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July 2011

Is There a Tablet PC in Your Future? by Sandy Berger, Compu-KISS

Apple's iPad tablets are flying off the shelves and many competitors are introducing similar tablets. Here's a brief synopsis of the tablet situation and what it means to you.

In just nine months in 2010, Apple sold more than 15 million iPads. In the first month of sales, the iPad 2 sold millions more. According to some industry experts the iPad is the fastest growing new product in history. Perhaps, though, the most important thing about the iPad is that it has ushered in a new era in computing. Steve Jobs calls it the Post PC age. Although I agree that this is a new era in computing, there is nothing Post PC about it. The iPods, iPhones, and iPads that Mr. Jobs is talking about, all run on computer processor chips. They all perform functions that are similar to those performed by computers. No, this is not the Post PC era. Rather, it is the era of ubiquitous computing. If you look up the word "ubiquitous," you will find that it means omnipresent, pervasive, permeating, universal, and ever-present. This is what mobile devices like the iPhone and especially the iPad bring to us.

iPad 2

I expect that tablet PCs like the iPad will continue to grow in popularity. Although as of this moment, no other manufacturer has yet been able to equal the design, implementation, and price point that Apple has set, the march of the tablets has only just begun. There is plenty of competition in the making. Apple boasted 9.5 billion in revenue from the iPad in the last nine months of 2010, so everyone else is hurrying to get their version of the tablet PC to market.



Motorola recently released the Xoom, an Android tablet that is a competitive but pricey alternative to the iPad. Research In Motion, the creators of the BlackBerry, released their tablet called the Playbook in April. This will, of course, be based on their own BlackBerry operating system. Asus, Dell and LG Electronics will be introducing new tablets based on the Android operating system in the next few months.



Samsung has announced that they will revamp their Android Galaxy Tab tablet and introduce two updated versions soon. HP is scheduled to roll out its first tablet based on the webOS operating system sometime in June. So within the next few months, we will have at least eight tablets from major manufacturers running four different operating systems.

If you are wondering why you should care about this, here's the scoop. Tablets are an entirely new category of computers. In most cases, they will not replace personal computers, but will augment them. There will still be computers running infrastructure, businesses, and hospitals, but both professionals and home users will find tablets extremely useful for their day-to-day living.

Since tablets have touch screens. You don't need a keyboard, mouse, or stylus. This makes them extremely portable. Also most tablets have very long battery lives, so you aren't tethered to the wall by a cable. Because tablets use apps rather than traditional software programs, they are much easier to use and more stress-free than computers.

App stores like Apple's iTunes store and Android's Marketplace have hundreds of thousands of apps available, so a tablet PC can be quickly and easily personalized to perform only the functions that the user needs or wants. This gives users a more intimate relationship with their devices.

In fact, this relationship is not only revolutionary, it is often somewhat magical. I recently watched my three-year-old granddaughter play with a Disney fairy app on an iPad. She gently moved the iPad to and fro to make Tinkerbell and her friends fly over the breathtaking scenery sprinkling fairy dust over the land. She was thoroughly enchanted. I also watched a 70-year-old man who was equally mesmerized by the interactive audio and video of a magazine site that he was viewing on his iPad. These devices are engaging for everyone. People from three to 103 can use and enjoy them.

Tablets are so empowering that I predict that they will become indispensable to everyday living. *Who wants to walk into another room to get over to the computer when they need a recipe or want to look up a word.* It is much easier to just grab a tablet PC off the coffee table. You can use it to watch television when you are on the go, to check the weather in the morning, or to read a book or listen to music as you endure the wait in the doctor's office.

Teachers are using tablets with great success because they are enthralling to children. Doctors are using them as a point-of-care device that can not only document the patient's progress, but can also help doctors explain procedures to patients. Artists are using them to create new masterpieces.

More and more applications are being found for tablets every day. With the new tablets that will be appearing in the next few months, this will be a very interesting category of devices to watch. Keep your eyes open, there may be a tablet PC in your future. II

youSENDit A Program to Send Large Files

by Corinne Goeke, Computer Club of Green Valley, Arizona

Have you ever had a large file you wanted to send someone? For example, you are a proud new grandparent and want to share the digital video of the baby with all your family and friends. You could try attaching the file to an email and send it that way. But most email programs have a limit on how many megabytes of files you can send in a single email message (typically ten megabytes).

This is where the website, youSENDit comes in handy. You can upload the large file to their website, and they will send an email to the lucky recipient(s) with a download link. The recipient downloads the file, and you receive accolades of how the new grandchild looks just like you. Here's how to navigate the program the first time.

Open your favorite web browser and go to <http://www.yousendit.com>. Go to "Compare Plans" and select the "Lite" account. This type of account is free. It limits you to uploading one file at a time, and the file size is limited to 100 megabytes. Hey, it's a free account, you have to accept some limitations. Sign on up.

You will have to confirm your new account via a confirmation email sent to the email address you used. Click on the link in the email, and your new account will be verified.

Once your free account has been created, locate that large file you want to send someone. If you have multiple files to send, zip them into a single big zip file. Go to the "Overview" tab in the youSENDit browser window. Click on the green "Send It Now" button.



Type in the email address of the person to whom you wish to send the large file. Fill in the subject and include a message telling the recipient what you are sending them.

Now click on the "Select File" button, and pick the file you want to upload. It's your choice. I just click on "No thanks." You can also click on "Don't show this message again."

At this point you have three choices. You can 1) Set an expiration date for the file (one week is the default); 2) Set the file to be downloaded a certain number of times, or 3) Never have the file expire and always be available to download. Pick your option and click on the green "Send it" button at the bottom.

Again, you get another pop-up window—hey, they need to make a living! You are being asked if you want your files tracked (free 14-day trial). Just click on "No Thanks" and "Don't Show This Message Again."

Now, your file will be uploaded. When uploading is finished, the recipient will get an email telling him or her there is a file waiting. The recipient can click on the link in the email and download the file.

Finally, you get a "File Sent Successfully" message. You can also share the download link on Facebook or on Twitter by clicking on the appropriate button. Then all the world could see that beautiful grandchild!

A few caveats—never click on an unknown link in an email. You may want to warn your recipients that you are sending them a large file via youSENDit. Also, sharing copyrighted music and movies is illegal. But I am sure you all knew that! II

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Do you have an article you would like to see published? Just email your article with any photos to Judy Taylour.



Home Computer Security

by Wil Wakely, President, Seniors Computer Group, California



For this article I will be quoting extensively from work that was produced by Carnegie Mellon University for **Federal Computer Incident Reporting Center (FedCIRC)** and the General Services Administration, because they say it much better than I can.

Your home computer is a popular target for intruders. Why? Because intruders want what you have stored there. They look for credit card numbers, bank account information, and anything else they can find. By stealing that information, intruders can use your money to buy themselves goods and services. But it's not just money-related information they're after. Intruders also want your computer's resources, meaning your hard disk space, your fast processor, and your Internet connection. These are called TROJANS and WORMS. They use these resources to attack other computers on the Internet. In fact, the more computers an intruder uses, the harder it is for law enforcement to figure out where the attack is really coming from.

How do intruders break into your computer?



In some cases, they send you email with a virus. In other cases, they take advantage of a flaw or weakness in one of your computer's programs – a vulnerability – to gain access.

Once they're on your computer, they often install new programs that let them continue to use your computer – even after you plug the holes they used to get onto your computer in the first place. These 'backdoors' are usually cleverly disguised so that they blend in with the other programs running on your computer. Following are things you should do to protect your computer:

Task 1 - Install an Anti-Virus Program

These programs look at the contents of each file, searching for specific patterns that match a profile – called a virus signature – of a program known to be harmful.

For each file that matches a signature, the anti-virus program typically provides several options on how to respond, such as removing the offending patterns or destroying the file.

Viruses can reach your computer in many ways, through floppy disks (flash drive), CD-ROMs, DVDs, email, web sites, and downloaded files. There are many thousands of new viruses created

each day! Never go on the Internet without active anti-virus protection.

Task 2 - Keep Your System Patched

Patches, or small modifications of programs are often supplied by the software vendors. These close security 'holes' in the programs that would allow illegal entry into your computer. Microsoft and Adobe offer frequent patches which should be installed when provided.

Task 3 - Use Care When Reading Email with Attachments

Do not open attachments that you are not sure about. Do not respond to emails by clicking on a LINK, which is a blue underlined word or phrase. Identify and remove SPAM (unwanted emails). Many programs are available to accomplish this. Be aware of PHISHING whereby an email tricks you into providing confidential information by impersonating a valid website. These become more sophisticated each day.

Task 4 - Install and Use a Firewall Program

On a computer, the firewall acts much like a guard when it looks at network traffic destined for or received from another computer. The firewall determines if that traffic should continue on to its destination or be stopped. The firewall 'guard' is important because it also keeps the unwanted out and permits only appropriate traffic to enter and leave the computer.

Task 5 - Use Strong Passwords

Passwords should contain both letters, numbers and/or symbols and should be at least 5 characters long. Use an encrypted password keeper program so you don't forget them.

There are programs which will automatically insert your user name and password when requested.

Task 6 - Install and Use a Hardware Firewall

Complement your firewall program by installing a hardware firewall. Together, these two firewalls stand between your home computer and the Internet. A ROUTER acts as a hardware firewall.

Task 7 - Install and Use a File Encryption Program

Consider encrypting sensitive files such as your financial data and passwords. Many encryption programs are available and some are free.

In summary, take computer security seriously – many thousand skilled programmers are out there constantly seeking out your computer vulnerabilities. Don't be a victim. II

Check your password—is it strong?

<https://www.microsoft.com/security/pc-security/password-checker.aspx>



Cyber Security Tip ST08-001 – Using Caution with USB Drives

Author: Mindi McDowell

Note: This tip was previously published and is being re-distributed to increase awareness.

USB drives are popular for storing and transporting data, but some of the characteristics that make them convenient also introduce security risks. What security risks are associated with USB drives?

Because USB drives, sometimes known as thumb drives, are small, readily available, inexpensive, and extremely portable, they are popular for storing and transporting files from one computer to another. However, these same characteristics make them appealing to attackers.



One option is for attackers to use your USB drive to infect other computers. An attacker might infect a computer with malicious code, or malware, that can detect when a USB drive is plugged into a computer. The malware then downloads malicious code onto the drive. When the USB drive is plugged into another computer, the malware infects that computer.

Some attackers have also targeted electronic devices directly, infecting items such as electronic picture frames and USB drives during production. When users buy the infected products and plug them into their computers, malware is installed on their computers.

Attackers may also use their USB drives to steal information directly from a computer. If an attacker can physically access a computer, he or she can download sensitive information directly onto a USB drive. Even computers that have been turned off may be vulnerable, because a computer's memory is still active for several minutes without power. If an attacker can plug a USB drive into the computer during that time, he or she can quickly reboot the system from the USB drive and copy the computer's memory, including passwords, encryption keys, and other sensitive data, onto the

drive. Victims may not even realize that their computers were attacked.

The most obvious security risk for USB drives, though, is that they are easily lost or stolen (see Protecting Portable Devices: Physical Security for more information). If the data was not backed up, the loss of a USB drive can mean hours of lost work and the potential that the information cannot be replicated. And if the information on the drive is not encrypted, anyone who has the USB drive can access all of the data on it.

