

# TOGGLE

THE MICROCOMPUTER TURN (ON)

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TACOMA-SEATTLE AREA MICROCOMPUTER USERS

Volume 32

Number 3

August 2011

Issue #339

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>PROGRAMS</b> .....	12
<b>UPDATE</b>	
- Summary of Articles .....	1
<b>Communications Note &amp; Tips</b>	
- Is It Safe To Bank Online? .....	2
- Broadband2Go .....	3
- Failed Prediction .....	4
<b>Operating System Notes &amp; Tips</b>	
- Understanding System Restore .....	4
- WUBI? What The Heck Is A WUBI?..	5
<b>Word Processing</b>	
- Create PDF Files for Free .....	6
- The Seventh Son of Windows - Desktop Gadgets .....	7
<b>General Interest</b>	
- A Happier, Longer Life? Volunteer!....	7
- Digital Asset Management Software ...	8
- Tips & Tricks - Slip an Ace Up Your Sleeve .....	9
- Un-trapping Old Music .....	10
- World's cheapest computer could run XP .....	10
<b>Library News</b>	
- None this month	



## UPDATE

### Communications

In *Is It Safe To Bank Online?* the author says yes and give several rules and criteria to follow. Read all about it.

In *Broadband2Go* the author discusses the use of an AirCard that allows you to be connected to the Internet while on the road and when WiFi connections are not available. If you do much travelling or RVing this might be for you.

In *Failed Prediction* this short article describes yet another inaccurate prediction about the survivability of the Internet.

### Operating System

In *Understanding System Restore* the author Vinny LaBash says: 'Windows 7 has a new and improved version of System Restore that is far superior to the lame utility that came with XP.' He then goes on the elaborate and give further advice to Windows 7 users. Worth a look.

In *WUBI? What The Heck Is WUBI?* the author discusses the Windows-based Ubuntu Installer (WUBI) which is a program that allows you to install and remove Ubuntu-Linux from within Microsoft Windows (98, 2000, XP, Vista, or Windows 7). WUBI automatically creates a dual boot option that lets a Microsoft Windows user try Ubuntu without risking any data loss due to disk formatting or partitioning.

### Word Processing

In *Create PDF Files for Free* the author gives the addresses of several sites that provide PDF support files and applications - not just readers but those that create PDF files from existing text documents.

In the *Seventh Son of Windows*

### General Interest

In *A Happier, Longer Life? Volunteer!* the author Sister Dorothy Robinson of the Olympia Washington group presents several reasons for volunteering your skills and help in a Computer User Group.

In *Digital Asset Management Software* the author discuss the new feature of digital photographic software that makes provision for entering much more information about each photograph including some history, names of persons in the photo, etcetera.

In *Tips & Tricks - Slip an Ace Up Your Sleeve* the author gives several short tips about e-mail cleanup, simple treatment of PC problems, how to salvage a wet mobile phone, and how to secure a wireless network.

In *Un-trapping Old Music* the author talks about options of capturing downloaded music on your computer, ripping CDs or you could purchase a USB turntable and capture music from your old records. Take a look.

In *World's cheapest computer could run XP* the author tells about a British foundation called Raspberry Pi has built a fully functional computer that's the size of a USB stick and costs \$25.

## COMMUNICATIONS NOTES & TIPS

### Is It Safe to Bank Online?

Kimberly Palmer, USNEWS and World Report

As seen in Big Bear Computer Club Bearly Bytes July, 2011

Last week's security breach at Citibank was just the latest in a string of incidents that have rattled consumers: Sony, Lockheed Martin, and iTunes are also among recent high-profile targets. With such big names falling victim to hackers, is it still safe to bank online?

The answer, according to top security experts, is a qualified "yes." Using the Internet to bank, buy music, or shop is still as safe or safer than visiting brick-and-mortar locations, as long as consumers take precautions and know what to do if they notice any suspicious activity. In fact, the overall trend is a reassuring one: 2010 actually saw fewer records breached than the previous year due to new infrastructure in place, says Julie Conroy McNelley, senior fraud and risk analyst at research firm Aite Group. Today, she adds, "banks have some of the most sophisticated mechanisms in place."

As long as consumers take a few basic steps (explained below) to help protect their information, security experts agree that online banking remains safe. That's a good thing, since it's almost impossible for consumers to avoid sharing personal data online if they want to participate in 21st-century life, from Facebook to online sales to paying bills. Plus, as McNelley adds, many breaches involve databases of card numbers that exist regardless of how cardholders use their accounts.

Much of online security is out of consumers' hands altogether. "It's actually extremely difficult to know how secure any bank's information-handling is," says Geoff Webb, executive at data protection firm Credant Technologies. Banks often don't share much about their security techniques, since they don't want to tip off criminals on how best to attack them. Whether they talk about it or not, financial firms should be encrypting data, segregating credit card information from other types of data, and making web applications as secure as possible. Regular training of employees is also key, he adds.

In addition to doing what they can to protect themselves on their own, consumers can talk to their representatives in Congress to push for bigger changes, Webb says. The government is becoming increasingly involved in driving the security of banks and other organizations, Webb says. In fact, the Commerce Department recently urged online companies to improve their own security, and President Obama proposed new cybersecurity legislation in May.

