

TOGGLE

THE MICROCOMPUTER TURN (ON)

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UPDATE

Communications

In *25 Times Faster Internet proposed for the U.S.* the article starts with: "According to the FCC, in the near future U.S. Internet users will be able to browse the Internet with blazing speed." That sounds interesting doesn't it. Take a look

In *How Fake News Stories and Bogus News Websites Try to Deceive You* the author discusses several scams that you may already be aware of - some perhaps not. Just be aware of what you are accessing when on the 'Net.

In *Managing (and deleting) All Those Web Browser Toolbars* the author notes that while some tool bars are useful too many of them may get in the way of how you want to surf the net.

General Interest

In *Un-Trapping Old Music* the author suggests several ways to get music on your computer. Of interest to those with old record collections may be a USB turntable. Apparently 78's might be a problem.

In *A New Way of Viewing Data* the author describes how you can tag your pictures with Microsoft's new Pivot Collection: "The data includes each photo image, along with a description of the image, the street name where the image was taken and the latitude and longitude of the image (added by geo-tagging). I could have included the time, camera's f/stop, shutter speed, etc. but chose not to do that." Interested?

In *Eco-friendly Tips for Your Computer - Iolo Technologies* the author offers some tips on being ecologically responsible when both operating your computers and disposing of old hardware.

In *Avoiding Copyright Infringement - U.S. Copyright Office* the author points out fairly simple rules for using material from other sites without violating copyright laws.

In *A Font Of Knowledge* the author discusses why some fonts can be scaled up to larger sizes while still looking good while others don't.

In *Another "Free TV" Utility* the author discusses zinc.tv a utility that allows you to stream TV programs to your computer.

Operating System

In *Adding Commands to Explorer Context Menu in Windows 7* Vinny Labash notes that the Copy To and Move To commands are no longer easily accessible in Windows 7. In the article he discusses how to cope with their omission from where you expected them to be.

In *Problem Report: AVG 2011 Conflict With Zone Alarm* Carl Tenning discusses a conflict he ran across between Zone Alarm and AVG 2011.

In *Format Painter - A Cousin To "Copy-And-Paste"* the author discusses a little used utility which is part of the Microsoft Office suite. It can be used to improve the layout and appearance of your reports.

COMMUNICATIONS NOTES & TIPS

25 Times Faster Internet proposed for the U.S.

from the June 2010 issue of Bay Bytes,
Greater Tampa Bay Personal Computer Group, Inc.
(Translated by the editor from a recent Reuters article in a
German newspaper)

According to the FCC, in the near future U.S. Internet users will be able to browse the Internet with blazing speed. This branch of the government has plans to increase the data transfer speed in its switchboards 25-fold. At the same time, a number of areas of the country would then be connected to the Web for the first time.

“One-third of the U.S. does not have high speed Internet connections,” the FCC says in its plan. “Like making electricity available 100 years ago, a high speed Internet would stimulate economic growth, job creation, and a higher standard of living.” The plan will cost \$16 billion over the next 10 years, and by 2020 over 100 million U.S. households would have Internet connection speeds of 100 Mb/sec. At that speed, a 2-hour movie could be downloaded in less than 10 minutes, with no loss of quality.

By comparison, according to the German government, German Internet users will only have 75% of that Internet speed by 2014.

Read more here: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62D0ZX20100316>

How Fake News Stories and Bogus News Websites Try to Deceive You

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Fake news stories help crooks lure victims into all sorts of traps. We've reported previously on how scammers distribute emails with links to a sensational but fake news article or with an attachment that carries a deadly virus payload.

Either way, the aim is to install malware on your PC when you click the link or open the attachment. But in a new twist, con merchants are trying to pass off their websites as genuine newspaper or TV sites to convince victims about whatever it is they're trying to sell.

The really frustrating thing is that often they are not breaking the law. They invent a legitimate-sounding name for their “publication” or fake TV news station and dress the web page up to look like it's a real report.

Pretending to be impartial, the report usually either promotes a particular product or explains how you can easily make a fortune on the Internet.

Sometimes, they carry videos that purport to be objective TV news reports explaining just how fantastic this new product or money-making idea is.

The aim is to either get you to hand over a lot of money for a questionable or even worthless purchase, or join a pyramid or multi-level marketing scheme, in which you then have to recruit others to buy from you and they must, in turn, find more people to join. And so on. It's easy to get taken in but you can easily spot what these con artists are up to with two easy check steps:

- * Be skeptical if the page is promoting a miracle product (like health cures or how to run your car on water) or an easy-money scheme. Remember that in real life these rarely, if ever, exist.
- * Do a search on the name of the TV station or publication. If it's a scam, you'll generally find that there are no other pages or news reports from the same supposed newspaper or TV station. In fact, you'll more likely find someone else reporting it as a con trick.

Satire sites -- for entertainment or mischief

While we're on the subject, it's worth mentioning another type of fake news site you might come across on the Internet.

These are so-called satire sites in which the operators just make up news stories -- often about political figures or celebrities.

Sometimes, their motive is to entertain -- just like a skit on a TV satire show like Saturday Night Live. Other times people with an axe to grind or just a desire to make mischief are at work.

There are several well-known and popular fake news sites, the best known probably being theonion.com. Their offerings can be very thought-provoking -- as long as you know what they're up to. In other words, “news” from The Onion is not true -- but it can be very funny.

More serious are sites that let people create their own hoax stories, for example claiming that an individual has been arrested. The user supplies the name and the site generates both the story and a link to it.

The important point here is never to act on or pass on any information you read or view unless you know for sure whether it's true or false. Then you can let the recipient know.