How can you protect your data?

Here are steps you can take to protect the data on your USB drive and on any computer that you might plug the drive into:

- * **Take advantage of security features – Use passwords and encryption** on your USB drive to protect your data, and make sure that you have the information backed up in case your drive is lost (see Protecting Portable Devices: Data Security for more information).
- * **Keep personal and business USB drives separate** – Do not use personal USB drives on computers owned by your organization, and do not plug USB drives containing corporate information into your personal computer.
- * **Use and maintain security software**, and keep all software up to date - Use a firewall, anti-virus software, and anti-spyware software to make your computer less vulnerable to attacks, and make sure to keep the virus definitions current (see Understanding Firewalls, Understanding Anti-Virus Software, and Recognizing and Avoiding Spyware for more information). Also, keep the software on your computer up to date by applying any necessary patches (see Understanding Patches for more information).
- * **Do not plug an unknown USB drive into your computer** – If you find a USB drive, give it to the appropriate authorities (a location's security personnel, your organization's IT department, etc.). Do not plug it into your computer to view the contents or to try to identify the owner.
- * **Disable Autorun** – The Autorun feature causes removable media such as CDs, DVDs, and USB drives to open automatically when they are inserted into a drive. By disabling Autorun, you can prevent malicious code on an infected USB drive from opening automatically. In How to disable the Autorun functionality in Windows, Microsoft has provided a wizard to disable Autorun. In the "More Information" section, look for the Microsoft Fix it icon under the heading "How to disable or enable all Autorun features in Windows 7 and other operating systems." II



Corel Videostudio Pro X4

A software review by Sharon Rump, Member, Sarasota PCUG, Sarasota, Florida

Having a new video camera is really exciting. Having new software to work with the video files is also exciting as well as frustrating. So much to learn! I know what the program is capable of doing because I have read all of the information on the internet prior to the release of **VideoStudio Pro X4** and was excited to start the process of loading and learning.

When I opened the box I was pleasantly surprised to see a User Guide. There are so few programs that come with only online manuals. I really like when I have a manual that I can page through as I go and use as a ready reference. Although the Guide is small, it



is packed full of content which starts with explaining the complete interface of the program and pointing out where everything is and what it does. Then it moves on to actually creating your first video and how easy it can be.

One of the neat things that are a feature of this program is the Instant Templates section that has some video templates you can import into the timeline and then substitute your own content and it is already to view with the preset features including transitions, audio and editable text. When you do make your own video from scratch and use all of the different transitions and other effects available, you can also save that work as a template that you can later import and have all the work that you did on your project available to just add new content and save a lot of the work that you did on the original effort.

There is a Corel Guide button on the top right that opens a window with lots of helpful information. There are tutorials available that show how to use the various tools available under a “Learn” tab. The “Do More” section allows you to download new styles, fonts, music and templates. Some of the content that is available is a free download and some are offerings by other companies that work well with **Corel VideoStudio Pro**. You can also check for updates in this area to make sure that you always have the most current version of the program.

The interface of the program is completely customizable and you can resize the various areas of the workspace to suit your needs. The preview window is on the upper left as in other programs that I have used. Next to that is an area that lists folders that you have created with the video and picture information so that you can keep everything organized. The files aren’t actually moved to these folders, just information as to the path to the actual content. I find this

so much better than having everything all bunched together from various projects that you have worked on.

There are many new features in this version of **Corel VideoStudio Pro** including “stop motion animation”, “time lapse photography”, *the ability to create high definition projects and even 3D movies* which you can view with the included glasses that come in the box of the version that I have. I have not had an opportunity to try that out yet but think it sounds like a lot of fun.

After you have your project completed using all of the help and guides available, you are ready to share it with others. There are lots of ways to create your project including CD, DVD and Blu-Ray. You can also create a file that can be uploaded to sites such as YouTube, Facebook or Flickr. There are a lot of menu templates that

will make moving through your show easy and fun. I felt that the the rendering time was much faster than other programs that I have used and soon I was able to burn my finished project and share with others.

Corel is one of the few large companies that continue to support user groups like ours.



I was fortunate to see a presentation of the previous version of this software at the FACUG conference earlier this year and the presenter did such a good job it made us want to run out immediately and get a copy. Corel provides a large variety of software at very reasonable prices. The street price for this software is \$99 and well worth the price. I know it will be my choice for creating lots of fun and interesting videos to share with family and friends. II

Animation Shop 3
Corel DESIGNER Technical Suite X5
Corel Digital Studio 2010
Corel DVD MovieFactory 7
Corel Home Suite
Corel Office
Corel PDF Fusion
CorelCAD
CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X5
CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X5 Limited Edition
CorelDRAW Premium Suite X5
Grafigo 2
iGrafx Family
iKnockOut 2
KPT Collection

Paint it!
Painter 12
Painter Essentials 4
Painter Sketch Pad
PaintShop Photo Express
PaintShop Photo Pro X3
Perfect Authority
Photo & Video Pro X3 Bundle
Ventura 10
VideoStudio Express
VideoStudio Pro X4
Wilcom DecoStudio e1.5
WinDVD 2010
WinZip 15

Microsoft Software Updates

by Dick Maybach, Brookdale Computer Users Group, New Jersey

If you use MS Windows, it's important that you keep all your Microsoft software up-to-date. Most PCs use MS software, and this makes them the most attractive targets for attack. Don't think that installing an anti-virus program and a firewall provides sufficient safety. Some attackers exploit flaws in your operating system or its applications, and the only defense is to correct the flaws. You must rely on your software vendors to do this, and the most important of these is Microsoft.

The two most common programs to keep MS software updated are Windows Update and the newer Microsoft Update.



I prefer the latter, since it maintains all Microsoft software, not just Windows. (If your PC has just Windows Update, read carefully when you run it and you will find a link to install the newer utility.) With both Microsoft Update and Windows Update it is important to use the correct update strategy.

You can find what your PC is using by going to the Control Panel, then to Security (the exact title varies with the particular version of Windows), and finally to Updates (again the exact title varies). You will see several options, among them are (1) install automatically at a fixed time every day, (2) download automatically, but not install, and (3) neither download nor install, but just notify you that updates are available. The problem with (1) is the fixed time. If you choose something like 2 a.m., it is unlikely that your PC will be on, and updates will never be installed. If you choose a time when

you usually are using your PC, the update process will slow it down, perhaps for an extended time. Option (2) is less intrusive, but you must remember to install the downloaded updates. I prefer (3), because I can see what the updates are before they happen and can choose a time to do them. If you also take this approach, don't put off the



Your computer is set to receive security & critical updates automatically.

Pick a time to install updates.

updates, because your PC is vulnerable until they are complete.

Be careful not to turn off your PC during the update process. Windows is supposed to survive this, but a friend had to reinstall Windows from scratch, because she became impatient. This is easy to do; a recent update for XP required two hours to complete. I am even reluctant to do any other computing while a patch is in progress. This is probably being over-cautious, but the consequences of a problem here are ugly. This hazard is also a good reason to do your updates manually; that way you know when they take place. If

they happen automatically, you may not realize they are in progress. Finally, if you patch manually, you can make a system backup prior to each one, which lets you recover with minimum fuss if disaster strikes.

Microsoft usually releases security patches on the second Tuesday of each month, with the result that this is called 'Patch Tuesday.'

Some people immediately analyze the patches so they can develop malware to exploit the flaws they correct on PCs that haven't yet been patched. Their goal is to release this malware within a day, so "Exploit Wednesday" follows Patch Tuesday. This makes it important that you apply patches as soon as possible. Sometimes the bad guys find a flaw before Microsoft releases a patch. If they develop a program to exploit it, it's called a "Zero day exploit," and you have to rely on your anti-malware software, your firewall, and luck for defense.

While most operating systems are updated by replacing entire modules, Microsoft appears to attach patches to the existing modules. When the module is executed, your PC jumps to the patch and then back to the module. As a result, as these patches accumulate, you slowly lose disk space and your computer becomes slower. I still use XP, which now has about ten years of patches, and it's slowed to a stately tectonic speed. I've also had to remove a substantial amount of software to free disk space. (What was a huge disk ten years ago is quite cramped today.) For this reason, when you review the available downloads from Microsoft, or course install the essential patches, but be reluctant to download any new software unless you are really sure you will use it.

After hearing about the potential problems associated with updates, you might prefer to avoid them, but this would be a big mistake. So long as you are careful, the risks are minimal. II



Windows® Internet
Explorer 9

Microsoft
Office
2010



Microsoft™
Security Essentials

Discovering Windows 7 — Part 16

by Neil Stahfest, Vice President, Tacoma Area PC User Group, Washington

One of the features of Windows 7 lets you pin program icons onto the taskbar at the bottom of the screen. This allows you to easily start your favorite program without opening the Start Menu or hunting around your desktop for the icon. It also lets you start and run programs with a single mouse click.

You can attach programs to the taskbar by first opening the Start Menu and locating the program you want. Then, place your mouse pointer on the program name and press the right mouse button. In the window that opens, locate “Pin to taskbar” and left-click. That’s all there is to it!

You can remove icons from the task bar just as easily. Just move your mouse pointer over the icon to be removed. Right-click and select “Unpin this program from taskbar”.

Some people like to pin start icons for all the programs they routinely use to the Windows Taskbar. Windows will push the icons closer together when it needs more room but eventually it may be impossible to see them in the space available.



So is what can you do if this happens? I would probably figure I had too many icons and start deleting some. However, Windows 7 provides another solution.

Move your mouse pointer on the taskbar to a place on the taskbar where it doesn’t touch any icons. This may be hard to find but try someplace near the Windows Start button. Now, right-click to reveal the window shown on the right. You’ll probably see a check mark next to “Lock the taskbar”. This locks the size (height) of the taskbar. Click to remove the check mark. Now move your mouse pointer to where the taskbar touches the main window. The pointer should change into a vertical double arrow. Hold down the left mouse button and drag the top of the taskbar up. This will give you a wider taskbar and should reveal any hidden icons. At this point you can relock the taskbar if you choose.



Of course my advice, just as with desktop icons, is to minimize. Only put icons for programs you use all the time on your taskbar and icons for programs you use most of the time on your Windows desktop. If you need a program that’s not on your taskbar or desktop, you can always locate it in your Start menu. You can always add a program’s icon to your desktop or taskbar by finding it in the Start menu, right-clicking on the name and then selecting “Pin to Taskbar” or “Pin to Start Menu.”

Database Redux

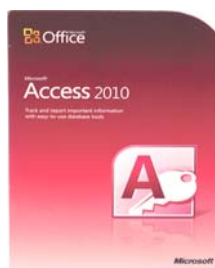
by Wil Wakely, President, Seniors Computer Group, California

About this time last year the Prez article discussed the basics of databases. (See Prez Article Bits & Bytes, March 2010). This subject needs to be addressed again because it is such a powerful computer tool and has become very pervasive in today’s culture. The computing power and storage capability of modern computers has so improved that huge databases are being generated and utilized as never before.