[See How to Stay Safe While Shopping Online.]

Here are 10 steps consumers to take to make sure their information is safe:

1. Don't talk to cyber-strangers, and don't click on hyperlinks within emails from strangers. "That's the easiest way to download malware to your computer," says McNelley. Even if an email looks like it's from a company you know, such as your bank, go directly to the bank's website and log in there instead of clicking on the embedded link, and never open attachments from strangers (or even suspicious-looking ones from friends, who may have been hacked themselves). Sometimes hackers will set up fake sites that look like real sites to capture victims' information, a method referred to as phishing.

"A financial institution will never contact you via email asking you to verify your funds, request your username or password, or any other sensitive information," says Stephen Sims, senior instructor at the SANS Institute, which educates security professionals.

2. Treat your smartphone like the computer it is. Downloaded apps can contain malicious codes, warns McNelley. "You have no idea who created that app, and very little code-checking goes on," she says. Mean-while, be sure antivirus software on laptops and desktops is up to date. "Many compromises are a result of keystroke-logging software that is illicitly installed on a user's system, capturing usernames and passwords," says Sims.

Meanwhile, be sure antivirus software on laptops and desktops is up to date. "Many compromises are a result of keystroke-logging software that is illicitly installed on a user's system, capturing usernames and passwords," says Sims.

3. Treat social networks like dark street corners. You never know who's lurking among your friends and acquaintances. Hackers have targeted Gmail, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and users of those sites should be especially wary of clicking on embedded links, even those "recommended" by friends. Hackers also send emails that appear to be from social networking sites but are, in fact, fake emails designed to capture personal information. Again, users should avoid clicking on links embedded in emails.

4. Use the Net to your own advantage. If you bank online, you don't have to wait until the end of the month to check your statement. You can log in anytime and make sure nothing is amiss. An errant charge is often one of the first signs of identity theft, so check statements carefully and alert your bank immediately of any problems.

5. Get free help. Many credit card issuers offer free and automatic identify-theft protection to customers. (That's one advantage credit cards have over debit cards.) If you see erroneous charges on your statement, call your credit card company, which should investigate on your behalf. The law

requires credit card companies to dispute erroneous charges. For most people, paying a monthly fee for extra monitoring services is unnecessary. (Once a year, consumers can get their credit report free of charge through [annualcredit-report.com](http://annualcredit-report.com).)

6. Think of a new word. Consumers are tasked with remembering dozens of passwords for various retailers, banks, and accounts, making it almost impossible to remember them all, especially since they often include mixes of numbers and letters. Keep careful track of your passwords in a secure document, rely on mnemonic devices to boost your memory, or come up with some other clever strategy--but don't stick with simple passwords that are easy for strangers to guess. Also, change your passwords on a regular basis.

7. Never, ever give your Social Security number to anyone online. If a site asks for it during the check-out process, it's probably a scam site.

8. Shred or safely store financial mail. Bank statements, investment documents, and other financial paperwork can give thieves clues about account numbers, Social Security numbers, and other personal information. Destroying documents with a cross-cut shredder works, but you can make it easier on yourself (and the environment) by limiting your paper trail wherever possible. Shifting to online banking and document storage can reduce your chances of falling victim to a dumpster diver.

9. Fight back quickly. If you are hacked, step one is calling your bank, says McNelley. That's because banks have sophisticated systems in place that can immediately begin closely monitoring your account for signs of identity theft. They can also and shut down and replace any accounts if necessary. In fact, banks are often the first to notice something amiss, even before the victim. As long as consumers report fraud in a timely manner, the law limits their liability to between \$50 and \$500, says Sims.

10. Trust your gut. "You often hear, after consumers used an ATM with a skimming device, they had a bad feeling about it. If you do have that feeling, listen to it," says McNelley, and remove yourself from the situation. Taking these simple steps is like remembering to lock your door at night, or turn on your alarm system. Says McNelley, "Bad guys go for the house that's unprotected. If you take the basic measures, then generally you have less risk about getting compromised."

*Kimberly Palmer (@alphaconsumer) is the author of the new book *Generation Earn: The Young Professional's Guide to Spending, Investing, and Giving Back*.*

## Broadband2Go

By John Roy, President, The PCUG of Connecticut  
GTBPCUG2July2011  
[www.tpcug-ct.org](http://www.tpcug-ct.org)

I have been itching to purchase an AirCard for my laptop computer. We take several trips during the year with our Roadtrek motor home and, while Wi-Fi hotspots are more abundant these days, Instant Internet access is really appealing. Unfortunately for this instant gratification you have to pay a big price. Being frugal I wasn't prepared to commit to a two-year contract at \$60 per month for the privilege.

For those of you not familiar with an AirCard, it is a high-speed wireless broadband card that gives users mobile Internet access on their lap-tops, using a cellular data service. AirCards can be purchased from wireless providers in various styles such as USB, PCMCIA, ExpressCards and as a portable router. It's interesting to note that AirCard is a registered trademark but used generically to describe these devices such as we use Xerox and Kleenex.