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Internet Tech Advice: Managing [and deleting] All Those Web Browser Toolbars

By Sandy Rand, President,
Brookdale Computer Users Group, New Jersey

Did you ever notice that your Internet Explorer has toolbars from such companies as Google, Yahoo, Ask.com, WebSearch, MSN, The Weather Channel, etc? The list of these toolbars goes on and on. When I work on my client's computers, sometimes I see five or six toolbars on the same browser window. The toolbars are actually taking up a third of the space. Most of the time, the client doesn't use them and has no idea how they got there. Once in a great while, I find someone who actually uses one of these bars.

The annoying part of it is that most of the time, they sneak on. These toolbars are mostly marketing. Somebody is getting paid to get you to use them. So, how do they get on your computer? The usual scenario is that you have downloaded a free program and done a Standard Install. The way to control what's happening is to do a Custom Install. With the Custom Install you step through several screens that give you choices. With free software, most of the time one of these screens will ask for permission to install a toolbar, change your home page or change your default browser. All you have to do is remove the checkmarks or choose no.

Sometimes when downloading programs, you'll get a choice between running the installation from the web site and saving the installation file to your hard drive. You should always choose to save the file and do the install from your PC. Otherwise, you may not have an opportunity to choose the Custom Install. Also, it's good to have the install file just in case you have to run the installation twice.

If you're actually using one of these toolbars, you should still get rid of the ones you don't use. There are two approaches. In Internet Explorer, just right click in the menu area. The menu that comes up will list all toolbars installed on your PC. The active ones will have a checkmark in the menu. Just click on the check marked item and the toolbar will close. Use this method if you might want to use the bar later.

If you're sure you'll never use it (which is most of the time), go to Control Panel, Add Remove Programs and uninstall the toolbar program. It's that simple.

There are quite a few free programs that are worthwhile and the software companies can't stay in business if they can't monetize it somehow. The toolbars are one way they do it. Still, for the future, you'll have better control if you always do Custom Installs.

June 2010 Issue, BUG Bytes www.bcug.com [srand98 \(at\) comcast.net](mailto:srand98@comcast.net)

GENERAL INTEREST

Un-Trapping Old Music

by Diane Fahlbusch, The ICON Graphic, June 2010

Technology has made audio a new experience, and provides a plethora of choices. Hours of music can now fit comfortably in your pocket, as well as the players. Music files can be transferred with the click of a few buttons. But what good is it all if your music is still trapped in vinyl and tape?

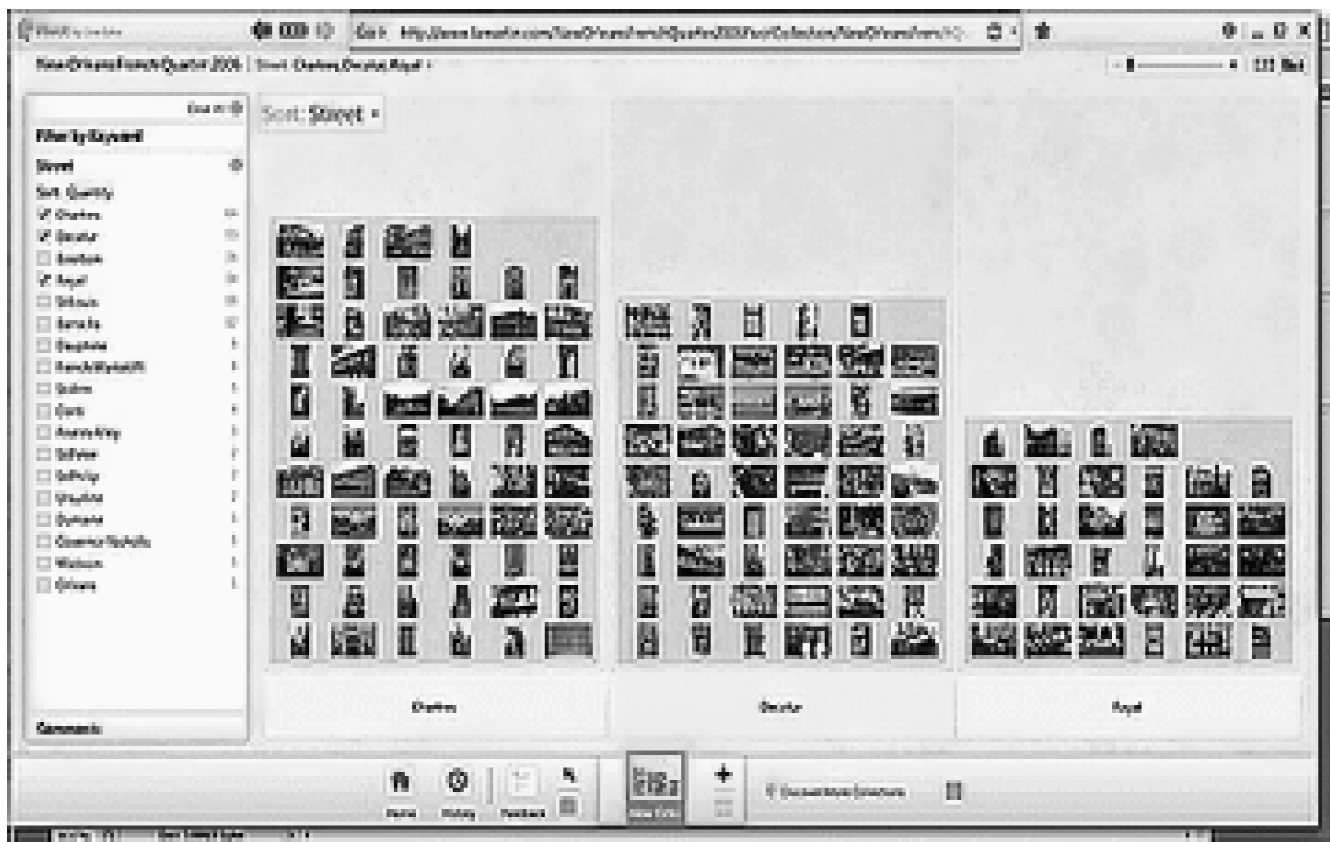
One of the easiest ways to digitalize your music is to download it. Be careful about offers for free music. Some sites are merely malware and virus traps, while others will bombard you with adware and spam. If you have an extensive collection to transfer, buying downloaded music can become an expensive proposition. Also, internet based music may not be a high enough quality to suit your ear.