So here’s a quick recap of what a database is: A single subject such as an address book is broken down into the individual parts (called ‘fields’) that need to be tracked, such as last name, first name, street address, city, state, zip, phone, etc. For each contact (person, business, etc.) a record is stored with specific information in each field. Now the beauty and power of a database is that each of these fields can be searched and sorted in many different ways. For example, if you want a list of all contacts (records) with last name ‘Smith’ who live in zip code ‘92101’ and are between the ages of 45 and 55, and have email addresses with AOL, then a single simple search retrieves them in seconds. Excel or Word documents cannot do anything this complicated.

This is how Google can return umpteen thousand hits in milliseconds for some obscure search you have made. Their database is huge and is constantly updated as new sites come on line or old ones are updated. A ‘web crawler’ program constantly seeks out new Internet information which is immediately added to the giant database. New databases on a plethora of subjects are being created every day which add to the universal information pool, both public and private. Printed encyclopedias are practically obsolete with on-line databases instantly available to all who have access to the Internet. Is the Britannica still published? Recently, I updated some databases that I maintain: Computer CDs, Video tapes and DVDs, Music (LPs, CDs, cassettes, (no longer 8-track)), Xmas lists, Publication subscriptions, Contact lists for various organizations and Collections (art, jewelry, etc.). Pictures can also be stored with each record along with the data. We seniors recall that in the olden days obsessive types spent hours keeping such lists by hand in notebooks, and if they were very large, searching and sorting was a real headache.

There are many database programs available in all price ranges from free on up, depending upon their power. Microsoft provides Access database program in the Office Pro suite. AskSam is a low cost database program that is simple to use and readily available. A Google search will return a list of many database programs. Search for Database Reviews to determine the best one for you. Happy computing! II



Changing Settings in Your Browser

by Gini Pedersen, Instructor, FREE Internet and Computer Classes, Continuing Education; Honorary Lifetime Member, Seniors Computer Group, San Diego, California

Every software application comes with preset options that work most of the time for most folks. However, occasionally you will want to change these default settings.

Following are approximate steps for changing settings in most versions of Internet Explorer and Firefox:

Internet Explorer



1. Click TOOLS (or VIEW) - INTERNET OPTIONS
2. Make desired changes
3. Click Apply (if available) and click OK when done



Firefox

1. Click TOOLS - OPTIONS
2. Make desired changes
3. Click OK when done

Adjusting Starting Page in your Browser: Every browser is preset to open a specific starting webpage when you open the browser. If you'd prefer to have your browser open to a specific starting webpage, you can make this change within the settings of your browser. The following steps should work exactly (or similarly) for many versions of Internet Explorer and Firefox:

Internet Explorer

1. Click TOOLS (or VIEW) - INTERNET OPTIONS
2. Click General tab
3. Highlight Web address listed in Home Page Address box
4. Type in new Web address, including the http:// portion
5. Click Apply (if available); click OK when done

Firefox

1. Click TOOLS - OPTIONS
2. Make desired changes
3. Click General
4. Click OK when done

Changing the Size of your Browser's Display Font : If you're having trouble reading the text displayed on webpages, you might find it helpful to change the default font display. When you do, the new setting may remain active each time you open your browser.

To do this, go to <http://www.iteachyou.com> and do the following:

Internet Explorer

1. Click VIEW-TEXT SIZE
2. Make your choice

Firefox

1. Click VIEW-TEXT SIZE
2. Make your choice

Note that changing text size may not work on some Webpages. II

Windows 7 Jump Lists

by Vinny La Bash, Regular Contributing Columnist, Sarasota PCUG, Inc., Florida

There are those who say that Jump Lists are new to Windows 7, and there are those who say Jump Lists are nothing more than hyped-up extensions of the My Recent Documents menu which began in Windows 95. There is truth in both viewpoints.

Previous to Windows 7, the My Recent Documents menu listed the newest file version of its application. If a Word document was created at 7:00 am followed by a Spreadsheet edited at 8:00 am, followed by a drawing revised in Paint shortly thereafter, all three would be listed in reverse chronological order on the same list.

In Windows 7, each of those files would be on a separate list, each list comprised of files created by its own specific application. If you right-click on the Word icon for example, you see a list of the most recent Word documents that were created or edited by Word. A right-click on the Excel icon would reveal a list of the most recent Excel spreadsheets. The same holds for Paint, Adobe Photoshop, or PowerPoint.

Windows XP had the right idea, but the concept wasn't taken far enough. If an application that runs on Windows 7 is capable of generating files it will have its own Jump List. If you use one application heavily, it's very handy for that application to possess its own jump list. The Excel Jump List does not contain files generated by other applications, it shoes only Excel spreadsheets.

Jump Lists act like application specific Start menus. You can find them on the application icons that appear on the Taskbar after the application is open. They also reside in the Start menu in the recently opened programs area. The Jump Lists on the Start menu appear a bit different than those on the Taskbar, but they function in exactly the same way. If you "pin" an application icon to the Start menu or the Taskbar you will get a Jump List by right-clicking on the icon.

Jump Lists have several defaults, the application's shortcut icon is displayed, you can close one or all windows that happen to be open, you can pin or unpin, see a list of up to ten recent files, and specific tasks associated with the application. If you bring up the Jump List for Internet Explorer 8, there is an item that let's you do InPrivate Browsing.

Right-click on any of the files listed in the Jump List. You can remove the file from the list, pin it permanently to the list, save it in another location, rename it, copy it, print it or even send it to another location.

An application's Jump List can be found in more than one location. If you open a Jump List from the Start menu and then open the same application's Jump List from the Taskbar or any other location, you will see exactly the same list of items. That's the kind of consistency that makes sense.

Different Jump Lists from the same application will show you the same thing, but a Jump List from Internet Explorer 8 will show something different than a Jump List from Media Player. IE 8 doesn't show recently played songs, and Media Player won't show you recently visited web sites. Continued >>



Word 2007 —

A few useful tips

by Lynn Page, Editor, Crystal River Users Group, Florida

The Ribbon: With Office 2007 Microsoft introduced a totally new interface that has carried forward into Office 2010. The new Ribbon interface provides access to program features organized into logical groups on tabs relating to a type of activity. Some tabs appear only when needed like the Picture Tools tab, shown when a picture is selected. When a tab is selected the Ribbon becomes a graphical presentation of the program commands in that group. So commands are readily available and noticeable making it easy to see things you may not have known existed or were too much trouble to find.

Office Button: One problem with the Ribbon interface was finding the old File drop down menu commands. The Office Button replaced the File drop down menu and Options dialog box. Clicking the Office button at the top left of the application window opens a drop down menu. From the menu you can create a new document, open an existing document and save or print the current document. It also provides a list of recently accessed documents. The Word Options dialog box is also accessed from the menu.

Quick Preview: A really great feature is quick preview. It lets you see formatting changes before applying them. With the movement of the mouse over the proposed formatting, you see how the document looks with that formatting.

Mini Toolbar: When working within a Tab, the Commands available on others are not visible. However some formatting commands are so important they are available all the time through the Mini toolbar. With text selected point at the selection and the Mini toolbar appears near the selected text in a faded fashion. Pointing to the Mini toolbar makes it become solid. Click a formatting option on the toolbar to apply the format.

Quick Access Toolbar : The Mini toolbar is great for formatting options, but doesn't offer other commands. For these the Quick Access Toolbar is a solution makes frequently used commands available for easy access, regardless of which tab of the Ribbon is active. It is the row of buttons next to the Microsoft Office Button above the Ribbon. By default, the Quick Access Toolbar contains buttons for Save, Undo, and Repeat (Redo). In addition, the toolbar can be customized to contain personal favorites.

Click the down arrow beside the toolbar to open the Customize Quick Access Toolbar drop down menu. In the drop down menu, click a command to select it for inclusion in the toolbar. For more versatility, add commands directly from the Ribbon. Find the command on the Ribbon, right click it and click Add to Quick Access Toolbar.

— A Few Useful Commands —

Paste Special: The Paste Special command controls the format of pasted text. This is good when copying text or a graphic from another document or a web page to paste into a Word

document. The Paste Special dialog box gives options for the format of text or graphic being pasted. The "Unformatted text" option cleans up pasted text. It pastes bare, unformatted text only. All other formatting information is stripped out, including bold, underlining, italics, indents, bullets etc.

Character Spacing: Character spacing found on the font dialog box is useful in final editing to eliminate orphans and widows.

Change Case: Change Case is accessed from the Home Tab in the Font Group. It is not in the Font dialog box. Select the text and Click the Change Case icon in the Font group on the Home tab. Select Sentence case, lowercase, UPPERCASE, Capitalize Each Word and tOOGLE cASE in the drop down menu.

Text Wrapping Break: Text Wrapping breaks along with text wrapping control how text is placed with respect to graphics. Add a Text Wrapping Break to start the next line of text below the graphic.

Any type of break is added from the Page Layout tab. In the Page Setup group click Breaks. From the drop down menu select the appropriate break. Page, Column and Text Wrapping breaks are in the Page Breaks section. The different types of Section breaks are available in the Section Breaks section. They include next Page, Continuous, Even Page and Odd Page. II

Jump List continued from Page 8. What you see on the list depends on the program.

Let's look at some odds and ends about Jump Lists that may prove useful. By default, the Internet Explorer icon in IE 8 is pinned to the Taskbar. When you wish to pin another application to either the Taskbar or the Start menu right-click on the application's icon, no matter where it is located, and pin it to either or both locations. You can unpin just as easily so don't worry about doing something you can't undo.

You can take an item from a Jump List and drag and drop to a new location such as the Desktop or a folder. Drag and drop to an email message and Windows will automatically attach it for sending. If you unpin an item from a Jump List don't be perplexed if it reappears on the list the next time you open it. You can't pin folders to the Taskbar because they are considered Windows Explorer items, but you can pin Windows Explorer to the Taskbar and folders will appear as items in the Jump List. It can be useful to clear a Jump List for security or personal reasons. You don't have to unpin each item individually.

To clear a Jump List:

1. Open **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Appearance and Personalization**.
3. Click **Taskbar and Start Menu**.
4. Click the **Start Menu** tab in the dialog box.
5. Clear the checkmark in the **Store and display recently opened items in the Start Menu and Taskbar** check box.
6. Click **Apply**.
7. Recheck the box you cleared in step 5, unless you want the Jump List always empty.

Note: If you wish to change the number of items in your Jump Lists click the **Customize** button and follow instructions.

8. Close any open dialog boxes.

Some programs display useful tasks in their Jump Lists. Tasks on a Jump List can't be added to or removed. II

Good Fences Make Good Desktops (Apologies to Robert Frost)



by Joe Asling, Columnist, Monterey Bay Users Group
-PC, California

I like a neat desktop. In XP, I would right-click on the desktop to get a context menu, then click New/Folder and name it "Internet" or "Utilities" or whatever. I would open it and fill it with shortcuts to all the applicable programs. This way, any program (or other file) I needed was two double-clicks away. But in Windows 7, when you create a new folder, it is a nasty double-columned Windows Explorer folder, and if you accidentally click in the left column, you lose all your nice shortcuts (you can get them back with the left arrow in the upper corner, but...). So I needed another way to organize icons.

Now, the Start Menu in W7 is an improvement. You can right-click on any program icon and select "pin to Start Menu" or "pin to toolbar."

