is an additional download.

Key Facts

- Windows XPM is included with Windows 7 Professional, Windows 7 Ultimate and Windows 7 Enterprise customers.
- Windows XPM combines Windows Virtual PC and a pre-installed virtual Windows XP environment to enable users to run many older applications.
- Windows Virtual PC enables users to launch virtual applications from the Windows 7 Start menu.
- Windows Virtual PC includes support for USB devices and is based on a new code base that includes multi-threading support.
- Windows XPM is pre-configured with the Windows XP firewall and can apply updates automatically from Windows Update. It is not pre-configured with anti-virus or anti-malware software, which need to be sourced separately.

IT Professionals

Windows XPM is not recommended for corporate deployments. Wait for Microsoft Enterprise Desktop Virtualisation (MED-V) Version 2.0, which will be released as a beta 90 days after the general availability (GA) of Windows 7.

- MED-V v1 is currently available for Windows Vista and it enables Virtual PC deployment in larger organisations. It provides centralised management, policy-based provisioning and virtual image delivery.
- MED-V v1 builds on Microsoft Virtual PC 2007 to help enterprises with their upgrade to Windows Vista when applications are not yet compatible.
- MED-V v2 will add support for Windows 7 (both 32 bit and 64bit) and Windows Virtual PC.

Windows XPM is for SMBs

Windows XPM stand-alone is intended for small and medium business (SMB) users who can install their XP applications themselves and who might not have IT Professional staff. Each PC has its own virtual Windows XP environment that is controlled and managed by the user.

Windows XPM is best suited for older business and productivity applications such as accounting, inventory and similar software. These applications tend to conform to the basic Windows Application Programming Interface (API).

Windows XPM not for Consumers

Windows XP Mode does not have 100 percent compatibility with all Windows XP software. It is not aimed at home users because many consumer programs require extensive use of hardware interfaces such as 3-D graphics, audio, and TV tuners that do not work well under virtualisation today.

In Use

Windows XPM is available from the Windows 7 Start menu. It displays a regular Windows XP desktop and you can install your old software from there just as you would on a Windows XP machine. Thereafter, those programs appear just below the Windows XPM menu item.

Requirements

Of course, there's always a catch. Not all CPUs will support Windows XPM. You need hardware-based virtualisation (go and check your CPU specs now). Intel and AMD have CPUs that have this feature but don't assume all recently purchased CPUs support hardware virtualisation. See these sites for more information.

