

News Journal

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

Mobile Computing



<u>Robin's RAMblings</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Book Review</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Holiday Tech</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Media Sharing & Devices</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Tip of the Month</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>The Problem: Muffled Sound</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>A Tablet Love Affair</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Spam and Spyware</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Office 2010, The Missing Manual</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>Word Tips</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Picture of the Month</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>The Transitional Operating System</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Useful Gadgets</u>	<u>8</u>		



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(since 1983)*

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vicepresident@lcace.org

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programs@lcace.org

Liz Barnett **Membership**
membership@lcace.org

Linda Koudelka **Public Relations**
pr@lcace.org

Volunteers

Webmaster **J. J. Johnson**
webmaster@lcace.org

Newsletter Editor **Michael J. Mc Eney**
editor@lcace.org

Historian **Kenneth Savage**

News Journal

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Logo designed on an Atari Stacy Laptop in 1989 by Dwight Johnson Jr.

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

**LCACE
c/o Group Ambassador**

["J.J." Johnson](#)

Membership

LCACE membership is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 per individual/family. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club hotline, and are now available on our web site at <http://www.lcace.org>.

Meetings

LCACE meetings are usually held on Saturdays at the Grayslake Area Public Library, 100 Library Lane, Grayslake, Illinois. The meeting room opens at noon and the formal meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

Newsletter Submissions

Club members are welcome to submit classified ads, reviews, tips and other articles for publication, to our newsletter editor in Microsoft Word format (.doc). **Publication deadline is the 20th of the month for all ads and articles.** Please do not use tabs or special formatting.

Newsletter Advertising

Ad rates per issue: Full page - \$25, Half page - \$15, Quarter page - \$10, Business Card - \$5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 15th of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are **FREE** to all paid members.

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Robin's RAMblings

Were you a Girl or Boy Scout in your younger days? If so, then you know the scout motto is "Be prepared." When it comes to computers, a little bit of caution goes a LONG way. Never was this more evident than in the recent case of a prominent technology journalist whose Amazon, Apple, Google and Twitter accounts were hacked. This was not some computer neophyte.

Hackers tricked an Amazon rep over the phone into revealing the last four digits of the journalist's credit card number. They then used the information to persuade an Apple rep to reset his Apple ID password, so they could wipe clean his iPhone, iPad and MacBook, destroying all of his files, including irreplaceable photos of his daughter.

Yes, you read that correctly. Were there things he could have done to avoid this loss Absolutely. For one thing he could have backed his computer up to an external hard drive in addition to using cloud storage. Had he been using a Mac version of a program such as Acronis True Image Home he could have easily restored the image of his hard drive with no loss of data. He also could have used Gmail's two step authentication process to thwart would be attackers. How do you do this? Go to <http://support.google.com/accounts/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=180744> for more information.

What can we do? At the very least we should use numbers, punctuation marks and upper and lower-case letters for passwords. Do not use words that can be easily guessed. Use a phrase that you can easily remember.

People are now very concerned whether Apple's iCloud, Google Apps, Amazon's Cloud Drive, Microsoft's Windows Live and other Internet-delivered services do enough to authenticate users.

At our August meeting, Mike McEnery showed us a gadget for mounting a GPS or other small electronics in your car. J.J. Johnson did a PowerPoint presentation showing the "toys in his toy box". Wow! As always, J.J. had really neat toys. Then each paid member family in attendance received an 8GB flash drive. Fred Barnett loaded the drives with the following software:

audacity-win-2.0.1.exe
autorun.inf
ccsetup321.exe
chromeinstall-7u5.exe
ChromeSetup.exe
Favorites
Firefox Setup 14.0.1.exe
Micorosft.win7powerfree.pdf
picasa39-setup.exe
revoresetup.1.94.exe
URDrive
Windows 7 Product Guide XPS.xps
Windows 7 Product Guide.pdf
He explained each program and its use. He then briefly mentioned the following programs:

SKYPE, PDFCreator, SysInternals, CrossHair, Dexpot, 7-zip, MBAM, DropBox, FileZilla3, McAfee SiteAdvisor, WOT (Web of Trust), Secunia PSI, and SUPERAntiSpyware

You had to be a paid member attending the meeting in order to receive a flash drive.

Do you need help with your computer or do you know someone who does? LCACE provides a help desk from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on meeting Saturdays for anyone who wants help. It is not necessary to be a club member so tell your family and friends about this.

If you are going to make a purchase on Amazon.com, please remember to sign in through our LCACE home page. Click on the Amazon logo to connect and start shopping. LCACE will receive a small commission for all purchases made when people have connected through our home page.



The commissions we received from Amazon helped to pay for those flash drives.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Our September 8 program will be "Mobile Computing: smartphone, tablets, and e-readers" presented by Best Buy of Gurnee.