The programs you use all the time (Internet browser, mail client) can sit on the toolbar and be up in one click, and programs you use frequently are a click of the Start button (the circle with the windows flag in the lower left-hand corner) away. You can customize how the Start menu and the toolbar look by right clicking on the toolbar or Start button and clicking on "Properties."



The best thing about the W7 Start Menu is that each program you have used has a little right-pointing arrow at the right side; hover the mouse arrow over it and you will see, and can open, the files you have recently opened with that program—admirable!

OK, now to the fences. There are files I don't use all the time (backup program, scanner software, manuals for hardware I haven't played with a lot yet) but don't want to go digging for in Windows Explorer. Stardock makes a free program called "Fences" <http://www.stardock.com/products/fences/>.

Essentially, it creates shaded areas on the desktop into which you can drag shortcuts, just like with XP's folders. When you first install it, there are some wizards you can use to configure your fenced areas, or you can just go freeform. You can name them, resize them, and move them. You cannot minimize them as you could folders in XP, but—almost as good—just double-click on the desktop, and voilà, they disappear. Double-click again and, voilà, they come back. (Curiously, other desktop icons, such as the Recycle Bin, disappear also, but you can right-click on the icon and select "Exclude this Item from Fences' quick-hide.")

You can do a lot of other stuff, like resize icons, from the context menu when you right-click on the desktop. So, happy fencing in Windows 7! II

Outlook Express to Outlook Tip

by Gordon Giles, a member of the Perth PC Users Group Inc.
Western Australia

Just a small, tip for those people having problems migrating from Outlook Express to Outlook:

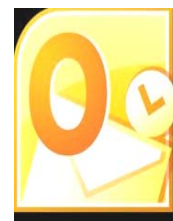
1. Open Outlook express on the desktop
2. Drag the left edge to the right about 1/2 of the screen.
3. Right click on the clear area on the screen and create a new Folder. Call it "My mail files".
4. In the "My mail files" folder, create a matching folder name for the each one in OE Look at all the folder names in OE.
5. When you have completed this go back to OE and start at the top of the folders list and open the first one, click on just one email.
6. Hold down the "CTRL" key and press the letter "A" on the keyboard. This will highlight all the emails in this folder.
7. Using the left mouse button drag the blue highlighted files all together and place your mouse pointer over the corresponding folder on the left and let go.
8. After a few seconds open the new file and all the emails from the OE folder will be in the new folder
9. Do this for all your OE folders including your address box. Save it to a thumb drive and when ready to run Outlook do the same in reverse if you have personal folders in OE you will need to make the new folder in Outlook. You can only drag and drop the emails themselves you can't copy and paste.



I have never managed to master Import and Export from Outlook Express to Outlook but have used this method so later I can open the file and know I have an exact copy of all my emails. It will work when going from Outlook Express to Outlook and the other way. II

Guess the name of this New Microsoft Software?

- A. Only Starlight
- B. Office 365
- C. Office Outlook
- D. One Note
- E. None of the above



Tips & Tricks Tutorial

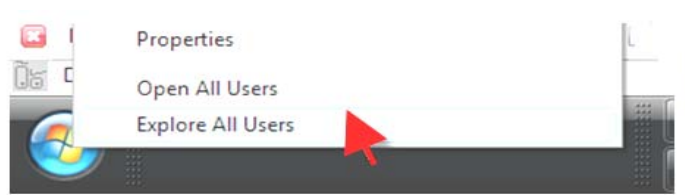
Better File Information with Windows Explorer

Sort your files more intelligently with a few simple clicks.

by Les Townsing, a member of the Melbourne PCUG, Australia

There is often a lot of information automatically recorded when you save a file. This information can be easily displayed and can prove to be useful when sorting/categorizing files.

Normally, when you open Windows Explorer (right-click on the Start button and select 'Explore') you get displays indicating the file name, size, date modified, and other general information (see below).



If, however, we right-click anywhere on the Column Heading bar we get a lot of additional columns we can add. Depending on the type of files you can select some meaningful columns. If we are looking at picture files (jpg) some appropriate columns may be Date Taken, Dimensions or file size.

If you right-click on a file and select properties, you get to view all the possible information as well as the ability to edit some of the fields.

You can now sort your files by any of the columns (just left click on the column heading).

If we right-click on a file, we can select Rename and change the name to a more meaningful title rather than a bunch of numbers. These features may be more meaningful if we use music files as an example.

Unfortunately, some of the "Ripper" programs (programs that copy CDs and often convert the files to MP3s) get it wrong or leave a lot of stuff out, which can be quite annoying, particularly if it is the artist's name or the title of the song.

When selecting a CD Ripper program this is one item worth checking.

Extra Tip: If you select a file (click on it) then hold down the shift key whilst clicking on another file then the system will select all the files in between and including the first and last file you clicked on. Now, if you right-click on any one of the selected files and choose properties, you can edit a field for all the selected files. This is no good for titles as every file must have a different name. However, it is good when you want to edit the album title or artist for a number of tracks.

Extra Extra Tip: Often the files you want to select are not consecutive in a list. No problem, hold down the control key then click on the files you want. As you click on the files they become marked as selected. You can then right-click on any selected file to edit the properties of all the selected files. II

This and That or Things That May Interest You

by Lynn Page, Editor, Crystal River Users Group, Florida

Excel : Copy with No Formatting

To copy the contents of a cell and not the underlying formula on the Home tab, in the Clipboard group, click Copy. Move to the cell to paste into and on the Home tab, in the Clipboard group, click Paste, and then click Paste Values.

Move or Copy a Formula

Cell references are important and it is important to be aware of what can happen to these references, whether absolute or relative, when moving a formula by cutting and pasting it, or by copying and pasting the formula into a new location.

When moving a formula, the cell references within the formula do not change regardless of the type of cell reference used.

When copying a formula, the cell references may change based on the type of cell reference used. Verify that the cell references in the formula produced the desired result. If not, switch the type of reference.

Windows 7: Run Multiple Copies of Applications from the Taskbar

Many times I like to have two Word documents open side by side. To open multiple copies of an application so that different files are shown in separate windows, shift click the icon on the Task Bar to open an additional application window.

Pin a Folder to the Windows Explorer Jump List

To have a folder quickly available in Windows Explorer pin it to the Explorer Jump List. Find and select the folder, then drag and drop it to the Windows Explorer icon on the Task bar. To quickly open the folder right click the Windows Explorer icon and select the folder from the jump list.

USB Security and Protection

USB flash drives are wonderful for transporting files between computers. Just remember that if one computer is infected with a virus or malware can come along on the flash drive. So for security before transferring files scan the flash drive with up to date virus and antimalware before copying files. II

MOST POPULAR DOWNLOADS		cnet
1. AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition 2011	Downloads 1,032,861	
2. RealPlayer	907,608	
3. YouTube Downloader	855,418	
4. FreeZ Online TV	499,357	
5. WinRAR (32-bit)	407,683	
6. TeamViewer	388,663	
7. Malwarebytes Anti-Malware	338,201	

Your Computer's Health

Part 5

Temporary Fix for a Bad Fan

by Bob Woods, UCHUG (Under the Computer Hood UG)
Webmaster, California

Have you ever turned on your PC and had a rumbling or squealing sound come from somewhere inside the case? Everything will appear to be working fine, but the PC sounds horrible. What you are hearing will most likely turn out to be a fan whose bearings have worn out. The offending fan can be one of the many fans found on today's PC's.

Typical locations are mounted to the case, mounted inside or outside of the power supply, part of the CPU cooler, or mounted on a graphics card. Most PC fans have 12 volt DC motors and consisting of a housing supporting an enclosed motor with a multi bladed fan shaped like a cup with fins. With the exception of some graphics card fans, most fans are replaceable.



Note which side of the fan is facing you. That will ensure that when you re-install the fan the correct side will be up for moving air in the proper direction.

Once you have located the noisy fan there is a temporary fix. You should remove the fan. Most fans will have a sticker on the side of the fan that has the motor supports. Carefully peel the sticker back to expose the shaft and bearing for the motors armature which is attached to the fan blade cup. Do not completely remove the sticker as you will want to stick it back down to cover the bearing back up.

of mm in 10's. A close to 2 inch square fan converts to 50.8 mm which is actually, a 50 mm fan. A search on Google or Amazon will help find the fan you need and will usually have the required connector. But, what if you have a replacement fan that did not come with a connector or the only one you can get doesn't have the same connector? Take a quick trip to any store that carries electrical supplies and get some insulated butt splices.

Often you can find a kit with different sizes of butt splices with the crimp tool in the package. You may also already have a set of wire strippers that have the jaws used for insulated crimping. Cut the wires from the old fan about 2 inches from the connector. Strip about 1/4 inch of the insulation from the wires for the old and new fan and use a butt splice for each wire to connect the fan connector. Make sure you follow the wire color code so the fan spins in the correct direction when mounted. For colors, usually blue and black are the colors you would see for the negative lead and red or white for the positive lead.

Another helpful hint is there is usually an arrow showing direction of air flow stamped into the fan housing. Use this as a further guide on mounting the new fan so the air movement will be the same as the original fan. If you have a third lead it will often be yellow in color and is connected to a sensor inside the fan motor. The sensor will allow the fan RPM to be monitored.

Most late model CPU coolers have a fan with this sensor which is monitored by the motherboard BIOS. If the fan RPM falls below a preset limit the BIOS will give you a status warning during



A drop or two of a light oil (I use 3 in one) will often buy you some fan life. Do not get too carried away with the oil as too much will leak back out and get thrown around to nearby parts creating a dust magnet. Make sure to cover the bearing back up with the sticker to keep dust out and help contain the oil. Unless the bearing is completely shot the fan should go back into service long enough to allow you to get a new replacement fan.

Most replacement fans cost less than the shipping cost and suppliers can be found on line by doing a Google search. Often the small fans for CPU coolers and graphics cards will be measured in millimeters. Just measure the fan in inches and Google inch to mm conversion. The fan size in mm will end up being an even number

boot up and can even prevent the motherboard from completing the boot up sequence. In the event you cannot locate a replacement fan with the sensor most BIOS will allow you to disable this feature.

Remember, a fan that has bearing noise is usually close to its end of life. Using a drop of oil is a stop gap measure to allow you time to locate a replacement. But this grace period can be a life saver, especially when you are depending on your PC to complete an important task. II

Question: You cleaned inside your desktop when? Did I hear you say one year or longer. Get the vacuum and brushes and start cleaning. Dust buildup causes heat buildup and more friction.

How to Backup Securely.....

by Mark Tiongco, www.geeks.com

This Tech Tip addresses some frequently asked questions about how to safeguard your computer data on a personal and business level. It assumes that you DO NOT have gigabytes of music and movies that require extensive security measures to protect.

1.) How should I begin to secure important data on my desktop computer or laptop?

First, it makes sense to designate 1 or 2 specific folders on your computer as the main folder for confidential file back-ups for several reasons. If you have to do a quick back-up, all you do is copy that folder to an external drive for an instant back-up.

Second, It provides a centralized location for all important data. Instead of having to hunt down the menu, sub-menu, sub-sub-menu of where you normally download company financial spreadsheets, you can set your browser and programs (such as Quickbooks, etc.) to save/download all important files to this folder.

Third, let's say you only save ALL important files on a flash drive/external hard drive. If your notebook gets lost/stolen, the thieves only have the programs and not the actual confidential files which are on the cheap flash drive.