Another solution is to rip CDs. It's fast and easy. If you are connected to internet during the process, album information can be filled in automatically a huge time saver. Don't overlook the free resources available from your public library, including the inter-library loan. There are plenty of freeware programs to accomplish this. But what if you can't find what you want on CD?

A third choice is to purchase a USB turntable. They all come with software, the primary price determiner, and connect directly to your computer. Unfortunately, they are not quality turntables and often do not accommodate 78s, which require a wider needle. And your tapes are still trapped. So what else can you do?

Thanks to software and a few simple inexpensive connections, especially if you shop around, you have another alternative. Simple Y connections can be used to bring sound out from your headphone jack and in through the microphone connection on your computer via RCA cables. Standard headphone jacks are <" (6.3mm), and microphone and "mini" headphone jacks are "" (3.5mm). Be aware that there is a smaller jack that is referred to as a mini-plug. Another alternative is to connect to the speaker out jacks. To prevent feedback, use long enough RCA cables to keep your computer away from your stereo. Both of these methods require you to adjustments to the volume on your stereo system, as well as your system's microphone settings and the software's recording levels. The best connection is from the RCA "record" jacks designed for tape decks from the amplifier. You will still need to adjust the system's microphone level and the software's recording levels.

That's all really need. Remember that by not using "professional equipment", such as a mixing board, you are staying within the legal limits of copyright laws. And for software, try Audacity. It allows you to record and edit your audio files. And it's FREE. But for removing hiss and crackle, you may want to investigate paid software. Look for ones that allow you to try them to see if you can learn them, work with and do what you need to, even if they leave a watermark.



A New Way of Viewing Data

By William LaMartin, Editor Tampa PC Users Group
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The screen capture above is an example of what Microsoft calls a Pivot Collection, a new way of organizing data of any type so as to better see relationships among the data. I made this Pivot Collection out of 255 digital photos I took in the New Orleans French Quarter on a visit in 2006. The data includes each photo image, along with a description of the image, the street name where the image was taken and the latitude and longitude of the image (added by geo-tagging). I could have included the time, camera's f/stop, shutter speed, etc. but chose not to do that.

What you are seeing is the data for three of the streets in the French quarter Chartres, Decatur and Royal - being displayed in a bar-graph format. If you click on an image, you can then zoom in to see the details of the image, while on the right-hand side of the screen will appear the description of the image and the street name. A double-click on the image will produce a Microsoft Bing map of the location of the image in birdseye aerial view (using the longitude and latitude).

You can sort the images in as many different ways as you have provided data. For example, I could display only images that had the word restaurant (17 such images) in the description. If I had included the camera f/stop, I could have displayed all images at, say, an f/stop of 5.6.

Pivot is a product of Microsoft Research and as yet is not intended for general use. To view a Pivot Collection, you have to use the special Pivot browser. However, later this summer Microsoft plans to release a Silverlight control that will allow the creation of Pivot Collections inside Visual Studio such that they can then be viewed with an ordinary web browser, such as Internet Explorer or Firefox.

If you would like to investigate Pivot, the link is <http://www.getpivot.com>. There you can read about Pivot and download the Pivot Browser to view the existing collections, which right now seem to lean toward sports databases. To see my New Orleans collection, download the Pivot browser and put <http://www.lamartin.com/NewOrleansFrenchQuarter2006PivotCollection/NewOrleansFrenchQuarter2006.xml> into the URL text box (not in the regular browser). ?

Eco-friendly Tips for Your Computer - Iolo Technologies

Big Bear Computer Club - Bearly Bytes September, 2010

Keeping your PC Green

These days, many of us are looking for ways to conserve energy, both to help the environment and to save some cash: buying energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances, adjusting the thermostat, and trying to “reduce, reuse and recycle” where we can.

But we may be overlooking one thing that can be a huge energy drain, increasing our monthly utility bills and needlessly filling up landfills: our computers.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Western Sustainability and Pollution Prevention Network (WSPPN), Americans:

- ♦ Generate more than five billion pounds of computer waste. (EPA)
- ♦ Dump 82 percent of computers in landfills instead of recycling them; in 2007 alone, more than 40 million computers were dumped. (EPA)

On average, discard their PC after only 30 months of use. (WSPPN)

Here are some easy steps you can take to keep your PC green and energy-efficient: you can help protect the environment and save yourself some money at the same time.

Turn off your monitor

A monitor uses a lot of energy, more than you may realize: it accounts for roughly a third of the electrical usage of your entire computer.

Configure your monitor's sleep feature to automatically power down when you're away from the computer (look for “Power Options” in the Control Panel). This sleep mode still uses some energy, so at the end of the day or if you'll be away from your computer for awhile, turn off the monitor.

NOTE: You also may want to consider lowering the brightness of your monitor; the brighter your display, the more energy it uses. And there may be an added bonus: some people have reported that a dimmer display reduces eye strain.

Turn off your screensaver

Screensavers were originally designed to protect older monochromatic monitors, a type of monitor that's rarely seen anymore. Newer monitors, such as those that use LCD or LED technology, don't need screensavers at all.