Tablets and e-readers figure prominently in our holiday raffle prize list. The holidays will be here soon. We have terrific raffle prizes. First prize is a 17" HP laptop with 6GB of memory, a 500GB hard drive, and a Blu-ray player. Some lucky person will take home second prize, a new white 16GB iPad with front and rear facing 5-megapixel cameras. Third prize is a Kindle Touch 3G with special offers. Our fourth prize winner will receive a year's free LCACE membership.

Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5, and 25 for \$20. Remember, you can't win if you don't buy a ticket!

We have exciting programs scheduled for 2012 and 2013:

September 8, 2012- Mobile Computing: smartphones, tablets, and e-readers presented by Best Buy of Gurnee

October 13, 2012-Windows 8. "Are you ready?"

November 17, 2012-Photoshop Elements by Dwight "J.J." Johnson

December 1, 2012-holiday party at State Bank of the Lakes-Save the date!

January 5, 2013-Show and tell and ask the gurus

February 2, 2013-

Our meetings are always open to anyone with an interest in computing. Bring family and friends.

Happy computing!



Milwaukee Computer Society

Holiday Tech: Droolworthy Gear Coming This Fall

Ultrabook laptops, games, and HDTVs are likely to be hot this holiday season. And it's not too early to prepare for Black Thursday. Here's the lowdown.

By Christina DesMarais, PCWorld Aug 5, 2012 8:00 pm

You're still slathering on sunscreen, and the dog days of summer (by ancient reckoning) arrived less than two weeks ago; but the most tempting HDTVs, Ultrabooks, games, and smartphones for the impending holiday season are already coming into focus.

What's going to be hot this winter? Will retailers slash prices on Windows 7 laptops as they push newly arriving Windows 8 PCs? What pricing gimmicks will they try? What's going to be the big thing with HDTVs, games, and cameras?

We talked with experts around the country to find out what great technology will be available in a few months, when deals are sure to be spectacular, and what newer tech will reach stores in time for you to slap a bow on it. Here's what we found.

The Hottest Products



Mobile connected devices--smartphones and tablets--will be the hottest things going, followed by Intel-powered Ultrabooks and other laptop computers running

(Continued on page 5)

Tip of the Month

Care about your important stuff? 3-2-1 Backup.

To avoid losing precious pictures, videos or critical business data I would recommend you always follow 3-2-1 Backup as a minimum rule.

- Keep at least **3** complete copies of your data at any given time
- Keep these copies on at least **2** different devices
- Keep at least **1** of these copies on fire-proof waterproof drives for natural disasters, offsite, online or all three!

More than 92% of data disasters would have been "non-disasters" if 3-2-1 Backup was in place. Be safe.

50/50 Winner



A very happy Jean Anderson won 50/50.

(Continued from page 4)

the new **Microsoft Windows 8** operating system, according to Steve Koenig, director of industry analysis with the Consumer Electronics Association.

This year's refresh of the iPhone will likely be on the scene, too, and it will undoubtedly be a hugely popular gift again this year. Scads of 4G Android smartphone alternatives, as well as handsets running the new **Windows Phone 8 OS**, will vie for consumers' attention, too.

Your tablet choices will include everything from the budget **Google Nexus 7** tablet to the as-yet-unpriced **Microsoft Surface RT**, along with countless rivals from other manufacturers.

Amazon may try to make a play again this year for holiday tech purchases. According to rumor, the company may launch a **second-generation Kindle Fire** with a larger 8.9-inch display in time for the holiday shopping season.

More than **140 Ivy Bridge-based Ultrabooks** are in the pipeline; of those, **more than 40 will be touch-enabled**, and a dozen will offer convertible, swiveling-screens. These **touchscreen Windows 8 models** will bring the tapping and swiping experience from tablets to laptops.

"Touch-enabled systems will be key for Windows 8 sales; and convertible systems, combining the best of a notebook and a tablet, are clearly where the industry is headed," Koenig says.

A Tablet Love Affair

By Roger Carlyle,
Member, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA
May 2012 issue, Cajun Clickers Computer News
www.clickers.org
ccnewsletter (at) cox.net

Last year, like many folks, I thought Tablets were just a passing fad – used mostly by people who liked to play games, get recipes, or do online shopping. I was from the old school and staunchly declared that nothing could replace the desktop or laptop computer.

Any other form of computers were mere toys. Then it happened ever so subtly. I was slowly exposed to the Tablets. First seeing news media use them on national news shows and then an occasional Apple geek using them at local coffee shops. Curiosity got the best of me and I found myself reading more and more about Tablets. First on the internet and then seeing advertisements in local newspapers and on websites such as CNET, ZDNET, Newegg, etc. As I user of an iPod I soon realized the power and versatility of the Tablet and I fell in love and I wanted one.