2.) Great, now how do I actually back-up my designated BACK UP folder(s)?

Here's where it gets tricky. You have several back-up options such as:

A.) Cloud – Services such as Carbonite and Mozy offer low-priced back-up solutions. You basically upload all your confidential files to their cloud servers and are able to access them anywhere in the world where there is Internet access. The main issue is that, from a business security perspective, you have no idea where your data is stored. If, for example, it's stored in a server farm in China which gets hacked, then you're in trouble.

B.) External Hard Drives – These nifty devices come in portable 2.5" and larger 3.5" flavors and offer more than generous dumping grounds for all things important. Once you plug it in, your OS recognizes it and pops you up with a folder showing it as a (giant) external drive with a letter (i.e. G:) Some even feature OTB (One Touch Backup) so you press one button and it backs up either your entire system or certain portions of it. Some external hard drives offer plug-in encryption that prevents unauthorized access. The issue with this solution is that you have to lug it around, which means it has a chance of getting lost/stolen and the formality of performing a back-up might become time-consuming to some.

C.) Flash Drive – These little drives are more nimble, have zero moving parts and are highly portable. Unfortunately, this is also its Achilles' Heel as its relatively small size makes it prone to becoming misplaced or stolen. Also it does not have the capacity of a larger external drive. The good news is that some flash drives have built-in encryption which can be useful if it lands in the wrong hands.

D.) Home/Office Network Attached Storage Drive – Also called NAS, this is an excellent solution for comprehensive back-up protection as these hard drives function as dumping grounds for an

entire home or office network. It provides a centralized location for files, folders and documents which any connected computer can access and come in large drive sizes. However, security precautions should be utilized if the NAS has built-in measures as an unsecured NAS may be prone to prying eyes. For example, a NAS without security protocols activated while connected to a home Wi-Fi network is prone to being breached. Because of this, it's crucial to configure the NAS security as well as the router/network security for optimal protection.

E.) Backing up to CD/DVD/Blu-Ray – Optical media back-up is actually a very cost-effective solution because CDs and DVDs are very cheap nowadays. Furthermore, if you're looking to close the books for a certain month on your business, burning to a CD-R or DVD+R sets the data in stone so it can't be manipulated on the disc. The problem is that if you have lots of data to back-up, the formality of using several CD-R or DVD-R discs to save might also become time consuming. In addition, you would have to make sure said back-up discs are placed in a safe place where the chance of it getting stolen is minimized.

3.) Which back-up method should I pick?

While the above solutions offer many ways to back up your confidential data, the best way to minimize a data breach/loss is to follow a combination of multiple back-up solutions and proactive behavior. For example, it would be a good idea to store important sensitive data on your flash drive and encrypting it with TRUE Crypt while also saving duplicate file copies on your home NAS drive via secure VPN connection. If your flash drive is lost/stolen, True Crypt prevents the drive from being used without proper credentials and you can still access the very same duplicate files on your NAS server.

Regarding proactive behavior, you should be mindful of back-ups so you don't lose something you wish you saved 2 weeks ago.

There are also programs out there that can help secure data such as:

- Folder Lock – Locks and can hide any folder you wish from prying eyes.
- True Crypt– secures drives with extensive hardware encryption.
- Acronis Drive Cleaner – Completely erases all drive data with several methods (DoD, Gutmann method, etc.) – works great if you're planning to get rid of old computer hardware.

Remember, it's all about being proactive and being mindful of what back-up security solutions to use for your personal or business needs! II



Wireless Range Expansion

by Sandy Shapiro, Member-At-Large, UCHUG (Under the Computer Hood UG), California

At our last meeting we discussed how to expand the range of a wireless router. We talked about bridges and repeaters, but we didn't discuss expanders.

My wireless router sits on the second floor of my house in a back room. My office is in a small building behind my house, where the wireless signal is very low – only one bar is lit. Some of my patients are on the east coast and meet with me via Skype. The poor connection has been a major frustration.

After our meeting I did some research and found something called a Wireless-G Range Expander made by Linksys. Because I already have a Linksys wireless-G router, I thought it would be worth a try. I bought a refurbished model from Amazon.com for \$23.99. I don't see why it shouldn't also work with other brands of Wireless routers.



The setup was complicated, but once accomplished, my connection went from “very low” to “excellent” and all bars were now lit. Here is

how I set up the expander:

First, I plugged the power cord into an outlet, and two lights went on

- I plugged a cat5 cable from the expander directly to my router
- I opened a browser and looked up: <http://192.168.1.240>
- I left the user name blank and typed “admin” for the password
- I went to the Help menu and opened the utility for changing the firmware. I had already downloaded the new firmware from the Linksys web site. After changing the firmware from V. 3.01.01 to V. 3.04.01 and rebooting the expander,

I performed the following steps:

- I set Gateway to 192.168.1.1, the address of my router.
- I left Mode as mixed, and I changed the SSID to match the one in my router.
- I selected Wireless Security Enable. A pop up window opened and I changed security from WEP to WPA Personal.
- I entered the pass phrase
- I used in my router settings and clicked on Save Settings. After a reboot, I rechecked all the settings, unplugged the expander, removed the Cat 5 cable, and took the expander out to my office.
- There I plugged it into a wall plug and turned on my computer.
- Connection strength was now excellent and all bars were lit.

The only problem was that I now lacked “connectivity.” No

matter how I configured the system, I could not access the internet – even though all the bars were lit. I disabled security and was finally able to get a network connection, but the Skype connection was all but impossible to use. I sent the expander back for a refund.

One advantage of Tomato Firmware <http://www.polarcloud.com/tomato> a Linux program is that I



could increase the power of the wireless signal, which I did from 42 mW to 70 mW. That allowed for a somewhat better connection in my office, but it was still very low.

Another advantage of Tomato Firmware is that you can use your router as an Ethernet Bridge or as an Ethernet Client, in addition to the normal use as an Access Point. It only cost \$55.94 to get another Linksys WRT54GL – about the same as some of the other repeaters on the market.

I found an excellent tutorial on using Tomato to set the firmware for Wireless Client Modes. <http://bit.ly/ik2BPw>

I first tried to use the Ethernet Bridge mode where the router is placed half way between the access point and the laptop out in the office. I couldn't get it to work. I then used the Wireless Client Mode where the router is in my office and connects to my laptop via a cat 5 cable. At first I had trouble, but then I realized I had to disable the wireless radio in the laptop, and everything worked fine. To the computer, it looks like a hard wired, or cabled connection.

The steps to set it up are as follows:

1. I checked the IP address of the extender router and saw that it was the same as that on the access point, 192.168.1.1. I then changed the client router to 192.168.0.1 as per the instructions. DHCP server was enabled. I then made sure the SSID and the channel were the same on both units.
2. I disabled security on both routers for testing. When I saw good internet connections and excellent Skype connections, I tried re-enabling security. I had been using WPA2 with TKIP – it didn't work. I then tried WEP and AES and, bingo, I was in business.

I have now successfully extended my internet connection, and I have a spare router should the first one ever burn out. II

Routers that are known to work with Tomato:

- Linksys [WRT54GL v1.x](#), [WRT54G v1-v4](#), [WRT54GS v1-v4](#), [WRTSL54GS](#) (no USB support)
- Buffalo [WHR-G54S](#), [WHR-HP-G54](#), [WZR-G54](#), [WBR2-G54](#), [WBR-G54](#), [WZR-HP-G54](#), [WZR-RS-G54](#), [WZR-RS-G54HP](#), [WVR-G54-NF](#), [WHR2-A54-G54](#), [WHR3-AG54](#)
- Asus [WL500G Premium](#) (no USB support), [WL500GE](#), [WL520GU](#) (no USB support)
- Sparklan WX6615GT, Fuji RT390W, Microsoft MN-700
- This will not work on Linksys WRT54G/GS v5 or newer WRT54G/GS routers.

My iPad

by Terry Currier, President of the WINNERS WINdows usERS group, California

Yes, I brought an iPad. But there is a reason or rational behind it. While at CES I won an Apple iPhone 4. As it turned out though they sent me an Apple Store card worth \$199 which would purchase the iPhone 4, but was good for anything. I did think about selling it, but I started to see the iPad as something the grandkids could use to play educational programs.

This is kind of like when my son some years back bought us a good set of speakers for \$200 for our TV. My wife went out and brought a \$450 hutch to hold them. Not quite equaling out. So I'm getting \$199 off, but still have to spend about \$350 to get the iPad.

After hearing about the iPad 2 coming out I was really interested. Like many others I was disappointed to see it did not come out with the predicted USB port or media reader. Some were even saying wait for the iPad 3, but I decided to go ahead and get the iPad 2.

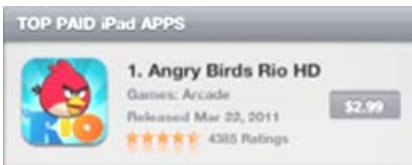
There was a four week wait for it at the Apple Online store so I put the order in and got \$199 taken off. After it arrived I had to set up an iTunes account. My first impression was -- looks cool, but not really ergonomic. The top is very smooth like glass. At least in my personal opinion I would like something like a rubberized strip. I want something to stop it from slipping out of my hands. This is especially true when the grandson starts playing with it. I did buy a case to hold it.

So far I've installed a number of educational apps (programs) and a few games. I have bought about \$50 worth of apps. I'm also trying many of the free educational apps.

They are lite versions; that is, they show you a small portion of what it will look like to get you to buy the full version.

My grandson is four so most of them are ones that help kids learn the alphabet, or how to count.

The one game that is addicting to all of us is Angry Birds. Even my non-computing wife likes playing it. With my grandson I have to set a limit with him so he also plays the educational games.



One I thought would be really cool is the Time Warner app. If you have them as a TV and Internet provider you can download the app for free. With it you can watch a number of their channels on the iPad. Only problem is Wi-Fi connection is poor for the iPad. I can be sitting in my living room and not get a connection and it is especially evident with the Time Warner app. I can catch the Wi-Fi signal very easily with my notebook. I have sat right in front of the router and it still has to buffer the video to the iPad or it simply loses it.

While fun I do still consider it to be a luxury item, but grandparents have been know to spend lots of money on their grandkids. II

Keep iPads and Tablets

Clean With SideKick™ from LensPen®

by Terry Currier, President of the WINNERS WINdows usERS group, California

I saw this company at CES and was impressed with their product. iPads and tablets are great, stylish products. But the touch-screen action leaves a trail of oily fingerprints that soon cover the whole surface. A cloth isn't effective and some sprays and tissues can make the fingerprint mess even worse. In reality you should not use a glass cleaner on you monitor or tablets, because they have a special coating on them. While I did find a wet paper towel works pretty good on the iPad the SideKick works the best.

SideKick's carbon compound is similar to the one found in printer's ink; why newspapers have been an effective way to clean windows for generations.



The cost for SideKick is \$19.95. A package of two replacement cleaning pads is \$14.95. Each pad gives 150 cleanings. <http://www.lenspen.com/> II

Windows 8 Same System Requirements as Windows 7

“Microsoft has confirmed that the system requirements for the next version of Windows 8 will not be higher than those of Windows 7. In fact, it could remain the same as Windows 7's requirements, or go even lower. The current requirements for Windows 7 are as follows: a 1GHz processor, 1GB of RAM, 16GB of hard disk space, and DirectX 9 graphics – which is pretty much what most smartphones have today, and what most computers specs today supersede.”