Animated screensavers can be fun but they consume as much energy as a monitor in use, not to mention wasting CPU and memory power and unnecessarily heating up your PC, which in turn requires more fan power to keep it cool: it's a domino effect that all adds up to a needless drain of energy.

Turn off the screensaver. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), turning off the screen-saver can save you from \$25 to \$75 a year on energy costs. This may not seem like a lot, but think of it a different way: it's like getting a \$50 check for your birthday every year just by turning off something you don't need: your screensaver.

Use energy-saving modes

Many people leave their computers powered on around-the-clock often, this is to avoid a lengthy boot-up process, but sometimes we want to leave our PCs on so we can access them remotely or so that automated maintenance processes can run.

TIP: If you find yourself frustrated with how long it takes your computer to boot up, it may be time to clean it out: your PC's startup process can easily become clogged with a lot of programs you don't really need. Read more about how you can speed up your PC's start-up time.

One way to combine energy conservation with the convenience of an “always-on” PC is to enable standby or hibernate mode (also one of the “Power Options” in Windows). With these energy-saving modes, you can set your PC to ‘sleep’ after it's been idle a certain amount of time, and the computer will only ‘wake up’ when you return or when it's running maintenance tasks.

So what's the difference between standby and hibernate?

- ♦ Standby: With standby mode, your PC uses very little power; some is still used, but the power to items such as your monitor and hard drive is cut. When you come back to your PC, you'll be up and running quickly, but your computer will be using more energy than the hibernate mode.
- ♦ Hibernate: With hibernate mode, your PC is not using any power at all. Of the two, this mode definitely saves the most energy, but the time it takes for everything to power up will be a bit longer.

TIP: An always-on PC not only uses energy; it can also take a big hit on performance. This is because a PC that's always powered on? saves data into memory, and when your PC is low on memory, everything suffers. To avoid this memory overload, restart your computer every few days and defragment the memory about once a month. Defragmentation reclaims valuable memory and improves PC efficiency, stability, and speed: performance goes up, energy usage goes down. Read more about how memory defragmentation improves performance.

Keep your PC tuned

For any of your appliances, proper maintenance reduces waste, and the same holds true for computers. Much like a car, a properly tuned computer can run more efficiently: a lean PC uses less electricity and performs much better.

Over time, PCs get bloated and inefficient: settings become outdated as you add and remove programs, clutter is left

behind from web surfing, resource-hogging startup commands are needlessly running. This PC de-tritus that builds up through daily use acts like “friction” on your computer and the end result is that every-thing your computer does requires more effort, takes more time, generates more heat, and wastes more power.

TIP: The common problems that can overtax your computer’s resources and waste energy can be easily re-solved with a good PC tune-up software program. Read more about how PC tune-ups can reverse performance problems.

And an added benefit: by keeping your current PC in good running condition, you’ll also be able to hold on to it longer, saving you the costly expense of a new computer.

Recycle your old PC

Eventually the day will come when you’re ready to say goodbye to your old computer. When that happens, rather than throwing your PC away and adding to the world’s growing waste problem, why not recycle it? Re-search by the EPA found that in 2007 only 15% of discarded computers were recycled. And many of the computers that ended up in landfills could have benefited our community by being donated to charities, schools, or other non-profit groups. Iolo Technologies

If you’re not sure where you can recycle or donate your computer, the non-profit organization TechSoup provides a list of recycling and refurbishing centers that accept computer donations: www.techsoup.org/recycle/donate; just enter your zip code and you can find all the centers near you.

NOTE: Before you give your computer away, it’s critical that you securely delete all your personal information. Just deleting files, or even formatting the drive, isn’t enough someone using easily available software can still recover the files. (Read more about why deleting files doesn’t permanently erase them.) To securely delete your information, use data wiping software, which uses overwrite technologies that prevent data from being recovered.

Buy green

If you’re in the market for a new PC, do some research before you buy: many computer manufacturers, including Dell, HP, Acer, and others, now offer “green” models that use less energy, have more reusable/rechargeable components, or use recycled material.

And your best bet may be to choose a laptop over a desktop. In order to optimize battery usage, most laptops have energy-efficient features built-in: a laptop can use up to 50% less electricity than a desktop machine.

TIP: If you only use your computer at home, you could consider setting up your laptop like a desktop, with a “full size” monitor, mouse, and keyboard attached.

Avoiding Copyright Infringement - U.S. Copyright Office

Big Bear Computer Club - Bearly Bytes September, 2010

Although copyright may seem to be a purely legal issue, using unauthorized files could have security implications. To avoid prosecution and minimize the risks to your computer, make sure you have permission to use any copyrighted information, and only download authorized files. How does copyright infringement apply to the internet? Copyright infringement occurs when you use or distribute information without permission from the person or organization that owns the legal rights to the information. Including an image or cartoon on your website or in a document, illegally downloading music, and pirating software are all common copyright violations. While these activities may seem harmless, they could have serious legal and security implications. How do you know if you have permission to use something? If you find something on a website that you would like to use (e.g., a document, a chart, an application), search for information about permissions to use, download, redistribute, or reproduce. Most websites have a “terms of use” page that explains how you are allowed to use information from the site (see US-CERT’s terms of use for an example). You can often find a link to this page in the site’s contact information or privacy policy, or at the bottom of the page that contains the information you are interested in using. There may be restrictions based on the purpose, method, and audience. You may also have to adhere to specific conditions about how much information you are allowed to use or how the information is presented and attributed. If you can’t locate the terms of use, or if it seems unclear, contact the individual or organization that holds the copyright to ask permission. What consequences could you face? * Prosecution - When you illegally download, reproduce, or distribute information, you risk legal action. Penalties may range from warnings and mandatory removal of all references to costly fines. Depending on the severity of the crime, jail time may also be a possibility. To offset their own court costs and the money they feel they lose because of pirated software, vendors may increase the prices of their products.