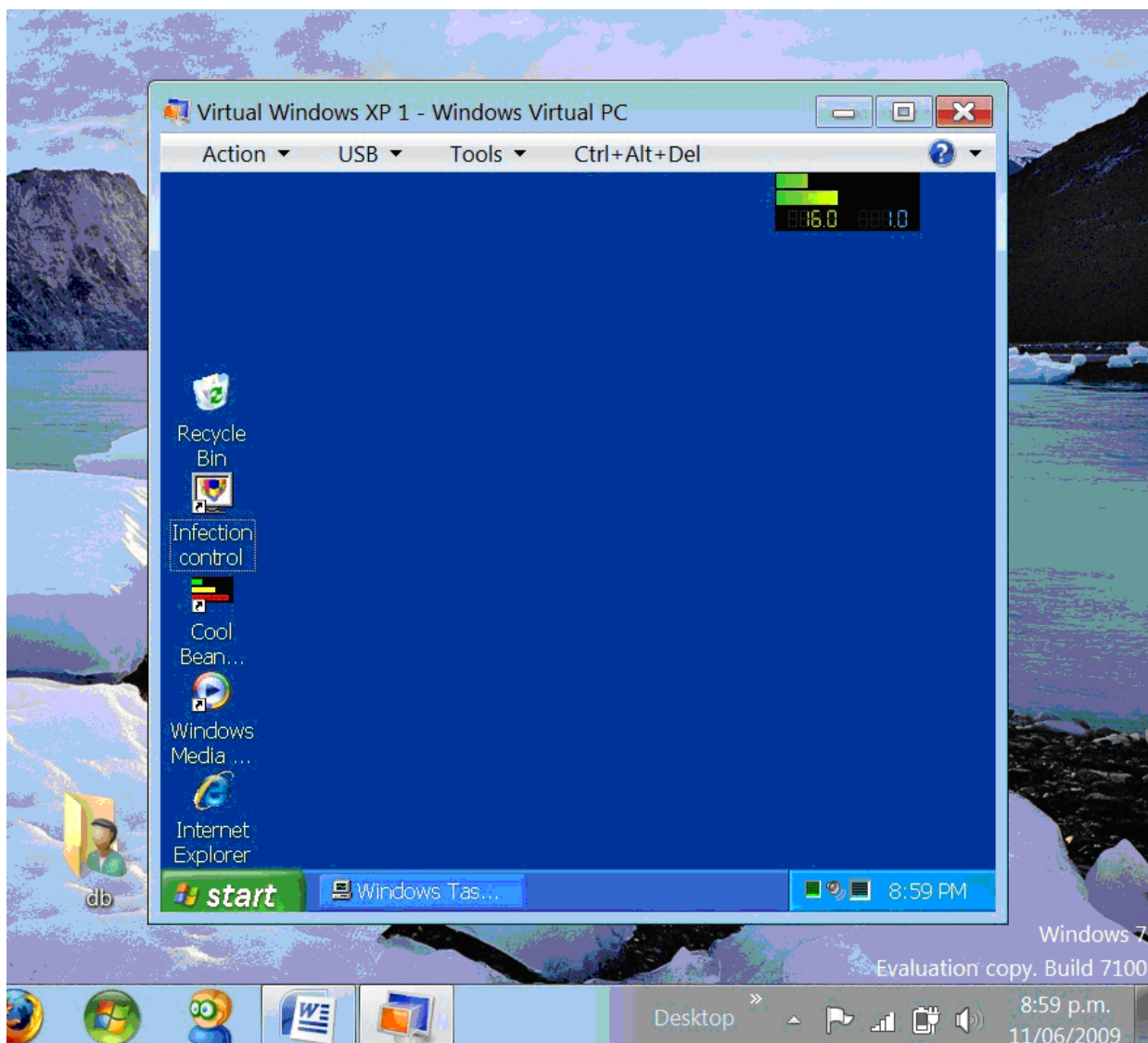
- Intel: <http://www.intel.com/technology/virtualization/>
- AMD: http://www.amd.com/us-en/0,,3715_15781,00.html

My PC is about six months old and has a Core 2 Quad processor - the Q6600 chip. I checked this Intel page to confirm that I'll be able to test this feature when I get my hands on it:

- <http://ark.intel.com/cpu.aspx?groupId=29765>

The next thing to check is for BIOS support on your motherboard. I have an Asus P5K SE/EPU and its user guide mentions Vanderpool support is enabled by default (you can turn it off). Vanderpool was the code name for Intel Virtualisation.

While Windows XPM isn't for everyone, it will certainly address the need of some businesses that need to run legacy applications.



Computer Briefs*With Pim Borman*

How to install updates

If you configured automatic updating to notify you before downloading any updates, an icon is displayed in the notification area each time new updates are found.

- Double-click the icon in the notification area.
- Do either of the following steps:

If you want Windows to download an update, make sure that the check box beside it is selected.

-or-

If you do not want Windows to download an update, click to clear the check box beside it. Your selected updates are downloaded in the background; this behavior allows you to continue working uninterrupted. Downloading does not interfere with or slow down other network activity, such as Internet browsing.

When downloading is finished, the icon is displayed in the notification area to notify you that updates are ready to be installed.

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Enrolled to practice before the Internal Revenue Service

Hardware Review

Wolverine F2D Slide Scanner

Published by Que

A review by Joe Nuvolini, Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, Colorado,
<http://ppcompas.apcug.org>, nuvo@juno.com

Over the years, I have amassed about 3,000 color slides. I have been wanting to scan them into my computer, but up to now, had not seen a scanning product that would allow me to get the job done in a reasonable time. One day I came across the Wolverine F2D 35mm Film to Digital Scanner while surfing the Internet. It looked like the answer I was looking for.

I read a number of reviews and found a wide variety of opinions. People seemed to love it or hate it but the positives were greater than the negatives so I decided to try it. I was not disappointed. The unit is self-contained, though you can connect it to a computer USB port for power.

However, no computer is required to use it. In fact, I am using it on an island in my kitchen. The unit comes with two film holders; one for slides and one for color or black and white negatives. The unit saves the images to an SD card in JPG format. Before saving the images, they can be mirrored or rotated, if necessary.