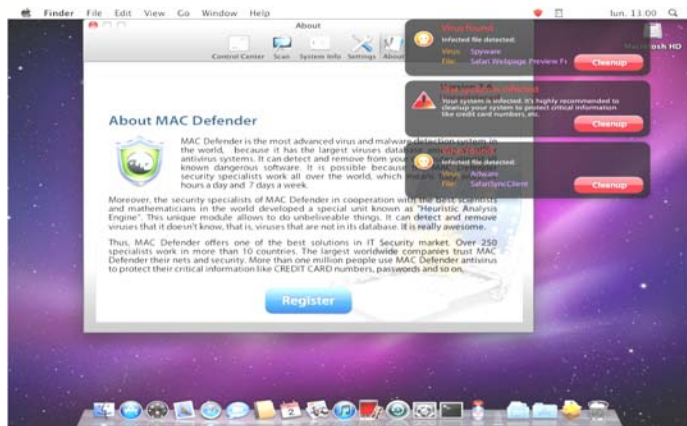


Mac Users Get a Taste of Windows' World

"First Mac Malware Program May Have Affected Up to 120,000 Machines"
by Linda Gonse, Editor / Webmaster, Orange County PC Users' Group, California

Macintosh has reached new heights of popularity which has been confirmed by the recent success of malware called Mac Defender.

In April, unsuspecting Mac users, confident in their platform's supposed invulnerability to viruses, were jarred from their complacency by a pop-up alert that declared their Mac was infected!



And, it wasn't infected by one virus, but several. If they would click on a link, Mac Defender would clean out the machine.

Of course, there was a charge for this cleanup, so users were told to insert their credit card information before Mac Defender went to work.

Windows users will surely nod their heads at this point with a now familiar scenario and agree that the Mac user is in trouble; albeit, not the trouble represented by the non-existent viruses the malware pointed out. Windows users have been scammed by several types of malware, just like Mac Defender.

When a user is in a state of panic and confusion, getting quick action to help is foremost in the user's mind. Inputting credit card information seems secondary to the important task of clearing viruses.

Unfortunately, the so-called virus detector the user buys isn't really a working program. The entire goal of the malware was to separate users from their credit card information.

Mercury news, <http://bit.ly/lcZ1E1>, has reported that "the program, according to security firm Intego, is very well designed, and looks professional." In addition, more variants of the initial malware program are showing up now. "The most recent one does-

n't even require the user to enter a password, as is typically the case when installing Macintosh software."

Mashable.com, <http://on.mash.to/k8KYtq>, reported that "calls to AppleCare about the malware appear to be high. ZDNet estimates that anywhere between 60,000 and 120,000 Mac OS X users could have been affected by the Mac Defender attack.

"Apple has finally acknowledged the recent rise of a fake anti-virus program for Mac OS X and has promised to deliver a software update to remove the malware."

Jon Jones, editor of the North Coast Mac Users Group newsletter in Santa Rosa, California, said of the attack, "Well...it's about time. It almost feels (in a sick, twisted way) as some sort of validation for Mac users, that they've finally found themselves in the crosshairs of malicious code villains, after having been kept out of the fray for so long on the premise that their numbers were so small, they just didn't matter.

"Someone finally figured out that with a simple twist on the methods of attack, targeting Mac users (in general) could be like shooting fish in a barrel. I suspect that since Macs are, in some respects, targeted towards a market that embraces its approachability, ease of use, and highly touted technical security, there is a fairly large chunk of Mac faithful who tend to lack technological 'smarts,' and are likely a bit too naively trusting of content that comes through their devices, especially when it comes on the form of alerts, or deals with sensitive data. ("Oh, I'll just do what it says, because I don't understand it, but it knows better what I need to do than I do.")

"These attacks operate on less of a technical foundation, and more on a social engineering ruse, and it is the above noted users who are the prime target—and access to their credit card information the end reward. As these attacks continue to become more and more sophisticated, it is certainly even more of an imperative that Mac users who have enjoyed a false sense of security for too long, start to become a bit more savvy about how to manage their online activity and personal information.

"I know of one Mac tech who, over the last few weeks, has had at least one client for whom he has had to clean up this sort of malware three times, because even though he has explained the process and the danger each time, the client continues to find the false urgency of the attack just too compelling...and because the method clearly lays out to the victim how best to set themselves up for attack—it frankly comes across as just too 'Mac-like.' The attack 'just works.'

"Thusly, every time the client sees a dialogue box instructing him follow the steps to surrender access of the machine to an unknown entity and then submit personal information and credit card numbers to same, he does it without questioning it because...well, as it has often been said, you just can't fix stupid."

Some people think that Apple has been so innovative and cutting edge that it will develop a defense that kills future armies of malware and viruses that attempt to access Macs. No nonsense, to the point, and certain.

Jon's answer to that is "It is very difficult to sense quite where Apple will go with this in the future, at least in Continued >>

terms of defensibility. It has long been considered among the more secure 'out of the box' OS environments — (some individual components and applications are another thing). Which is why the most successful malware attacks on the Mac are the ones that convince the users to>> dismantle their own defenses and install the malicious code themselves, while unaware of what they are actually doing. So in a sense, I think we are seeing some results of a cooperative bi-polarity. An abundance of built-in security has helped to foster an abundance of built-in corresponding abdication of personal responsibility for one's own computing and surfing habits. it is very possible that the tighter Apple reins in OS security, the greater the lethargy for a significant portion of the user base regarding computer security.

“Balancing this against the ongoing necessity for Apple (all OS developers, really) to implement more dynamic cutting edge technologies and more robust feature sets into their systems to retain relevance in an increasingly competitive field often involves inclusion of technologies for which corresponding safeguards may yet still be in their infancy.

“If the last several years of Apple's predominant efforts are any sign, I suspect the answer lies in diminishing development in desktop systems, and greater development in iOS across a wider range of devices.

“What was initially heralded as Dashboard Widgets on the Mac OS (and later Gadgets on Windows) seems to have been an early stepping stone in what later evolved into the more fully featured mobile app platform we see today—namely a diverse range of mini-applications of very specific and limited utility residing in a dedicated sub-system,” said Jon.

“With this new trend gaining such widespread and intense popularity, it seems to foster some type of resolution for security issues that afflict the desktop OS (but not entirely) while keeping consumers satisfied with simplicity of use because functionality is generally spread around across a wide range of dedicated apps, giving most consumers the functionality they seek at a reasonable price, but

Apple gets to impose a greater degree of security by locking down the OS, and providing a single portal through which vetted applications are made available.

“Is this a perfect or even marginally “open” and freely configurable solution that will work for everyone? Certainly not. But with increasingly productive development in this arena, and its rapid embrace by a consuming public, I suspect that expanded iOS development will be Apple's next major step in helping mitigate user victimization against increasingly sophisticated malware attacks,” Jon said. II



Mac Tip of the Month - Hardware

by Ernie Cox, Jr., Computer Club of Green Valley, Arizona

1. Determine the Integrity of Your Hardware.

- If you suspect you have a hardware problem, not related to your Mac's hard drive, troubleshoot with these three steps:
- Run the Apple Hardware Test to confirm or deny your suspicions. Follow these directions: <http://support.apple.com/kb/ht1509>.
- [MacBook Air instructions:<http://support.apple.com/kb/ht2644>].
- Reset your SMC (System Management Controller) to alleviate common problems with fans, power management, sleep, or lights with these steps: <http://support.apple.com/kb/ht3964>.
- Resetting your PRAM and NVRAM (<http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1379>) can alleviate problems with volume, screen resolution, and startup disk selection.

2. Repair Your Hard Drive.

- If your computer is running slowly, files are disappearing, or you get a question mark at startup [this is usually not a good thing], the problem may be your hard drive. Try these two things before buying a new one:
- (1) Use Apple's free tools to repair your drive. Boot in Safe Mode, run Disk Utility from your Mac OS X Install disc, or run fsck. These functions are described in detail at <http://support.apple.com/kb/TS1417>.
 - (2) Use Disk Warrior (\$100, <http://www.alsoft.com>) to rebuild the drive's directory, which can repair corruption and prolong the life of your drive.

3. Reinstall Snow Leopard

- When all else fails, try reinstalling Mac OS X 10.6 from the original installation DVD, performing what was formerly known as an "Archive and Install" of your operating system. This doesn't take too much time and can often solve big problems that aren't hardware related. Afterward, be sure to update your software by choosing Apple Menu > Software Updates. II



Mac Software Review

Bean, a simple, streamlined writing app

by Lee Maxwell, co-Facilitator, MacWaves Workgroup, Brookdale Computer Users Group, New Jersey

It is rare when writing a software review that you use the product you are reviewing. But here I am, writing a review of Bean, an optimized word processor software for Mac OS X that does its job well without frills. Actually, this isn't a word processor; my mistaken assumption. Let the text about Bean from its own website set us all straight: "Bean is a small, easy-to-use word processor (or more precisely, a rich text editor), designed to make writing convenient, efficient and comfortable. Bean is available free of charge. MS Word, OpenOffice, etc. try to be all things to all people. But sometimes you just want the right tool for the job. That is Bean's niche. "Bean is lean, fast, and uncluttered.

- If you get depressed at the thought of firing up MS Word or OpenOffice, try Bean.
- If you use Text Edit but have to jump through hoops just to get a word count, try Bean.
- If you desire a simple, beautiful writing environment, try Bean."

I couldn't have stated it plainer myself. Thanks to Bean's creator and maintainer, James Hoover, for letting me use his own promotional text. I do get depressed just thinking about firing up Word, so I've always looked for worthy alternatives.

I've used previous Apple alternatives to Word, ClarisWorks and AppleWorks, but found their interfaces unpolished and frustrating. Pages, Apple's combination word processor and page layout software and until recently only available as part of iWork, is a better page layout program than word processor.

My favorite for years has been NeoOffice, a Mac version of the OpenOffice suite, which is free, open source and has lots of useful features, but is as big and almost as bloated as Microsoft Office. It can be very slow even on newer, faster Macs, because its underpinning is Java, an operating system within Mac OS X that just runs slow.

I had hope for the Mac version of the Linux-based word processor AbiWord, which also is free and open source, but I was turned off by numerous unfixed and unacknowledged software bugs in the Mac version. And there are and were good shareware word processors like MarinerWrite and NisusWriter, but they never appealed to me.

Then MacWaves member Jim McKeown told me about Bean. And my life changed forever. [Well, not really, but it felt like it, the first time I used Bean.]

Why do I like Bean? Let me bullet the reasons:

It's free.

It's open source, meaning no company owns any intellectual-property rights to the code. It also means it is continu-

ously undergoing fixing and improvement by its volunteer developers.

It's a "Cocoa" application, meaning its written in the same computer language as Mac OS X and other software by Apple, which gives it greater stability and feature set. Many of the features listed here are provided by Cocoa. Unfortunately, it also inherits some bugs and limitations in the Cocoa framework, but blame Apple for that.