Last year my daughter needed daily email and texting capability that her present cell phone did not provide. She already had an iPod Touch but Wi-Fi hotspots were limited. I researched various options to find a minimal cost solution and focused on Virgin Mobile's Broadband2Go MiFi 2200 credit card router. The driving factor was Virgin Mobile had the cheapest data plans without any contract obligations.

The MiFi 2200 router is unbelievably small just like a credit card and can serve five computers at the same time. There is an initial cost of \$150 for the device but then you can buy air time to fit your needs. This device is extremely portable and will run four or more hours without a recharge.

After monitoring my daughters success with the MiFi 2200, and knowing we were taking an extended trip with our motor home, I decided the time and price was right for my purchase. Virgin Mobile sells two broadband products with the same data plan options. In addition to the \$150 MiFi 2200 they sell a \$80 USB MC760 device. The MC760 plugs into any USB port but unlike the MiFi router it is dedicated to the one computer.

After reviewing the pros and cons for my situation, I chose the MC760. I didn't have a need for sharing my hotspot with five computers, the USB device didn't require a battery, and I saved myself \$70. Of course the best part is I was not locked into a contract and could buy time as needed.

Is buying an AirCard from Virgin Mobile a "no brainer" for everyone? The answer is no but it should be on everyone's evaluation list. Here are some key considerations beyond the primary driver of saving money. Their cellular service is the Sprint 3G network with good coverage in populated areas or primary highway corridors but poor coverage in other less

populated areas. You should check their coverage map to be sure you will have a good signal for your specific needs.

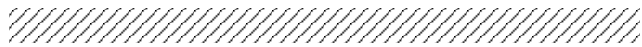
There is some good news and a little concern on their data plans. Last year they offered a \$10 (10 day 100MB) and a \$40 (30 day unlimited) plan. This February they increased the \$40 plan to \$50 and put some speed restrictions beyond 5GB but the deal is better than competing providers. While the price hike was concerning, there is an unpublicized secret you should know. If you purchase either device from Wal-Mart you are offered an optional \$20 (30 day 1GB) plan.

How the plans work is when you start using a plan it will end when either the time period or data limit is met. On the \$50, 30-day unlimited data plan when you reach 5GB of data use your speed will be limited to 256kbps for the remainder of the time period.

One final note is both devices have several neat software options beyond the basic application.

The MC760 has a micro SDHC memory card slot and the capability of adding an optional antenna to increase range. Documentation is less than meager and only includes startup instructions but once initiated the setup is interactive. Most importantly you can find a detailed manual on line. If you are in the market for an AirCard or curious for more details, visit their website.

<http://www.virginmobileusa.com/mobile-broadband/>



### **Failed Prediction**

As seen in Big Bear Computer Club Bearly Bytes July, 2011

Robert Metcalfe is the founder of the 3Com digital electronics company and a professor at The University of Texas at Austin. He holds a PhD from Harvard, is the co-inventor of Ethernet, and holds a Grace Murray Hopper Award for developing it.

Today he is a General Partner at Polaris Venture Partners, a venture capital firm that specializes in early investments in technology companies

Despite his impressive resume, Robert Metcalfe is known for at least one inaccurate prediction that he is unlikely to live down. In a 1995 issue of InfoWorld, he famously said of the Internet that it “will soon go spectacularly supernova and in 1996 catastrophically collapse.” He then promised to eat his words if proven wrong. He was.

So, during his keynote speech at the WWW International Conference in 1997, he produced the magazine page containing the quote, put it in a blender, and ingested it before a live audience.

## **OPERATING SYSTEM NOTES & TIPS**

### **Understanding System Restore**

By Vinny La Bash

Windows 7 has a new and improved version of System Restore that is far superior to the lame utility that came with XP. Setting a restore point was often painfully slow, and it rarely worked as it should have. Windows 7 System Restore easily helps you bring back your computer's system files to an earlier point in time. It's a way to undo system changes to your computer without affecting your personal files, such as e-mail, documents, or photos.

Sometimes, the installation of a program or a driver can cause an unexpected change to your computer or cause Windows to behave unpredictably. Usually, uninstalling the program or driver corrects the problem. If uninstalling does not fix the problem, you can try restoring your computer's system to an earlier date when everything worked correctly.

System Restore uses a feature called System Protection to regularly create and save restore points on your computer. These restore points contain information about registry settings and other system information that Windows uses. You can also create restore points manually.

System Restore is not intended for backing up personal files, so it cannot help you recover a photograph or video that has been deleted or damaged. You should regularly back up your personal files and important data using a backup program. Windows 7 has an excellent built-in backup utility.

Windows 7 uses the Shadow Copy feature, introduced in Vista. It's vastly superior to the process in XP and earlier versions of Windows. The old way used a simple file filter and copied files around the system which was clumsy compared to the Shadow Copy method. Today, Windows creates a snapshot of your drive which can later be used to restore your system should catastrophe occur.

Additional capabilities of Shadow copy include taking snapshots of files even when currently in use. Microsoft has incorporated this feature into Previous Versions which allows restoring a previous version of an application. Unfortunately, this power is available only in Windows Professional or Ultimate.

The easiest way to bring up System Restore is to type System in the Start menu search box and select it from the resulting list. Another way is to select the Recovery option from Control Panel, or you can simply type rstrui in the search box.