After reading numerous tablet reviews and talking to several different tablet brand owners, I settled on getting an iPad 2 (lousy timing on my part - - the New iPad was released three weeks after I purchased my iPad 2). Mostly because at the time Apple was the clear leader in Tablet technology and the number of Apps available for the iPad.

Another reason for choosing the iPad was for its 10" screen size. I wanted the larger screen for viewing videos and typing with the onscreen keyboard is much easier than on the smaller Tablet screens. Right out of the box it was love at first sight. I turned it on and found the initial setup to be very easy to use. Even a very novice comput-

er user would find the setup and initial operation easy to follow.

I soon found myself settling into my plush reclining easy chair where I began exploring all the Apps available at the App Store. A large variety of Apps are free or .99¢ at the App Store. I was soon exploring the Internet, using email, taking pictures and making movies all with my new found tablet. I literally could not find anything that I could not do on my new Tablet that I did on my desktop computer. As a matter of fact there were things I could do on the Tablet that I could not do with my desktop. The only thing I go back to my desktop PC for is where heavy keyboard usage is required, such as Producing the Cajun Clickers newsletter or doing intensive input into an Excel spreadsheet, etc.

Has owning a Tablet changed my life? Yes! I rarely get out of my plush recliner to go to my desktop PC. I do online shopping, check bank accounts, send videos to my distant friends and relatives, view live radar weather reports, read newspapers such as the Advocate, find recipes for my wife, read iBooks, and much, much more with my new iPad Tablet. And I can take it with me anywhere I go.

Based on personal experience and from the reviews I've read recently, my choice for a Tablet would be either the New iPad or the Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1. Both are top performers and get five star reviews.



Office 2010, The Missing Manual

Tammy L. Gauger

www.lcace.org

tammygauger@att.net



When I return this book to Winnie, I will be going online to Amazon.com, to buy my own copy. This book has had a home on my desk at work, with an occasional trip home with me. I am a big fan the “Dummies” series. Whenever I purchase a new computer, XP, Vista & now Windows 7, I get a “Dummie Book”. Also, with certain software, Office, Quickbooks, Elements, a new “Dummie Book” They become my User Manuals and help me when I get stuck.

This is my first time with the “Missing Manual Series” and I give it 2 thumbs up!!!! I have to confess, I have not read this cover to cover, I read the beginning and then look up certain sections that I want to learn more about. The first section I jumped to was about One-Note, as I have had that

software for about a year now, and would really like to use it before they change it again.

When working on a Excel or Word document, (home or work) I can refer to it by looking in the table of contents and find the pages I need to help me along. Usually the topic is a page or two, so it's quick reading for me and then I'm on my way.

I know..... their are a lot of people that would say, “Why spend money on a book, when you Can look it up online”..... I am one of those who still loves & needs a BOOK. I have a small library in my office at home, hardcovers, paperbacks, reference books etc. , Sorry Kindle, I need paper & pages.

I tried to be very careful with this copy of Office 2010, because it is not mine, but my own copy of the book will be full of yellow, pink & green highlighter and colorful post-it notes.

Now on, “to buy or not to buy” this book, for me it is a yes, but it all depends on how much you use Office 2010, and if you like to flip through the pages of a book or rather just click a mouse.....

p.s. “Thank you, Winnie. --- “ Members helping members spend money”



Carly Seidenberg spotted the Google car in the Library parking lot after the August Meeting and Ethan Seidenberg took the picture .

Useful Gadgets

Agloves

By George Harding, Treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, AZ

April 2012 issue, eJournal

www.aztcs.org

georgehardingsbd (at) earthlink.net

Many of today's mobile devices are operated by hand or finger gestures made by touching the screen.

Smartphones have icons on the screen that must be pressed to operate. Multiple screens are accessed by swiping left or right. Tabular data is accessed by swiping or dragging up, down, left or right.

The screens that allow this type of action are almost all capacitive in nature. The bioelectricity in your hands and fingers are what make the screens move in the desired direction. Body heat is not involved in "moving," just the small electric charge your body accumulates.

One problem with this method is that moisture on your fingers tends to leave a deposit on the screen, so that repeated operation may result in some portions of the screen being slightly marred. The deposits can be removed with a clean moist cloth or other methods.

I watched a fellow typing on his tablet on the pseudo keyboard presented on the screen. I noticed that his screen was marked by fingermarks at the keys on which he was typing.

Agloves allow you to operate normally without leaving any deposits behind. If you try working with your tablet using regular gloves, they don't work because the bioelectric charge cannot be passed through the fabric of ordinary gloves. Agloves, on the other hand, do work normally because of the silver woven into the glove fabric.

These gloves are functional not just with one or two fingers, but all ten. For those of us who are touch typists, using all ten fingers is essential.