The package includes the unit, the two film holders, an AC adapter you can plug the USB connector into for power, a brush to clean the internal screen, a 1-GB SD card, and a 19-page manual. The first thing I did was go to the Wolverine Website (<http://wolverinedata.com/f2d>). I downloaded a PDF copy of the manual so these tired old eyes could better read it. I also downloaded the latest firmware update and installed it. I then started my project. I can scan 125 slides in about 30-35 minutes. The more images that need to be rotated before saving, the longer it takes. They advertise 5-MP images and I found the file sizes ran from 900 KB to just over 1 MB.

There are a couple of things to watch out for. The most important is to make sure your slides (up to 4) are properly seated in the tray. If they are not, the tray will bind up in the scanner. I have had a couple of close calls on this one. Also, I have found that for no good reason the image on the screen of the unit will shift to black and white or have some goofy colors. I have found in most cases pressing the mirror button twice will fix the problem. If not, turning the power off and back on will do the trick for sure. There is one other item the manual warns about, and that is not to tip the unit backward to better view an image on the unit's screen.

The reason is that the connector on the USB power cable plugs in near the bottom on the back of the unit. The connection is a small USB connector, like the one on your camera. Repeated tipping can place stress on the connector causing it to fail.

Pricing varies. A Google search for "Wolverine F2D" brought a range of prices from \$119 at the Wolverine site to \$99.99 on the Costco site. I am quite satisfied with the product. If you take care in using it, you will be too.



Book Review

How to Be a Geek Goddess

Published by Addison-Wesley

A review by Sandy Berger, CompuKISS, www.compukiss.com, sandy@compukiss.com

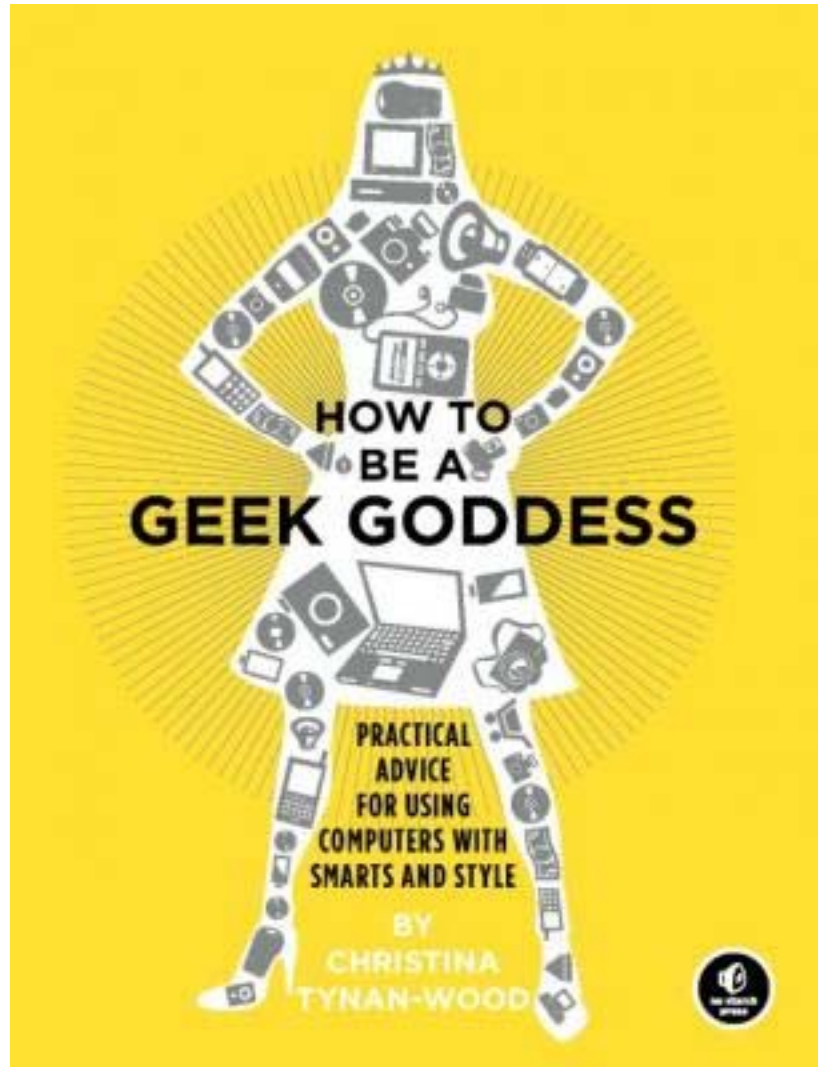
I am an old hat when it comes to technology. I was a computer programmer back in the seventies before computers came into the home, and I've kept my hand in the technology arena all these years with my own computer consulting business and my technical writing career. Yet I've never considered myself a "Geek Goddess". As a matter of fact I have often been a little aggravated to hear Kim Komando refer to herself as "The Digital Goddess" — like she is something really special.