It reads and writes many word processor documents formats, including vital ones like Microsoft Word [.doc and .docx], the OpenDocument [.odt] format used by OpenOffice,

LibreOffice and NeoOffice, the common Rich Text Format [.rtf] and rich text with graphics [.rtfd] formats, text files, HyperText Markup Language [.html] files and eXtensible Markup Language [.xml] files, Apple's

[.webarchive] format and its own [.bean] format, and can export files as Portable Document Format [.pdf] files.

It offers an Inspector panel with just the right controls for character and paragraph settings, which I think is almost as good as having these items listed at the top of the window under the button bar [how about making that an option, huh?].

It also uses Apple sheets, pop-down dialog boxes linked to the button bar, to display indepth statistics and information about the document and information about the author, which the author can fill in.

It includes a dictionary to which custom words can be added, interactive misspelling indicators, powerful word or expression search and replace features.

It has many other great features like a live word and character count about each document in the status bar, an interactive zoom slider to easily magnify or demagnify the page size, a full-screen mode, a page layout mode, autosaving, alternative colors [white text on a blue background rather than black text on white; definitely easier to read].

Did I mention it's free? Sure it doesn't allow for floating images, only in-line [embedded in text] images.

Sure it doesn't do footnotes, or allow for text styles. And, as Mr. Hoover warns, "Bean should not be considered a replacement for Word, or any other word processor designed for complex documents involving, for example, citations." So what? There is always Word or one of its freeware clones.

Bean is exactly the simple writing tool I've always looked for, a sports car with only the parts it needs to be a sports car. It is a freeware gem, a shining example of what good software can be. Get it; you won't regret it. II

doc and .docx formats in Bean

Dick's Clicks

by Dick Ramette, President, Computer Club of Green Valley, Arizona

I'm still gob smacked by Time Magazine's Feb. 21 cover article, "2045 - The Year Man Becomes Immortal." Since these ideas have been around for a few years I'm surprised to be thus surprised.

Just imagine - according to this vision, in a few decades ultra-computers and human brains will be at one with each other. Our descendants will be able to live free of disease, in regenerated bodies of any desired condition, until they're ready to "log out." All this will follow explosive advances in GNR (genetics, nanotechnology and robotics).

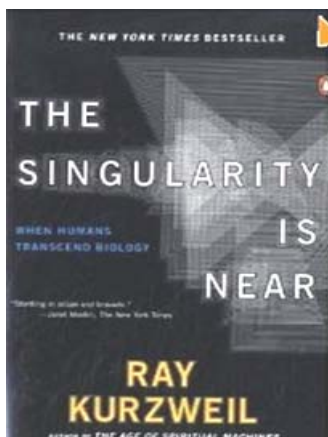
If you missed this, you can read it online at:
<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,2048138,00.html>

Unfortunately, this online version omits a truly exciting graphical summary of computer evolution since 1900 and projections to 2045, which you can find at:

<http://www.time.com/time/interactive/0,31813,2048601,00.html>

The recognized guru for this prognostication is Ray Kurzweil who, at age five had the idea he would become an inventor. He holds 39 patents and 19 honorary doctorates. He received the National Medal of Technology in 1999 from President Clinton, and is called by Bill Gates "the best person I know at predicting the future of artificial intelligence."

Singularitarianism is a matter of understanding, not of faith.



However, its "bible" is Kurzweil's 2005 book, "The Singularity is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology (Amazon, paper, \$13.78) the title invoking both curiosity and apprehension. By "Singularity" Kurzweil means the achievement of highly advanced human capabilities through interfaces between the human brain and supercomputers that exceed today's capabilities by factors of billions. We will "reverse engineer" the brain. On p. 127:

"Ultimately, we will be able to port our mental processes to a more suitable computational substrate. Then our minds won't have to stay so small."

Bloodstreams will be suffused with swarming nanobots that fix all sorts of ills, receiving wireless instructions to eradicate diseases, including the disease of aging. By "Near," he means within our grown children's lifetimes. "Immortal" includes the possibility that human brains and minds will be uploaded and stored digitally, as well as living indefinitely in perfect health.

In early chapters Kurzweil summarizes the evidence that all the key factors in technology are racing toward the future at a steadily

increasing rate. Human beings have evolved to think linearly, and therefore greatly underestimate the power of exponential changes that will affect us profoundly, naively dismissing them as "Not anytime soon!" IMHO, those who have not read the book should be reticent about expressing opinions.

I think CCGV members will find The Singularity is Near fascinating, even though most of us will miss the predicted excitement. You can find a Wikipedia article on *Singularitarianism*, here:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singularitarianism>

But, oh, what big questions come to mind. If one's life ends only by accident, murder or suicide, what will that mean for retirement, birth rate and population? In a world that offers perfect virtual reality will anyone bother with movies, restaurants, cruise ships, football games, or recreational sex?"

Will nations accept world government by artificial intelligence, or will there be international cyberwars? Will the new benefits be shared only by the rich and elite? Will it be possible to download, say, Yo-Yo Ma's cello genius into, say, Sarah P's brain? What will the word "education" come to mean if knowledge can be downloaded?

If nearly everything is perfectly run by Ultra-AI, where will biological humans find ambition and personal inspiration? Might biological humans be forced into robot roles, subservient to vastly greater machine intelligences?

Quote of the Month: "Let an ultraintelligent machine be defined as a machine that can far surpass all the intellectual activities of any [person] however clever. Since the design of machines is one of these intellectual activities, an ultraintelligent machine could design even better machines; there would then unquestionably be an 'intelligence explosion,' and the intelligence of [humans] would be left far behind. Thus, the first ultraintelligent machine is the last invention that [humans] need ever make." Irving John Good, 1965 II



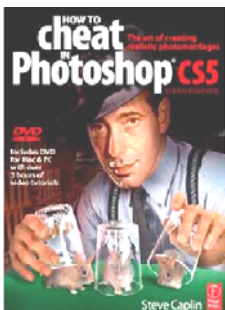
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How to Cheat in Photoshop CS5

by Donna Kamper, Member, Tucson Computer Society, Arizona

This is not a “how to cheat” book. It’s a “get the look you need” book. And it’s great! It’s not a book for absolute beginners. You really need a basic understanding of Photoshop first. But if your day job is image composition, this book is exactly what the doctor ordered.



Combining elements from different sources can bring up all sorts of problems. Frequently lighting and color differences must be addressed. Issues of perspective and proportion crop up. Moving the direction in which the subject’s eyes are looking can make or break the “realism” of your composition. The book has the solutions for these and more difficulties.

Each section is color-coded, the divisions visible even with the book closed. Each example is complete on a two-page spread, which makes it easy to see both before and after, as well as the interim steps. Everything here is task oriented.

The driving force behind this book is “how to create realistic photomontages.” So – if you add a pair of sunglasses to a scene, how do you create and orient their shadow? That and more is covered.

Need a light source? Add a lamp to the scene. Then darken the area except where the lamp’s light is being directed. Make sure the light is more intense inside the lamp. Is there a surface from which it’s being reflected? Add that in, and the scene is now much more realistic.

There are fifteen sections, and each one is essentially a mini-workshop in that particular subject.

The first skill to master is the art of making selections, which is precisely why Photoshop has so many selection tools. Putting two images together is easy. Making them look as though they started out together is what separates the novice from the pro. Accurate selections are the first step, so the first chapter concentrates on selection tools.

The subjects are “**Natural selection**” – how to capture the area you want and no more or less; “**Transformation and distortion**” – making elements of your composition belong together; “**Hiding and showing**” – working with layers and masks; “**Image adjustment**” – or making skin tones (and other colors) match.

“**Composing the scene**” and “**Getting into perspective**” – placing subjects appropriately in relationship to each other and the background; “**Light and Shade**” – deals with realistically shadowing and lighting your composition; “**Heads and bodies**” – looks at everything from body position to fly-away hair, including matching one person’s head to another’s body.

“**Shiny surfaces**” – also deals with light on both reflective and transparent surfaces, and how it adds depth and realism to your composition; “**Metal, wood and stone**” – have hard, reflective surfaces and depth to deal with; “**Paper and fabric**” – can move,

bend and flutter using the shading techniques taught here.

“**The third dimension**” – can be achieved with perspective, the vanishing point and a little Repoussé; “**Hyperrealism**” – in this book it isn’t photographic realism, its added effects such as blurring for speed or flying glass with explosions. The next-to-last section, “**Advanced techniques**” – covers important tips and techniques (Bridge, ACR, natural media brushes) not directly involved in photocomposition; and the last section, “Working for print and the web” – deals with output.

The DVD included with the book has 74 movies (over three hour’s total) in Quick Time format. Most of them are less than two minutes with descriptive names so it’s easy to find what you want. But that’s only the beginning. There’s an image file for almost every example given in the book, as well as 41 PDF’s, mostly 1-2 pages that were deleted from the printed book. True, some of these are from earlier versions of the book (this is its sixth edition), but that doesn’t make the information less valid. There are many more images included than those needed for the lessons. A lot of bonus content is on the DVD for the reader’s use, some from earlier readers of his earlier works and some from the author’s own website.

One folder named “Test yourself files” has 23 images for you to work with, each labeled as to what technique it’s for. The author even includes a cheat sheet with hints on how to use the indicated technique for each image.

This book is a joy to work through. It also makes a great reference when you absolutely have to get something done NOW! The two-page format is a great way to present information and an easy way to learn it. It makes a great asset for any Photoshop user working with compositions.

About: How to Cheat in Photoshop CS5: the art of creating realistic photomontages

Author: Steve Caplin

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



Customer Reviews


31 Reviews

5 star:  (23)

4 star:  (4)

3 star:  (1)

2 star:  (1)

1 star:  (2)

Average Customer Review

★★★★★ ([31 customer reviews](#))

Paragon Drive Copy 11 - Professional

Reviewed by Terry Currier, President of the WINNERS Windows usERS group, Fountain Valley, California

Paragon Drive Copy 11 Professional is sort of a do-all utility for anyone wanting to copy a hard drive. What I used it for was to clone my hard drive to an external drive connected via USB. I have a 1.5TB drive in my computer and right now I'm using about 450GB of that space. There are other programs that will clone the drive, but you have to have the same size drive to copy it to. The Paragon Drive Copy did great copying it to the 500GB drive with no problem.

I set it up to Migrate Hard Disk. I started it before going to bed and expected the process to still need some time in the morning. But, it was done when I checked it in the morning. When I first backed up the drive with Rebit it took much longer. To be fair, though, Rebit creates a database and saves the files in a special way.

Using Paragon Drive Copy is the ideal way to migrate to a larger drive, or to an SSD drive. Another use is, as they call it, migrate hard drive to container. It creates an image file of your drive making it so you can create a copy onto another computer. This is what many companies will do in setting up new computers so they all match.