* Infection - Attackers could take advantage of sites or networks that offer unauthorized downloads (music, movies, software, etc.) by including code into the files that would infect your computer once it was installed (*see Understanding Hidden Threats: Corrupted Software Files and Understanding Hidden Threats: Rootkits and Botnets for more information*). Because you wouldn’t know the source or identity of the infection (or maybe that it was even there), you might not be able to easily identify or remove it. Pirated software with hidden Trojan horses is often advertised as discounted software in spam email messages.

See *Why is Cyber Security a Problem?* and *Reducing Spam* for more information. References * U.S. Copyright Office - <http://www.copyright.gov/> * Copyright on the Internet - <http://www.fplc.edu/tfield/copynet.htm>

A Font Of Knowledge

by Dave Chresten,, Fox Valley PC Association ,Oswego, IL
May 2010 Issue, Fox Tales

Have you ever gotten a small print from your camera or cell phone and thought it looked pretty nice? And decided to have an 8x10 made? And discovered that diagonal lines stair stepped across the page and everything else looked like they were made of colored Legos? And realized why that happened? It's because all pictures are made out of pixels, this is called bitmapped, and there were not enough pixels in your image. So, when it was enlarged, you saw the individual pixels.

Now, try an experiment. Open Word (or your favorite word processor,) select Times New Roman, size 6 point, and put an "s" on a page. Now change the size to 60 point and put another "s" on the page next to it. Now add a third "s", this time at 600 points. Now print the page out. Look Ma, no pixels! What happened? Why don't characters pixilate also? Welcome to the wonderful, and confusing, world of typography. Let's see why, and learn a bit about what's going on.

First, a given character set, or typeface, is contained in a file and is called a font. Now, if you've ever thought about It, you probably assumed that there was a bitmap for each character in the font and when you pressed a key the system found that bit map and printed it. Not so easy. If that were the case you would get pixilation. And that was the way it was done, once upon a time, and there are a few cases where it is still useful. (I'll get to those later.)

Instead, each character is stored as a set of formulas, or equations. If you remember your analytic geometry you will know that any equation can be plotted as a line or curve. So, for a character, there is a set of equations, each of which defines a part of the outline or the character. A straight dash would be easy, four equations, one for each side. A dollar sign would be more complicated. When you key in a character the equations are adjusted to define the point size you specified, then the outline of the character is created, then it is filled with the color you selected. (For those seeking more enlightenment, Google "Bezier curves") But it gets a lot more complicated.

For each character there is more than one set. Bold type is not just fat type, if so the "counters" (the little openings in letters like e and o) would get filled in. So the typographer has to design an entirely unique shape for each bold character, one that looks like the normal one but is heavier. Italics? Same thing. Another design. Italic Bold. Yep, another design. And so on. And how many characters are there? Well, let's see. There's the 26 letters of the alphabet of course, 10 digits, and, say, 14 special characters. That's fifty. But how about upper and lower case. Add another 26. Small caps. Another. But just 14 special characters? Did you know there are four different dashes? And points of ellipsis. And umlauts. And so on. In

fact, one of the formats for storing fonts can contain more than a million characters, and it's not uncommon for a well designed font to have over one thousand.

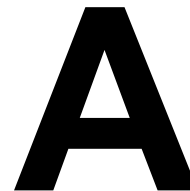
Back to you pressing a key. "What happens? First, the character formulas are selected. Then a kerning table that's also built into the font is read. This compares the character you selected with the character immediately before it. Certain combinations of characters have to be printed closer together or farther apart to look correct; this is the function of the kerning table. Next, another table is checked.

It's been found that if exactly the same shape of character is printed in two different sizes they won't look the same to the eye. So this table looks at the point size you selected and adjusts the character thickness appropriately. (Larger sizes are thinner and closer together.) Then a "hints" table is referred to. This is used when the character is going to a device with low resolution, such as a monitor. (It adds anti-aliasing to reduce the "threshold effect.") It also makes adjustments to the character to make it display more legibly. Finally, after some more manipulation which I won't take the space to go into here, your character appears somewhere.

Now, all of this is the responsibility of the font designer. And good ones take all of the above into consideration. It's certainly possible to skip some of the above. Ever seen these CD's "Thousand's of fonts for \$29.95?" I seriously doubt that they've put much time into each of the above factors. You get what you pay for.

And lastly, I had mentioned above that there are still a few bitmapped fonts around. Why? Because regular fonts, no matter how well designed, have problems with legibility when displayed at small sizes on a monitor. This is a common problem in web design. Bit-mapped fonts are specifically designed for this purpose. So, the next time you key in "Dear Sirs," take a few seconds to think and appreciate the over-worked, under-appreciated font designer who spent many sleepless hours to let you make your document look pretty.

Still curious? There are many books on the subject; the one to start with is "The Complete Manual of Typography" by James Felici.



Another “Free TV” Utility

by Ira Wilsker ‘
zinc.tv

A few weeks ago I wrote about some web-based utilities that could display over 2000 channels that stream live over the Internet. I have had a lot of positive response about that column, and was asked by several readers if there was a free standing utility that could stream TV directly to the computer, and possibly even connect to a TV. While doing a search, I found several utilities that claim that they could do precisely those tasks but my security software blocked access to those sites alleging some type of danger or risk. One site that seems to pass security muster is zinc.tv. This free service, currently in beta (not yet a final release), combines feeds from several resources, including Hulu, ABC, NBC, Fox, ESPN, National Geographic, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, ABC Family, and many other sources. Zinc also offers free music videos from MTV and VH1. The user needs to understand that these so-called “channels” are typically not the live feeds as seen by cable or satellite subscribers, but are past, usually very recent, shows. While most of the content on Zinc TV is totally free, there are links to commercial content which includes such sources as Netflix, and Amazon’s streaming content.