But Christina Tynan-Wood in her book, *How to Be a Geek Goddess*, isn't advocating that a Geek goddess is someone above everyone else. She says that being a Geek Goddess is "a simple matter of embracing the incredible innovation that's going on in our times and harness it for our own purposes".

Oh yes, and Christina understands the differences between how men and women look at, and deal with, technology. She starts the book off with the sentence, "My husband is a pompous ass." Many of us have noticed how men seem to pound their chests and promote themselves as the technology heroes of the day. Women, on the other hand, just want to use and enjoy technology.

Christina's book is filled with good information about technology with everything from how to choose a computer sales person to hooking up with others online. There are tips on everything from controlling your email to trouble-shooting a wireless connection. Chapters include: Getting in Touch with Your Software Side, Where the Stores Never Close, The Wireless Home, Keeping It Safe, Geek Parenting, Groovy Gear and Gadgets, and Your 200 Closest Friends.

The information in this 315 page book is all accurate and informative. Yet, this is not a reference book. It is rather like a free-flowing novel with technical information. If you want a book where you can look up how to do things, you will have to look elsewhere. This is a book for women who want to absorb some pointers here and there while reading about all the things you can do with your computer. If you are already very familiar with computers, you can skip this book. But again, if you want to immerse yourself in technology and pick up some knowledge and useful tidbits on the way, you will love this book. And you may even become a Geek Goddess yourself!



Book Review

iBrain: Surviving the Technological Alteration of the Modern Mind

Published by

A review by Bayle Emlein, Secretary, PC Community, California, PCC
News, www.pcc.org, pcc@ix.netcom.com

In iBrain, Dr. Small addresses the differences between the mental processes of “digital natives” and “digital immigrants.” Digital natives are those born after about 1980, who have never known a world without computers, Internet, video games. Those born before electronic saturation have, with varying amounts of skill and willingness, learned to use these electronic extensions of the human mind. But no matter how proficient we become, we always operate as outsiders, immigrants with the slightest trace of accent, not quite able to function with the unconscious abandon of a native speaker in the digital culture.

Gary Small is the Director of the Memory & Aging Research Center at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior and the Center on Aging at UCLA. In previous books he popularized some of the new information on brain development, plasticity, and neurological changes.

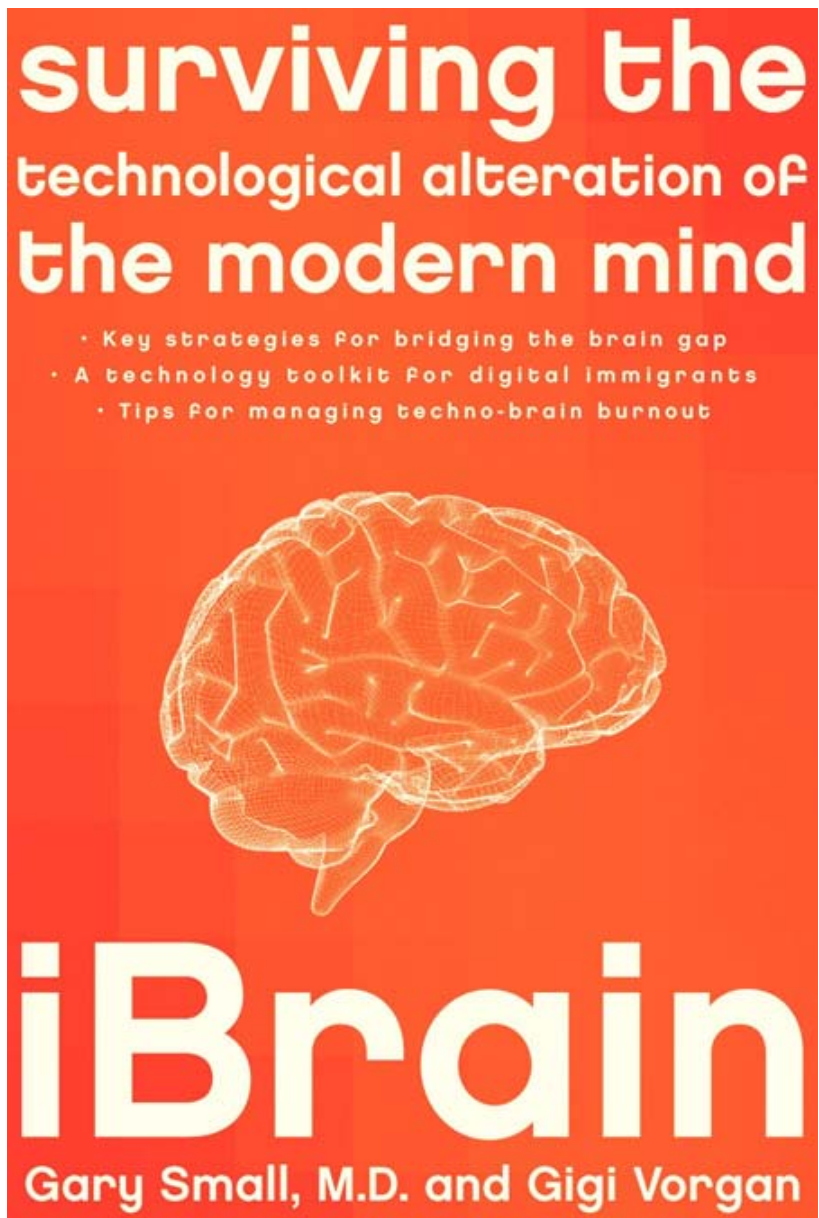
This is a book, actual paper with static black ink. the book itself does not have a Web site, though Dr. Small has one that focuses heavily on the book -- <http://www.drgarysmall.com>. I went there and was immediately blasted with a feature clip from a Los Angeles area TV show's brief review of the book and the topic of brain plasticity.