Whatever method you choose will bring up the System Restore dialog box that gives you some helpful information. Select the Next button to get a list of restore points. Most of the time you will be using the most recent restore point to get your system working again.

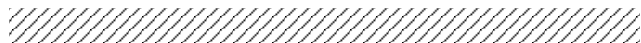
Focus your attention on the Description list. This can give you an important indication of what went wrong. Did your problem begin after installing a Critical Update, a backup operation, or a new freeware program that you couldn't resist?

When you apply System Restore the system creates another restore point so you can undo the change if your problem isn't fixed. You can't undo System Restore however, if you use it in safe mode. But you can run System Restore again and select a different restore point.

Restore points are saved until the disk space Windows allocates to the utility is used up. Then the oldest restore points are deleted as new ones are needed. The easiest way to delete all previous restore points is to turn System Restore off, and then turn it back on again. Don't worry about running out of space.

Many computer problems can be traced to sloppy programs written by people who don't know enough about proper programming techniques to get their utilities published by reliable vendors. It's surprising how many problems are generated by faulty uninstall tools. There are many sound freeware offerings out in cyberspace, but don't use them unless they come tested and approved by a trusted source like Smart Computing.

*Vinny La Bash, is a regular Contributing Columnist, Sarasota PCUG, Inc., FL Article from March 2011 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor. Web: <<http://www.spcug.org>>. E-mail:<[Vlabash \(at\) Comcast.net](mailto:Vlabash (at) Comcast.net)>*



## **WUBI? What The Heck Is A WUBI?**

By Jim McKnight, Director, Los Angeles Computer Society, CA  
[www.lacspc.org](http://www.lacspc.org) [jim.mcknight \(at\) lacspc.org](mailto:jim.mcknight (at) lacspc.org)

The Windows-based Ubuntu Installer (WUBI) is a program that allows you to install and remove Ubuntu-Linux from within Microsoft Windows (98, 2000, XP, Vista, or Windows 7). WUBI automatically creates a dual boot option that lets a Microsoft Windows user try Ubuntu without risking any data loss due to disk formatting or partitioning. Normally, installing Ubuntu or any version of Linux on a system that is also running Windows is intimidating and very risky. Total failure to boot Windows is a common result.

WUBI to the rescue: The WUBI installer is now included on every Ubuntu Live CD and easily installs Ubuntu INSIDE of windows (all versions), and in the same partition (drive letter) as Windows if you like. The install process is like any other program installed in Windows. Installing this way is soooooo easy. Also, when you want to remove Ubuntu, you just go to Add/Remove Programs and remove it like any other program running under Windows.

Dual-boot: After the installation, a new (dual) boot option screen appears right after power up, allowing you to select whether you want to run either Windows standalone or Ubuntu standalone.

Wow, what a great way to play with Linux/Ubuntu without the hassle of partitioning the hard drive and dealing with those messy dual-boot managers like GRUB or GAG. Yuck (Yes, those are real acronyms. Not the Yuck. It just means yuck).

To start the process, you need an Ubuntu Live (Install) CD that you or a friend has downloaded and burned. You can also go to the Ubuntu website and have them mail you a free CD (10 weeks).

To install Ubuntu using WUBI, just insert the "Ubuntu Install CD" while Windows is running. Do not boot the CD. The CD should start. If not, go to My Computer, open the CD and click on wubi.exe. When you see the opening window, simply select "Install Inside Windows". After that, you answer a few questions about what drive letter, and how much drive space you want to allow for Ubuntu.

That's it!

I have tried this under XP and Windows 7 and it is flawless.

### NOTES:

- Hibernation is not supported when installing Ubuntu via WUBI (for either Windows or Ubuntu).
- Follow these links for detailed WUBI operating instructions: <http://wiki.ubuntu.com/WubiGuide> and here: <http://help.ubuntu.com/community/Wubi>

\* Ubuntu 32 bit can run under Window

*This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail*

## WORD PROCESSING NOTES & TIPS

### Create PDF Files for Free

By Ira Wilsker

If you have downloaded many documents from the Internet, you have likely come across many that are in PDF format. Portable Document Format (PDF) has been around for almost 20 years, and has become the de facto standard document format that embeds text, fonts, and graphics into the document, such that it will appear the same regardless of the operating system on the computer. Originally a proprietary format developed by Adobe that had required an expensive utility, Adobe Acrobat, in order to create PDF files, PDF became an open standard in 2008. While Acrobat was an expensive commercial program used to create PDF files, Adobe Reader has been a free staple included on almost all new computers over the past several years to display documents created with Adobe Acrobat. In the past few years, many free PDF readers have become available that claim to offer some advantages over the original Adobe Reader; my personal choice for a PDF reader is Foxit, with over 100 million copies downloaded, and available for free from <http://www.foxitsoftware.com/products/reader>.

Until a few years ago, Adobe Acrobat had a virtual monopoly on the ability to create PDF files; over the past several years, several other free and commercial PDF writers have come on the market, and PDF creation is now integrally included in many of the newer office suites, without the need of a separate PDF writer. Recently, Gizmos <http://TechSupportAlert.com> updated its listings and evaluations of free PDF writing software, and corroborated my choices of PDF writers that I have been using for the past few years.