The Zinc viewer can be downloaded (free) from zinc.tv, and will run on modern Windows or Mac computers, as well as a NetTop box, or using a wireless HDMI device. When I downloaded the 20.6mb file, it downloaded and installed without any problems. The Windows version requires Windows 7, Vista, or XP with service pack 2 (or later) installed, and a capable video card. Zinc TV will also run on a Mac with OS X 10.4.11 (Tiger) or later, with an Intel processor, and a compatible Video card.

The Zinc player initially opens in full screen mode, and has very sharp and colorful graphics. At the top of the default window (which is customizable), the latest “Featured” shows are displayed. As I type this, the featured shows are Boston Med, Downfall, The Gates, Rookie Blue, and Scoundrels. Generally, the featured shows are the full episodes that recently appeared on TV, along with links to past episodes. This is a very good way to view again any favorite episodes, or episodes that were missed. Below the Featured shows are the categories of shows. Shows are sorted by genre, and include TV shows (29783 episodes), movies (519 full length and trailers), news (2437 shows), sports (1159 events), kids (35 channels), comedy (973 shows), web (21917 items from YouTube, Break.com, Yahoo. video, and more), technology (418 shows), Yahoo! Connected TV (5792 items), and Music (1340 channels and videos). The “Most Popular” TV shows available on Zinc TV are Glee, Dancing With The Stars, House, Lost, and Modern Family.

Below the “Categories” heading is the “Recently Added” which displays any newly added networks. Two of the most notable new networks available on Zinc TV are The WB and Spike. Many of the commercial entertainment sites that offer

streaming video are accessible individually by going directly to the websites, or the user can use Zinc TV to access many of these sites from one link. Among the networks accessible and searchable with Zinc TV are CBS, ABC, Fox, Hulu, The WB, MTV, The CW, CNN, MSNBC, ESPN, Fox Sports, Fox News, PBS, Cartoon Network (CN), National Geographic Kids, Nickelodeon, ABC News, Spike, Comedy Centra, VNET, NASA, The Whitehouse (presidential broadcasts), HBO, NFL, NBA, TV Land, Univision, VH1, and many more.

Clicking on the TV network logo opens up the lineup of available shows. Clicking on CBS, for example, displays a directory of the full length episodes available. CBS currently has 4385 episodes available, including such popular shows as Survivor, 48 Hours Mystery, 60 Minutes, the CSI trilogy, Amazing Race, 90210, Star Trek, and Twin Peaks. The ABC link opens up to display over 400 episodes, including 20/20, All My Children, the Bachelorette, Boston Med, Desperate Housewives, Grey’s Anatomy, Lost, ABC Primetime, One Life to Live, and many more. The other networks listed have similar directories of TV shows that can be viewed on demand.

One of my personal favorite categories is the news category. This category includes the latest evening news from ABC (ABC World News), NBC Nightly News, and CBS Evening News with Katie Couric. CNN has 947 present and past shows available, and MSNBC has 237 shows online. Popular news shows from PBS include the Jim Lehrer Hour (281 episodes), and Bill Moyers Journal with 330 episodes. Individual shows include Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor, Glenn Beck, and Sean Hannity. The White House Channel, and Obama Weekly broadcast presidential speeches and other executive branch presentations.

Children can be well entertained by several Kids channels. Nickelodeon has 12 different popular full length kids’ shows including Avatar, Danny Phantom, The Fairly a Odd Parents, iCarly, and the widely popular Sponge Bob Square Pants. The Cartoon Network has full online episodes of 55 of its shows including Batman, and the Transformers. Newly added to Zinc TV is the JAROO kids’ channel, which includes 261 full length children’s movies and classic cartoons.

Sports fans will appreciate the wide assortment of sports channels available, including ESPN, NHL (Hockey), NBA (Basketball), Soccer, NASCAR, NFL Football, MLB (Baseball), a Fitness channel, Sports and Recreation channel. In aggregate, 1159 sports shows are available on Zinc TV. This should be enough to provide any sports junkie his fix for quite a while!

Since Zinc TV will run on most computers, as well as on a variety of TV and home entertainment devices, and carries an enormous variety of content, it should satisfy many of the entertainment needs of today’s society. While the shows, most notably the news and sports shows, are not live, many are very current, often from the same day. Zinc TV is a worthwhile utility to download and install; just don’t blame me if you watch it too much!

OPERATING SYSTEM NOTES & TIPS

Adding Commands to Explorer Context Menu in Windows 7

by Vinny La Bash, <vlabash@comcast.net>
Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.

A lot of things are possible when you bring up the Explorer context menu in Windows 7, but neither the Copy To folder nor Move To folder commands are one of them. Why did Microsoft leave these two useful commands off the menu? Only the programmers in Redmond know the answer.

You can get around this annoyance by dragging and dropping to a different folder or disk drive, but that requires you to have at least two different windows open simultaneously. Copying the file or files from one window to another is also an option. Cut and paste is available, but either of those two actions necessitates leaving the current window and navigating around your system. Anyone with a basic knowledge of how files and folders work can do this, but it is much more trouble than necessary. You could wear out your mouse with all the clicking needed.

Some people have difficulty working with a mouse, and others prefer working with a keyboard. Whatever operational category you occupy, a context menu is much easier to operate in than all this clicking, dragging, and dropping.