The book has many short case studies/vignettes that make a point or describe how it looks in real life. While these are all probably valid for the group they describe, it's missing large segments of the population.

It seems to me that Dr. Small is stuck in a restricted point of view that every kid in the industrialized world has the same kinds of experiences that his UCLA environment provides his family. Where are the single mothers holding down two minimum-wage jobs, the foster kids pushed out on their 18th birthday?

I wonder what kind of differences Dr. Small would find in looking at the brains, and minds, of the digital native generation who struggle with basic literacy or with the English language. He frequently mentions that digital natives ‘multitask and parallel process with ease,’ though other sources find that multitasking sets the mind up for errors and may not be as productive as linear focus sequential tasks. Since he doesn't give his sources for these tidbits, it's hard to check his accuracy against other studies.

Frequent anecdotes put the brain science into everyday life and illustrate how we'd see the neurochemistry in the everyday world. There are several self-analysis surveys. They are de-



Continued on page 38

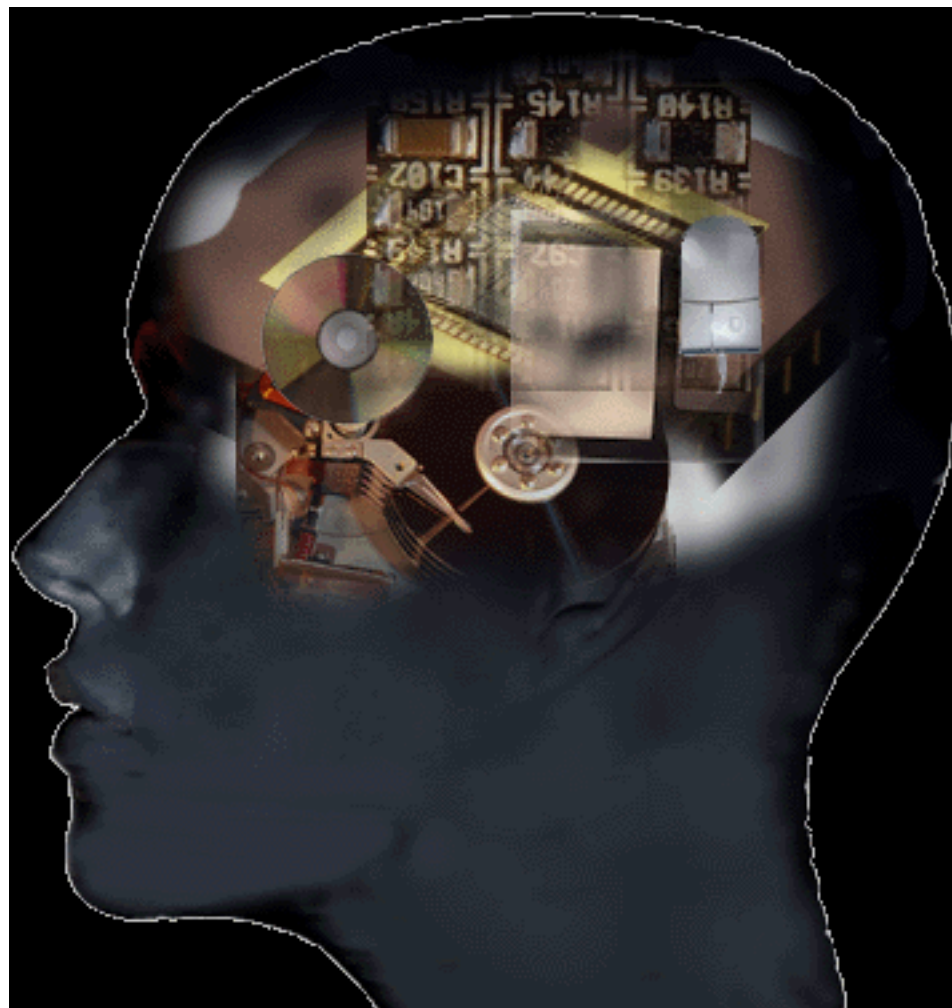
signed to help the reader figure out from her/his own behavior what might be going on inside his brain. The questions are worded in such a way that they add to understanding of the topic.