For several years, going back to my obsolescent XP computer, I had happily used a free PDF creator, CutePDF Writer <http://cutepdf.com>. When I first used my Windows 7-64 computer, I had some issues with CutePDF on my Windows 7-64 computer (now resolved with the newer versions), so I tried several competing free PDF writers. As with almost all other PDF creators or writers, CutePDF Writer is installed and used like a printer driver. In order to create a PDF with almost all PDF writers, simply click on PRINT from the program being used to create or display a document, and select the PDF utility instead of a physical printer. The PDF creating software will function somewhat like a printer, but instead of putting the output on paper, it will create the output as a PDF file. The output thus created is WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get), with the new PDF document being identical in appearance to the one created or viewed. Almost all PDF writers allow the user to save the PDF with a default file name (often the same as the original document but with a PDF extension), or to manually enter a file name. In addition to being

able to print (save) almost all documents as a PDF, I also use my chosen PDF writer to save web pages. From my browser (usually Firefox) I click on FILE - PRINT and select one of my PDF printers; within seconds I have an exact copy of the web page saved as a PDF file. I do precisely this whenever I order anything online, saving both a copy of the webpage displaying the item, and a copy of my itemized receipt. I also frequently save as PDF files (print to PDF) news stories, e-mails, and other documents that I want to preserve. Basically, anything that can be printed, can also be saved in PDF format precisely preserving color, format, font, and other information from the page.

On all of my computers, I am now predominately using the Bullzip Free PDF Printer <http://bullzip.com> to create PDF files. Bullzip Free PDF Printer is currently rated by Gizmos TechSupportAlert.com as the top rated free PDF writer. It can run on any 32- or 64-bit version of Windows from Windows 2000 to Windows 7, including XP and Vista. Bullzip offers as user selected options password protection and encryption of PDF files, quality settings, watermarks, and the ability to create documents in formats other than PDF (BMP, JPEG, PCX, PDF, PNG, and TIFF). For most users, there is no need to change any of the settings as the default settings work fine.

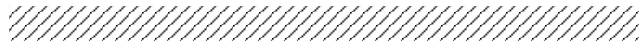
Now that CutePDF Writer has been revised to better support Windows 7-64 (it always worked flawlessly on XP and Vista), it has become my secondary PDF creator. One simple feature that I like about CutePDF Writer <http://cutepdf.com> is that when a PDF file is created, the traditional Windows Save As window opens, allowing the user to easily select the directory (or use the default) where the PDF file should be saved. CutePDF Writer, as well as many other PDF writers, require that some recent version of a PS2PDF converter, such as Ghostscript, be installed on the computer. The necessary Ghostscript file (free) is linked from the download page where the PDF writers are downloaded. GNU Ghostscript is an open-source interpreter for the PostScript language and the PDF file format. It is distributed under the GNU General Public License.

Being somewhat of a software junkie, I have several PDF writers installed on my computer. Another free PDF writer that I periodically use is PDFCreator, available from <http://sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator>. PDFCreator is listed as Unrestricted Freeware and runs on Windows 98, 2000, XP, Vista, and Windows 7 (32-bit and 64-bit). While simple to use, and lacking a lot of options (that most people would never use), PDFCreator could be a good choice for those who want a simple PDF writer. Installation is easy as no separate Ghostscript converter is necessary. Another good PDF writer that I have installed on my computer is NitroPDF Reader which includes both a PDF writer and reader. According to its website <http://www.nitroreader.com>, NitroPDF Reader can Create PDF files, comment and review, save PDF forms, extract text and images, type text directly onto the page, and more. NitroPDF Reader also allows the user to type on an otherwise locked PDF form, entering text as if filling out a form, negating the necessity of printing the form on paper, and then

filling the blanks by hand. Since NitroPDF Reader is both a reader and a writer, and includes many other powerful and useful features, it may be an excellent choice for most users.

With these free PDF utilities, all of which can create PDF files as simple as clicking on the print button, there is almost no reason to spend a lot of money purchasing a commercial PDF creator. All of these creators or writers work just fine when creating PDF files from almost any type of document.

*Ira Wilsker is a Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX; Program Director of Management Development at the Lamar Institute of Technology, Beaumont TX; and a radio and TV show host. Contact him at <iwilsker@sbcglobal.net>.*



## The Seventh Son of Windows Desktop Gadgets

By Lee Reynolds, Contributing Editor, Boca Raton Computer Society, FL. April 2011 issue, Boca Bits  
www.brsc.org, leetutor (at) exploringwindows.com

### Introduction

Windows Vista introduced a new feature called the Sidebar, which was a narrow section of your Desktop where you could have small applications running called Gadgets. These Gadgets could be moved out of the Sidebar and anchored somewhere else on your Desktop, if you wished, but still the Sidebar application had to be running. In Windows 7, there is no longer any Sidebar, but Desktop Gadgets are still present, and you set them up in a new Control Panel applet of the same name. (In Windows Vista, the Sidebar was on by default, whereas in Windows 7 there is no Sidebar and any Gadgets you want must be configured in Control Panel.)