We can add the Copy To folder and Move To folder commands to the context menu with some relatively easy edits to the Registry. Registry edits often appear to be one of the great mysteries of the computer environment that can totally baffle or flat out terrify those who are unfamiliar with its inner workings. For that reason editing the Registry is officially and traditionally considered a task saved for experienced users only. These fears are largely exaggerated.

With a little direction and a few proactive measures, most dangers can easily be avoided. The best proactive measure before taking on the following exercise is to back up the Registry in case you make some kind of irreversible mistake.

With that out of the way let's get started:

- ♦ Open the registry editor by left clicking on the Windows orb located at the bottom left hand side of your display.
- ♦ Type regedit in the text box and press Enter.
- ♦ Respond to any dialog boxes that appear.
- ♦ Navigate to the following registry folder. HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\AllFilesystemObjects\shellex\ContextMenuHandlers
- ♦ Right-click on the ContextMenuHandlers folder.
- ♦ Select New/Key.
- ♦ The New Key appears and you will be asked to name it. Give it the name Copy To and then double-click the (Default) value of the new key's right-hand pane. The system will add the "folder" part of the command. You don't need to specify it.
- ♦ Enter the following series of letters, numbers, and dashes EXACTLY as shown below. The series is case sensitive.

Don't forget to include the brackets. {C2FBB630-2971-11D1-A18C-00C04FD75D13}

- ♦ When you're done and completely certain you have entered the information exactly as shown in the bolded line above, press Enter, and the Copy To folder command will now be part of the context menu.
- ♦ Now let's add the Move To folder command to the context menu. Right-click the ContextMenuHandler folder again.
- ♦ The New Key again appears. Name it Move To and then double-click the (Default) value of the new key's right-hand pane. The system will add the "folder" part of the command. You don't need to specify it.
- ♦ Enter the following series of letters, numbers, and dashes EXACTLY as shown below. This series is also case sensitive. Don't forget to include the brackets. {C2FBB631-2971-11D1-A18C-00C04FD75D13} Note: This series is only one character different from the first series.
- ♦ When you're done and completely certain you have entered the information exactly as shown in the bolded line above, press Enter, and the Move To folder command will now be part of the context menu.
- ♦ Finish up by closing the Registry Editor.

From now on, whenever you right-click on a file from within Explorer, the Copy To folder and Move To folder commands will be ready and waiting. Your new commands also work with multiple files.

You can add a specific folder destination to the context menu without editing the registry.

- ♦ Open the Computer icon from the Desktop.
- ♦ Open the C: drive or wherever Windows 7 is installed.
- ♦ Navigate to C:\Users\Username\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\SendTo

Note: This folder contains shortcuts to all the destinations displayed from the SendTo command on Explorer's context menu.

- ♦ Right-click on an open space in this window.
- ♦ Click New and then Shortcut.
- ♦ The Create Shortcut dialog box appears. It will prompt you to enter a destination in the text box.
- ♦ Enter the path to the desired destination or use the Browse button to find a folder buried somewhere in your system.
- ♦ Click Next, and give the shortcut a name.
- ♦ Click Finish to activate the new destination on the context menu.
- ♦ While holding the left shift button down, close the SendTo window. The new target is now available in your SendTo menu. :

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Problem Report: AVG 2011 Conflict With Zone Alarm

By Carl Tenning, Tacoma Open Group For Microcomputers

A recent update automatically downloaded and installed by AVG 2011 caused an error message to appear stating that MSVCR80.dll could not be found. Searching GOOGLE, I found that “MSVCR80.dll” would usually appear in the Windows System32 folder. Checking that folder, I found that it was not there. Likewise it did not exist in the other two Windows XP machines I have. The error message suggests re-installing the application. But before re-installing AVG 2011, I went to Control Panel “Add or Remove Programs” to see if AVG 2011 had a “Repair” option. It did, but when I selected that option, it informed me that a conflicting product was detected; the conflicting product being Zone Alarm. Now I had been operating successfully before this with both AVG 2011 and Zone Alarm running together in harmony. What happened?

Another GOOGLE search suggested that the Zone Alarm Tool Bar was the conflicting application. It may be that this application was recently installed and might be the culprit.

So I uninstalled the Zone Alarm Toolbar application and then tried repairing AVG 2011 again. No luck; it said I had to completely remove Zone Alarm. So I did.

After removing Zone Alarm using Control Panel “Add or Remove Programs” and restarting the computer, AVG 2011 then opened without causing the error message that “MSVCR80.dll” could not be found.



Format Painter A Cousin To “Copy-And-Paste”

by Nancy DeMarte, <ndemarte@verizon.net>
Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.

When you begin to use the programs that are part of Microsoft Office, it is easy to overlook some of the tools which could make your life easier. I found that to be the case with Format Painter, a command which appears in several versions of Office programs, yet is greatly underused. Once you know what it can do and how easy it is to use, you will wonder why you never got to know it before.

In Word 2007, Format Painter is located on the Home tab in the Clipboard group. In Word 2003, it's on the Standard toolbar. It provides a quick way to copy formats from one place to another in the Office programs: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, even Access. It doesn't change any content like its cousins, Cut, Copy, and Paste, but it can reproduce even the most complex formats in seconds.

For example, let's say you have created a long document with headings and sub-headings. You want to give it a little pizzazz by changing the sub-headings to a different font, font color, and size from the rest of the document. All you have to do is make your format changes manually to the first sub-

heading and use Format Painter to replicate those changes on all the others.

Another instance where Format Painter is a lifesaver is when you are creating a document or outline where certain lines are indented. Occasionally, you will find that the amount of indentation becomes inconsistent as you work your way through the document. Rather than dragging the indentation marks on the ruler to the correct positions, you can use Format Painter to copy the exact indentation from the last correct area to any others that need to be fixed.