One thing we should all have is a recovery disc. **Their Recovery Media Builder can help you:**

- Prepare the Linux/DOS recovery environment (included in the installation package) on external media (CD, DVD, or flash memory) to boot and run utilities under Linux or PTS DOS, and that way to get access to your hard disk for maintenance or recovery purposes.
- Create from the master CD the Linux/DOS or WinPE (Windows Pre-installation Environment) recovery environment on a CD/DVD disc, or flash memory.
- Prepare a bootable recovery environment from any ISO image, including their WinPE 3.0 image

Paragon Drive Copy Key benefits:

- Ultra high-capacity HD support (>2.2TB) migrates existing system from Master Boot Record (MBR) to modern Retained GPT (GUID Partition Table also known as Hybrid GPT) HDD and gain access to complete HDD capacity
- All partitioning (resize, move, creation) and copy with resize operations now take partition alignment problems into account with all volumes being automatically aligned by sector
- Dissimilar hardware support allows migration of existing system and makes it bootable in a new environment
- Copy features – copy a full hard disk or a separate partition, and resize a partition while copying
- Supports all major virtual machines: MS Virtual PC,

VMware Workstation, Oracle Virtual Box, VMware Fusion;

- Basic partitioning features
- Refined User Interface – improved two-level user interface (Easy/Advanced) to satisfy needs of every customer
- Boot Corrector
- Empowered data safety and disaster recovery tools for both physical and virtual Windows environments.
- Updated wiping technologies can efficiently dispose of data on any HDD, SSD, flash-drives and laptops.
- USB 3.0 ready: New USB 3.0 port grants the possibility to access to external HDD and Flash drives on the new high-speed version of the traditional serial port

Drive Copy 11's interface is good and easy-to-understand. The help that comes with it is very good with illustrated instructions to help the user.

System Requirements

- Operating systems: Windows XP/Vista/7 and XP SP2/Vista/7 64-bit
- Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher
- Intel Pentium CPU or its equivalent, with 300 MHz processor clock speed
- 128 MB of RAM (256+ recommended)
- Hard disk drive with 100 MB of available space
- SVGA video adapter and monitor
- Keyboard
- Mouse

Additional requirements

External USB hard drive to store data II

Paragon Drive Copy 11 Professional is available for \$39.95 via download from <http://www.paragon-software.com/home/dc-professional/>



April, 11



April, 11



April, 11



February, 11



a review by George Harding, Treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, Arizona

One of the portable batteries I received for review at the Consumer Electronics Show is the **Enercell**. The unit is quite small, only about 2" X 3". It charges with a built-in USB plug, which swings out from the bottom of the device. It charges its Li-On battery in a reasonable period. The top of the device has a small, circular button and four very small LED lights to indicate the degree of charge.

The battery is good for up to 8 hours. Once charged, you turn it on with a very small slider switch on the side of the unit. You then attach the battery to your mobile device with one of the wires that comes with the unit. Connecting wires include one that fits the Apple devices, iPhone, iPad and iPod, a wire for devices that use a mini-USB connection and one for those that use a micro-USB connection.



This is one of the smallest, most convenient portable batteries I've seen. It would fit easily into a shirt pocket or purse with room to spare. If you're out of touch with power or don't have your charging cable, the Enercell can top off your mobile device with ease. Whether it's an iPhone, MP3 player, digital camera, GPS receiver, you can charge them all with an Enercell.

The warranty is fairly short, being only 90 days. Most electronics fail, if they're going to, well within the 90 days. Available at your local Radio Shack. II

Interesting Mustang Horse Fact

Meaning of the Name



The name 'mustang' has been derived from the Spanish word 'mustengo', meaning 'ownerless beast' or 'stray horse'. These Mustang horses are also called wild

horses because of their reckless nature. In fact, the word 'feral' suits them even better, which means wild and menacing. II

Pulse

A review by George Harding, Treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, Arizona

Pulse is a wireless digital photo frame by Kodak. Its purpose is to display a series of photos in several ways, without human interaction. The frame is about the size of today's tablet devices. It has a receptacle for power, a cord with a wall plug and an on/off button. The back has a panel that opens to allow access from a flash drive or memory cards.



When you first turn on the Pulse, you get a step-by-step process for setting up the device, connecting to a network and establishing an account at Kodak's Pulse web site. Once the account is set up, the site sends an email to the address you entered during setup. When you receive the email, you click on a link to confirm. Once confirmed,

your account can then be used to upload pictures from your computer, from Kodak's site or by use of a memory card or flash drive.

I uploaded quite a few pictures directly from my laptop. The photos go first to the Pulse web site, then to the Pulse unit. There are other ways to upload pictures. For example, any email-enabled device may upload pictures to the web site. Mobile phones can be a source and so can Facebook. When new pictures are added to your Facebook account, the Pulse is automatically updated.

Once you have photos loaded, they will automatically display one by one. The order of display is not the same as the order in which uploaded. It seems to be a sort of shuffle pattern.

There are a couple of options as to display. The default is to display one by one, full screen. Another is to fill an array of four pictures of different sizes in one screen (a collage). Each of these can be modified by time, such as 3 seconds, 10 seconds or 30, as well as various ways of switching from one picture to the next.

This device is very easy to use. The screen is touch-enabled so there is no need for a remote or keypad. The pictures are displayed very clearly. The resolution is in part a function of the display itself and in part the resolution of the picture itself. The display's native resolution is 800 X 600. Internal memory is 512 MB.

Another built-in feature is the ability to have the unit turn itself on and off at preset times each day.

There are other versions of this product, varying in size.

This one is 7" diagonally. It has a one year warranty. A forthcoming version will have a motion sensor so that the Pulse will turn itself off until it senses motion nearby, saving electricity. II

About: Pulse

Manufacturer: Kodak
www.kodakpulse.com

Price: About \$130

P-Flip Power Dock

A review by George Harding, Treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, Arizona

This is a compact portable battery you can use to charge your MP3 player, mobile phone, camera or whatever when you run out of power. It's frustrating to find out you forgot to charge your phone when you need to make an important call, or your camera when you have the opportunity for a great shot.

The device is attractively designed to sit upright when your phone is connected to it.

The unit I received for review works with the iPhone 3G/3GS and iPod 2G/1G. There are other versions of the device that work with Blackberry units.

The charger base contains the battery and is about 2" X 3" and has a hinged holder for the device to be charged. The accompanying cable has a mini-USB plug on one end and a USB plug on the other. Charging is solely by a USB port in your laptop or other unit.



There is a small button on one side that allows you to check the charge status. The three LED lights on the top light up: 1 or 2 for partial charge, all 3 for fully charged.

The battery stores enough to provide up to 8 hours of talk time, and provides 2,000 mAh of power. The battery is lithium polymer. If your phone is connected to a laptop, you can sync your iPhone data with iTunes. So, this is a dual-function charger, updating your saved data as well as charging the phone.

About: P-Flip Power Dock
 Manufacturer: Dexam
 www .dexam .net
 Price: \$30 from AT&T.com

The P-Flip™ Foldable Solar Power model comes with a solar panel built in. It is capable of extending talk time up to 6 hours, video or gaming time up to 10 hours, or music time up to 40 hours. II



The Killer App of the 21st Century

by Vinny LaBash, Contributing Columnist, Sarasota PCUG, Florida

Over the years, and more than once, my wife has said "Until computers work the way they do on Star Trek, they are not ready for prime time". She has a point. While computers, smart phones, laptops, tablets, and other close relatives of PCs have certainly become ubiquitous in our society, they are among the most complex devices ever developed by human beings. Their internal complexity rivals that of the most advanced F-22 fighter planes. No one expects grandma to climb into the cockpit of one of these things and be an expert after a few lessons because no one expects an F-22 fighter to be easy to use.



Despite what you have been hearing for years, computers are not easy to use, and they are anything but intuitive. If Isaac Newton were suddenly transported from the 17th century to the present and handed a smart phone, he would have no idea what to do with it. The ability to do something useful has intelligence and everything else. Twelve year olds have no problems with smart phones or other devices controlled by microchips because these objects have always been a part of their young lives. Most adults have not enjoyed a similar advantage, and many feel that technology often works against them.



The problem is that people have had to adjust to the needs of technology rather than the other way around. That is the basis of my wife's complaint about computers. She thinks they should adjust to her, and I believe she is right. In the 1982 movie "Firefox", Clint Eastwood played a character sent on a covert mission to the Soviet Union to steal an advanced aircraft that could be controlled by the pilot's thoughts through a neural link. This was and still is science fiction, but it's also a good example of digital technology adjusting to the needs of analog beings like us.



The "Killer App" of the 21st century will be a tool that makes computers and other complex devices adapt to us. It already exists, but it's still in its infancy or perhaps even its embryonic stage. Wherever it is on the evolutionary scale, it has not yet moved much beyond the multi-cellular level. We're talking about present day speech recognition, a considerable distance from Star Trek where machines understand natural language and react to it as another person would.



Windows 7 has speech recognition built-in. Continued >>

The Killer App of the 21st Century continued:

You don't have to pay extra for it. Using it can be quite entertaining as well as educational. Set it up on your computer with a three step process accessed within Windows Control Panel. You will need either a stand-alone microphone or one attached to a headset. The headset-microphone combination is the better option. It's comfortable, and the headset filters out extraneous noise better than most standalone mikes.



It's tempting to get started quickly, but to get the best results microphone properly. Access the **Configure Your Speech Recognition** dialog box, and select **Set up Microphone**. Tell Windows what kind of microphone you're using and the **Setup Wizard** will tell you how to position your equipment and set your audio level.

Now comes the hard part. Bring up the **Configure Your Speech Recognition** dialog box again and select **Train Your Computer to Understand You**. The Wizard will now guide you through some phrases which give Windows the information it needs to understand how to interpret and execute your commands. Training the computer may be annoying, but it is nowhere near as irritating as trying to get your dog to fetch, heel, roll over, and play dead.

Microsoft has thoughtfully provided a reference card which explains how you tell Windows to handle common speech recognition commands, keyboard shortcuts, and other You can **Control Recognition** print it out from the **Panel's Speech** dialog box. Windows will not respond to "Go jump in the Lake", nor will it attempt to perform any anatomically impossible acts. Keep your requests reasonable, and Windows will get along with you just fine.



Smart phones are also getting into the voice activation business.

Newer Android models have a neat application that does some very useful things. Google Voice Search is nothing short of amazing. I spoke into my recently purchased Android driven HTC Thunderbolt "Pictures of Ringling Causeway Bridge" and the result was four pictures of the bridge, including a map of how to get there from my Sarasota location.



I then tried "How far from the earth is the Moon?" This brought up a selection of web sites, one informing me of the distance in miles, and a second of the distance in kilometers. There were loads of additional astronomical information about our nearest planetary neighbor, far too much to explore in one session, but lots of reasons for a return visit for the curious.

Next was "Directions to Starbucks". I instantly knew the location of all the Starbucks in Sarasota, and I had my choice of getting directions by public or private transportation. The application even offered directions by bicycle or foot.

In an effort to stump it I asked "How can we get rid of Khadafi?" Incredibly, the thing gave me an answer that might actually work. The Pentagon should be informed.

It effortlessly translated units of measurement from one system to another such as miles to kilometers, and yards to centimeters. It told me a gallon of water weighs approximately 8.35 pounds, and on and on. I finally stopped it cold when I asked it to change miles per hour into furlongs per fortnight, but that was probably unfair.

Google is doing a great job with getting technology to adapt to us. There is still a long way to go, but the future looks promising which brings us back to Star Trek. Whenever Captain Picard wants tea, he always asks for it the same way. He says "Tea, Earl, Grey, hot." Why can't he say something like "Tea, my usual?" I suspect the computer is smart enough, and the fault lies in the scriptwriter's lack of imagination. II



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