### Windows 7 Gadgets

The Gadgets present in Windows 7 are the same as those provided by Vista, with an additional one that is connected to Windows Media Center. These Gadgets are mini-applications designed to use web technology so as to provide real-time access to information of one type or another available through the internet. The built-in Gadgets are these:

- a Calendar application which shows the month, day, year, and day of week. If you click it, you will see the entire month
- a Clock which can be configured to show one of 8 different clock faces and any time zone
- a CPU meter which shows two analog style dials measuring current memory usage and CPU utilization
- a Currency converter
- a Headline Feed of RSS feeds that you are subscribed to via Internet Explorer
- a Media Center gadget that shows a revolving set of links to various parts of Windows Media Center

- a Weather gadget which can be configured for any location in the world
- a Stocks gadget for tracking stocks
- a Picture Puzzle where you slide tiles around against a timer
- a Slide Show gadget for showing the photos you configure for it

### Other Gadgets

There are many other Gadgets that can be downloaded from the internet and installed, if you so desire...

### Windows 7 Gadget Options

If you click on the Show Desktop area of the Taskbar in Windows 7 (a narrow rectangular area on the extreme right end), then you will see the Desktop with its Gadgets (if any.) In Windows Vista, when you clicked on the Show Desktop icon of the Quick Launch Bar, the Gadgets were not visible.

Gadgets can be shown on your Desktop in Windows 7 even if you are not on line with an internet connection, but they will in this case feature a time stamp which shows how out of date the associated data is. Some of the Gadgets, e.g., the Calendar, can be toggled between various sizes. Some of them have Touch capabilities for those users who have a touch screen attached to their PC.

## GENERAL INTEREST

### A HAPPIER, LONGER LIFE? Volunteer!

Sr. Dorothy Robinson newsletter (at)ol:y:mug .org  
Olympia Microcomputer UG  
WAMUG News 12/10 www .ol:y:mug .org/

Although there may be some situations where volunteering would not necessarily get you a longer, happier life (any veteran could fill you in on that), there are now studies showing that people who volunteer at least two hours a week do in fact receive health benefits from volunteering .

According to an article by Adam Voiland, <http://health.usnews.com> a 2007 Report, which drew on the results of 30 studies said volunteering can indeed be good for your health. Voiland says the report indicates that “people who volunteer enjoy longer lives, higher functional ability, and lower rates of depression and heart disease.”

Volunteering keeps a person active and interested, as well as helping stay connected with other people.

Voiland quoted Steven Post, director of a research group at Case Western Reserve University that focuses on the “scientific study of altruism, compassion, and service,” as saying, “The helping impulse is very fundamental. When it is locked off we do not flourish.”

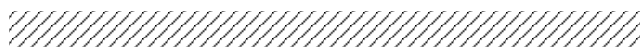
If we look around, there are friends, neighbors, and family

who could use a helping hand now and then. There are also nonprofit organizations whose mission is to help people. You may belong to one. In fact, if you're reading this newsletter, chances are you belong to The Olympia Microcomputer Users Group (also LACS).

Any group needs leadership. And, OMUG (also LACS) is no exception. All our officers and key members are volunteers, and if you talk to any of them, my guess is that you'll find they enjoy taking an active part in our computer users group, keeping it alive to fulfill its mission.

OMUG's purpose (also LACS's), according to our Bylaws, "shall be to provide a non-profit, educational, self-help organization - for personal computer users; to cultivate cooperative relationships among computer users in our community; and to promote knowledgeable use of personal computer hardware and software."

Think about why you joined OMUG (LACS), and why you keep renewing your membership each year. Maybe you have computer expertise to offer and you enjoy helping others. Maybe you don't know a lot about computers and are looking for help. Whatever your reason, computer expertise, or lack of it, is irrelevant to participating in leadership of our group. People with many different lives, leisure and work experiences have served as OMUG (LACS) officers. You can, too.



## Digital Asset Management Software

Mike Morris, Front Range PC Users Group, CO  
([www.frpcug.org](http://www.frpcug.org))

February 2011 issue, k-Byte(TM) newsletter

What is interesting to me is that many of today's imaging software applications offer both image editing and what is called "Digital Assets Management" (DAM) capabilities.

In the not-so-distant past, the only image software choice was what image editor to use (Photoshop or something else). But with the "explosion" of digital camera use, keeping track of all the images (and protecting intellectual property rights) has clearly become a significant issue. While this is certainly an issue especially for professional photographers, with digital cameras, even the most casual photographer will soon find hundreds, if not thousands of photos on their computer.

Perhaps you are thinking, as you read this, that you don't need image management of any kind, because your digital camera provides all the necessary information.

Actually, that is NOT the case. The camera provides information about camera settings (including date and time of the photo). But not included in that data is information such as the event (e.g. parent's 50th wedding anniversary), or the names of the people in the photo. Yes, *you* may have an excellent memory, but your children and grandchildren probably won't remember or know the names of all the people in the photos of those special events (I can verify that from personal experience).

That is why image management software is so helpful--it allows you to capture that information. You have a wide range of software choices for this application:

DigiKam (<http://www.digikam.org/>), an image management application claimed to be designed by photographers, and is open source and therefore free. This application offers both DAM and image editing capabilities (which are significant, although not equivalent to the editing features of Photoshop, or GIMP). For Windows users, you can download the Windows version from download (<http://bit.ly/hWfFrT>),

DigitalPro (<http://bit.ly/faHwgJ>), also claimed to be designed by photographers, and is proprietary (\$179). This application is primarily for image management (and primarily for professional or advanced amateur photographers), not image editing.