This tool works with text formats, like fonts, italics, and font colors. It also works with paragraph formatting, such as indents, alignment, bulleting, and line spacing. And it is available in all the popular Office Programs. When creating a custom PowerPoint presentation, for example, Format Painter can help overcome the challenge of keeping your custom headings formatted the same on all slides. Excel users can copy formatting from one cell to another with Format, which is Excel's name for Format Painter.

It also works with certain graphics in some Office programs. In Word, you might want to include an auto shape like a large arrow on the cover of a brochure for emphasis. You might have resized it, added a border, and filled it with a custom color. Format Painter can reproduce that format on another arrow on the back page with very few clicks.

Here's how it works. It is best if you follow the advice from the professionals and type the entire document before formatting it. Then, once you get an item - word, phrase, or paragraph - manually formatted the way you want it, select it. Then click the Format Painter icon once, which turns the cursor into a paint brush. Scroll to the item you want to change and select it. Immediately it changes to match the format of the original item. If you have more than one item you want to change, double click the Format Painter and use it on as many items as you need to. It will remain active until you click its icon to turn it off.

Some quick tricks

If you want to copy text formatting, select a portion of a paragraph. If you want to copy paragraph formatting, select the whole paragraph plus the paragraph mark. Make a mistake? Use Undo. Want all formatting done for you? In Word, choose one of the Templates (or Themes in Word 2007). Format Painter is only one of several commands that even beginners can learn to use to save time and frustration when using Office programs. Other tools will be featured in future articles.

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Help Lines

<u>HARDWARE HELP</u>	<u>Advisor No.</u>
Reformat Hard Disk, FDISK	2, 4, 5
Install Hard Drive, CD-ROM/RW	2, 4, 5
Install Video Card	7
Partitioning Hard Drives	2
Internet/Intranet	6, 7
Audio Cards	4
MPs Files, WMA Files, WAV Files	3, 4
Burning CD's	3, 5
Homesite	7
Net Objects	7

<u>SOFTWARE HELP</u>	<u>Advisor No.</u>
Win 95/98/ME/2K/NT/XP	2, 3, 4, 7
Win 7	4, 7
Microsoft Word	2, 7
Microsoft Excel	4
Microsoft PowerPoint	4
WordPerfect	1, 7
Norton/Symantec AntiVirus	2, 3, 6, 7
Norton System Works	2, 7
CompuPic / CompuPic Pro	3, 7
Winzip, WinRAR	6
Cleaner	3, 4
Outlook, Outlook Express	2
Internet Explorer	2, 7
RegSeeker	3, 5
Instant Messaging	2
Installing Software after Reformatting	5
Deleting Files; Wiping	6

ADVISORS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1 Fred Shelton	(253) 752-0120	Variable
2 Bob Henkel	(253) 537-6732	8A-8P any day
3 Tom Stepanek	(253) 922-7939	7-9P Mon-Fri
4 Carl Tenning	(206) 824-3843	6-9P Mon-Fri
5 Oclad Wesley	(253) 212-0352	6-9P
6 Bob Thomson	(253) 752-5582	
7 Ray Mills	(360) 692-7568	6-9P Mon-Sat

Tacoma Open Group for Microcomputers (TOG)

New Member Application/Existing Member Change of Address Form

For Tacoma Open Group annual membership, send form (if needed) & \$25 to Bob Henkel., 10613 25th Avenue E., Tacoma, WA 98445.

Make checks payable to TOG

Please print or type. Date: _____ Sponsored by: _____

Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____ Plus Four _____ Country: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work phone: (____) _____ E-Mail Address _____

TACOMA MEETING

When: **Mon 8 Nov 2010 -7:00 PM**
Where: SE Tacoma Community Centre
1614 99th Street E.
Tacoma, Washington

From I-5 take Exit 127 (Hwy 512) to
Portland Ave., north on Portland to 99th,
left over tracks. Building is on south side.

Future Dates: 2nd Monday of Month

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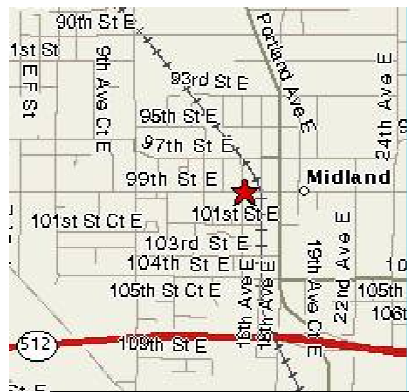
Deadline: 15th of this month to appear
in next months' issue, if room

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How To get To The Meeting

For those readers still unfamiliar with how to find our meeting place we have reproduced the map showing its relationship in Tacoma to Portland Ave S. and the 512 Freeway. The 512 Freeway can be entered from I-5 in Tacoma on the west or from Hwy 167 in Puyallup on the east. Proceed to Portland off-ramp and turn north to 99th Street. Some folks in the middle of Tacoma may prefer to take Portland southbound to 99th. At 99th turn west over the tracks and there you are!



Tacoma OPEN Group for Micros
1808 Lenore Drive
Tacoma, WA 98406-1920

Change Service Requested

PROGRAMS

This Month's Meeting

This will be a regular monthly meeting. Meeting discussions are always interesting and the ever-popular Q&A (Question & Answer) period is sure to pique your interest, come up to your expectations and tickle your fancy. Come and share your own experiences, problems and discoveries.

As in past meetings our President Carl Tenning is sure to have several topics worthy of discussion. If you have a topic which you would like discussed contact Carl to add it to the agenda. His phone number and e-mail address are in the left hand column of this page.