There are points for both groups to consider. Digital natives, often fail to develop social and interpersonal skills. Digital immigrants plod through information, missing connections. Immigrants generally know they are in foreign territory: digital natives might be surprised to consider that their citizenship in the post-information age is not necessarily an all-encompassing advantage.


This might be a book you'd like to show to your acquaintances (including family members) who have a different orientation than you do.

I've heard that when writing was introduced to many oral cultures, it was lamented as the end of memory, since people no longer need to memorize in order to preserve history and culture. Whether writing is ultimately a blessing or a curse, it appears here for the foreseeable future.

The same can be said for always-on electronic communication. It's silly to lament a simpler past. It's equally silly not to use the tools now available to understand the implications of changes taking place and make the most of developments. iBrain helps folks from each side understand their own point of view better and gain some perspective on the other. Definitely worth reading while waiting for the next discovery in brain science.



November 2009

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1	2	3 Board of Directors Crossroads Mall @ the Food Court 6:30 - 8:30 PM. (Members are welcome to attend)	4	5 High Growth Stock Investing (adv) 6:30 - 8:30 PM.	6 Small Business Server 8 - 10 A.M. *PRR*	7 MCSE Study Group (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon *PRR*
8	9 General Meeting @ 7 - 9 PM. Presenter:	10	11	12	13	14 MCSE Study Group (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon *PRR*
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 MCSE Study Group (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon *PRR*
22	23	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving Closed for the day 	27	28 MCSE Study Group (Adv) 8:30 A.M. - Noon *PRR*
29	30					
<i>Alamo PC Organization</i>						

PRR = Pre-Registration Required

The Learning Center

Alamo PC Organization classes and study groups

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 ★ - ★★★

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: ★

MCSE Advanced Study Group

The MCSE Advanced Study Group is designed for those who already have their MCSE certification.

Since space is limited and the subject matter is advanced, membership is restricted. Please contact Larry Lentz before attempting to attend.

Tuition fee: Cost of any books and registered tests.

When: Every Saturday morning from 8:30 am to 12 pm

Where: Communities in School, 1616 E. Commerce

Study Group Leader: Larry Lentz, (210) 826-8188

Small Business Server Study Group (SBS)

This is a forum for discussion and presentation of topics related to Microsoft's Small Business Server. The target audience includes, computer consultants, small business owners, and network administrators. The meetings begin with a "Taco Social" from 8 to 8:30 am followed by our presentation. Please contact Larry Lentz before attempting to attend.

When: First Friday of the month from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Where: Flexware, 10444 Gulfdale (about block off Isom)

Contact: Larry Lentz for information and registration. Phone (210) 826-8188. Visit the group web site at <http://www.LentzComputer.net/SBS>.

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.

Classified Ads

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

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 -\$25

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

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

Credit Card # _____ EXP DATE: ____/____/____ SIGNATURE: _____

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

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

PCA JAN05

Alamo PC Organization, Inc.

Renew Now!

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

For more information call the Learning Center at
210.736.0700



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

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

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

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