Bibble Labs (<http://biblelabs.com/>) Pro (and Lite). This proprietary application (\$199.95) offers both editing and DAM features. One major claim on their website is that this application is faster than any other. For a list of editing tools this application provides, connect to features (<http://bit.ly/82JzsV>).

Adobe CS3 (and later) applications. The Adobe Bridge program is bundled with the CSx (the latest release is CS5) series of Adobe products. In my case, I received it when I purchased Adobe InDesign CS3. Adobe Bridge brings DAM features to the Adobe products, all of which, as I am sure you know, are very expensive applications (full retail price for Photoshop CS5 is \$699). They are, however, designed for professional/business use, originally commercial printing, but now expanded into electronic publishing as well. The Adobe products (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign among others), despite the many competitors, are still considered industry "standards." For more information, see Adobe (<http://www.adobe.com>).

Lightroom. Wikipedia (<http://bit.ly/3wnGqF>) has this description: Lightroom is an application from Adobe that is "...designed to assist professional photographers in managing thousands of digital images and doing post production work. It is not a file browser like Adobe Bridge, but rather an image management application database which helps in viewing, editing, and managing digital photos, the same way photographers used to do in the non-digital world." Full retail price is \$299. See (<http://adobe.ly/6dBIz>) for a list of features.

Google Picasa. For the casual computer user or the casual photographer, it offers simple image organizing features and a few simple editing features. It is free, and "automatic." After you download and install the program, it will, when you first launch it, catalog virtually all the images (with a few minor exceptions) on your computer. See <http://picasa.google.com/linux> (Linux), and <http://picasa.google.com/index.html##> (Windows).

Most, if not all major camera makers provide some software with their cameras that include some basic image organization and image editing features.

There are many other choices, some of which you can find in the Wikipedia comparisons at: image viewers (<http://bit.ly/asWUi>), image organizers (<http://bit.ly/CNnwr>), and graphics editors (<http://bit.ly/10xtOU>).

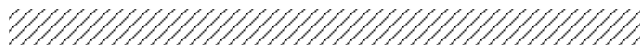
I ended up with Adobe Bridge “by default.” Since I make no claim to being a professional photographer, or even (yet) a knowledgeable amateur, I would very probably have picked a free application (such as DigiKam) for “Digital Asset Management” if I didn’t already have Bridge.

For me, Picasa does not have enough features. However, I expect it will be sufficient for many digital camera users.

I have not tried to compare in detail either editing features or DAM capabilities of these programs. I have, however, scanned through the DigiKam manual (<http://bit.ly/hZaFX9>). My conclusion is that if you download and install DigiKam and GIMP, you will have a very powerful, very feature-rich set of image editing and image management tools.

Thanks to FRPCUG member Bert Broekstra for his comments on DigiKam, and for finding the DigiKam manual link.

*This article has been obtained from Articles2Go with permission to reprint by non-profit, or other user groups with credit given to the author, the publication and the user group.*



## Tips & Tricks - Slip an Ace Up Your Sleeve

By Bob Goodman, Newsletter Team, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA, Cajun Clickers Computer News, [www.clickers.org](http://www.clickers.org), bob (at) houseplanz.com

### emailSTRIPPER

emailSTRIPPER is a free program for cleaning the “>”, unwanted carriage returns, and other formatting characters out of your emails. It will restore “forwarded” or “replied” emails back to their original state so they’re easier to read. It’s simple to use, and best of all it’s FREE! <http://www.papercut.com/emailStripper.htm>

### 3 PC Problems You Can Fix

Ever notice how your PC has multiple personalities? In the course of a week, your computer may act friendly, moody, and sometimes downright mean. However, don’t take a hammer to your PC just yet. The following is a list of common symptoms and treatments to help even the most troublesome PCs. You don’t even have to be a psychologist (at least not yet) to deal with your PC’s neuroses. Windows 7 and Windows Vista usually manage this automatically, but overall you’ll find that these tips work for all versions of Windows, from Windows 95 to Windows 7: <http://tinyurl.com/y8m8en6>

### Salvage a Wet Mobile Phone

If you drop your mobile phone in water or get it wet in a heavy rain; don’t panic; it’s possible to save it. Consider these easy, simple steps:

1. Act rapidly: First, quickly remove all covers and as many detachable parts as possible, such as the back cover, battery, SIM card, memory card etc. Next, take a piece of cloth or tissue paper and absorb as much excess water as possible. Make sure to dry it completely, before water soaks into difficult to reach places. If your phone was under water for just a short time, this quick drying procedure alone might save it.

2. Use a hair-dryer: Then, use a hair-dryer to thoroughly dry the phone and components; but don’t hold it too close to the phone, as that may harm the electrical mechanisms. Pay extra attention to the battery area. The battery housing usually consists of tiny holes to let air (and consequently, water) into the phone. If steps #1 & #2 fail, then continue to step #3.

3. Drying for long duration: Place the disassembled phone and parts in a dry, warm place and allow the water to evaporate gradually.

also see: [www.wikihow.com/Save-a-Wet-Cell-Phone](http://www.wikihow.com/Save-a-Wet-Cell-Phone)

### How to Secure a Wireless Network

We secure a wireless network to stop people without permission from using it. It’s harder to secure a wireless network than a classic wired network. This is due to the fact that a wireless network can be accessed from anywhere inside the range of its antenna.

If you don’t secure a wireless network from hackers, you might lose the service, or your network could be used to attack other networks. To secure a wireless network from hackers, just follow these simple tips:

1. Strategic antenna placement: Position the access point’s antenna in a place which restricts the range of its signal to go further than the required area. Do not place the antenna next to a window, but in a central location of the building.

2. Use WEP: WEP stands for Wireless Encryption Protocol. It’s a customary technique for encrypting traffic on a wireless network to block access by hackers.

3. Change the SSID, disable broadcast of SSID: SSID stands for Service Set Identifier. It is the recognition thread utilized by the wireless access point to allow authorized users to open connections. For every wireless access point arranged, select an exclusive and unique SSID. Also, disallow the broadcast of the SSID. Services will be provided as usual, but the SSID will not appear in the listing of offered networks.

4. Disable DHCP: By doing this, the hackers will have to decode the TCP/IP parameters, subnet mask, and IP address in order to hack your wireless network.

5. Disable or modify SNMP settings: Change the private as well as public community settings of SNMP. You can also just disable it. Otherwise the hackers will be able to utilize SNMP to get significant info regarding your wireless network.

6. Utilize access lists: For additional security of your wireless network, if your access point supports this feature, employ an access list. An access list lets you determine precisely which computers are permitted to access your network. Access points which use access lists can employ Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP) in order to download updated lists periodically and steer clear of hackers. See page: <http://tinyurl.com/28tz3lg>

---

## Un-trapping Old Music

Diane Fahlbusch, Secretary, Icon PC User Group, NY, Icon Graphic Newsletter, <http://www.iconpcug.org/>, secretary (at) iconpcug.org

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 make 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.

---

## World's cheapest computer could run XP

UCHUG Drivelight Bits & Pieces June 2011

We all know computers keep getting cheaper; those of us who have been around for a while still marvel at the fact that a \$300 two-pound laptop today has hundreds of times the power and capability of the first computers that cost over a million dollars and weighed a ton. Now a British foundation called Raspberry Pi has built a fully functional computer that's the size of a USB stick and costs \$25. It runs Linux but its specs - 700 MHz processor and 128 MB of RAM - are sufficient to run Windows XP. Read more about it here: <http://www.wxnews.com/Q1VBLL/110518-Pocket-PC> which says:

A British organization has produced what appears to be the cheapest fully-functional computer ever made. The device, made by the Raspberry Pi Foundation, is the size of a USB stick and costs just \$25.

The computer, which runs the open source Linux system, has a particularly creative design. In effect it's a silicon chip attached to three sockets: an HDMI socket to connect to a monitor or TV screen, a USB slot to plug in a keyboard, and a memory card slot for storage.

While it's small enough to carry anywhere, it carries out the same functions as a full-fledged desktop PC.

### \$25 Pocket PC Equivalent to an XP-Era PC

The device has a 700 MHz processor and 128MB of RAM.

By modern PC standards, that's not very impressive: it's equivalent to a very basic smartphone. But for basic computing, it can do the job. By way of comparison, it's roughly equivalent to a desktop computer from the early 2000s, and would theoretically be capable of running Windows XP. (Source: [ibtimes.com](http://ibtimes.com))

The device has the capability to process a WiFi signal and includes a web browser. It could therefore easily cope with cloud computing such as Google's online document editing systems.

# Help Lines

<b>HARDWAREHELP</b>	<b>AdvisorNo.</b>
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

<b>SOFTWAREHELP</b>	<b>AdvisorNo.</b>
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
Ccleaner	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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Hours</b>
[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	Variable
[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 Aug 2011 -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

**TOG BOARD MEMBERS**

President Carl Tenning (206)824-3843  
& S. King County Rep c.10ing@toggle.org  
web page: <http://carlten.tripod.com/index.html>  
VP/Prog Chair Vacant  
Sec/Treas Bob Henkel (253) 537-6732  
bobh@nventure.com  
Disk Library Tom Stepanek (253) 922-7939  
tomstep7@msn.com  
Newsletter Editor Bob Thomson (253) 752-5582  
rjthomson@comcast.net  
Kitsap County Rep Ray Mills (360) 692-7568  
e-mail: [r.mills@rm-a.com](mailto:r.mills@rm-a.com)  
web page: <http://www.rm-a.com>

**TOG Web Site:** <http://www.toggle.org>

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

**Corporate Sponsors:**

**Raymond Mills & Associates**  
[www.rm-a.com](http://www.rm-a.com)

**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 rela-  
tionship 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 pre-  
fer to take Portland southbound to 99th.  
At 99th turn west over the tracks and  
there you are!



**TOGGLE**

**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 meet-  
ing. 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.

**Program Presentation**

No formal presentation has been an-  
nounced at press time. However, dis-  
cussion of current problems and prac-  
tices will, as usual, provide for an inter-  
esting meeting.