One other benefit of Agloves is their ability to operate touch-screen devices when the temperature is cold. Your fingers tend to lose their moisture when cold. The gloves aren't affected by cold and conduct your bioelectric charge even in the cold.

The gloves only come in one color, black. They are not solid black, but instead black with white interlacing. The white comes from the silver woven into the whole glove. They also keep your hands warm!

About: Agloves

Vendor: Agloves

www.agloves.com



Price: \$24, \$18 @ Amazon

Useful Gadgets

How to remember your passwords with eWalleTT

by iLium Software

Reviewed by Hewie Poplock, APCUG Director
Hewie's Views & Reviews, <http://www.hewie.net>

I am a password nut. I try to have almost every program, website, email address, etc., use a unique password. That makes it difficult to remember them. Way back in 2000, I found a program to keep track of all of my passwords and account numbers in an encrypted file. I carried a Palm PDA in those days. The program was eWallet by iLium Software, with a version for both my Palm and my PC. I could sync the information as well.

Once the Palm PDA and its successor were finally put to rest, I continued to use the pro-

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

gram between my desktop, laptop, and netbook. The encrypted file containing the data was easily copied between them.

I purchased the original iPhone and one of the first apps that I added was the iOS version of eWallet. I could sync it with my PC version via Wi-Fi. So once again I was now able to carry a program with me to access my passwords anytime. I was comfortable knowing that it had an encrypted file with a rather long password to access the file. I have since added an iPad2 to the equation and upgraded to the iPhone 4s, using eWallet on both.

There are many password manager programs available. Obviously, the main reason that I use the eWallet is that I have been using it for 12 years. However, there are other reasons. The biggest is that I can have it on all of my devices, especially on my iPhone & my iPad, which I have with me at all times. The data is protected with 256-bit AES (FIPS-197) encryption.

eWallet is currently available for PCs running Windows 7, Vista, or XP. If you are an Mac user, you need OS X. There are versions for the Apple iPhone, iPad and iPod touch, RIM BlackBerry, Android phones, the Kindle Fire tablet, and Windows Mobile. You need to check the version number to be sure it works on your device. The PC version is \$20 & the others are \$10 each. Only one license is needed for both the iPad & iPhone. You can try the PC version free for 30 days & then it stops working unless you buy it.

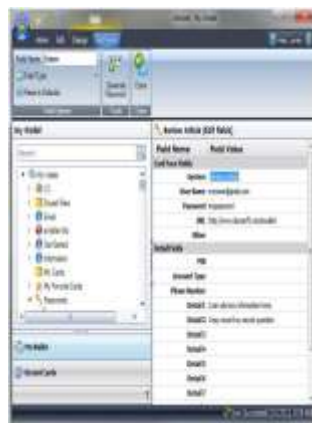
Although the program manages your passwords well, it has other features that may not be included in other programs in the same category. They include Live Fields, which enables you to jump to websites or dial phone numbers with just a tap. Auto Pass brings up the webpage and fills in the username and password for you. There is Smart Copy to quickly grab info for on-line forms and PassBuilder that generates passwords for you if you want real security using unique passwords. You can import data from some other programs using the Import Wizard.

eWallet stores your info in a file called a wallet. You can have more than one wallet. Each wallet contains categories and stores your information using cards in which you designate its category. Cards can be printed as well as the entire wallet. I use the search ability a lot. It searches the entire

wallet for the letters that you type wherever they appear so finding an item is easy and quick.

Whether you use eWallet or another password management program, do not automatically open the program at boot up. This would allow anyone to be able to see or use your passwords. Once you have found the password that you need, either close or lock the program so that you must type the password to retrieve another. Otherwise, why encrypt or protect your passwords?

eWallet is available for download or purchase at <http://www.iliumsoft.com/ewallet> , the iTunes App Store, or the Android Market.



Book Review

Focus on Lighting Photos

By Rosemary Lloyd, President, Big Bear Computer Club, CA

www.bigbearcc.org

rosemary (at) sugarloafpc.com

Excellent photographs gain much of their impact from the way the subject is lit. Focus on Lighting Photos is a unique how-to book that includes many pictures and diagrams. It demonstrate how light can be used to create the mood that the photographer wants to project. This is the latest of six books in the 'Focus on' series about photography.

The first half of the book looks at different methods of putting light on the subject. Different ways of controlling the direction, intensity and color of the light are thoroughly covered.

The explanations are easy to understand. Concepts are demonstrated by series of photos of the same subject with different lighting. Diagrams supplement the written explanations. I find the use of progressively more intriguingly lighted pictures, of the same subject, very helpful. That technique enabled me to understand concepts better.

In the latter part of the book, the authors focus on methods for lighting diverse subjects. They deal with people, metal, glass and motion. The chapter on lighting for portraits goes into some detail on types of equipment.

They discuss how to make some of the tools yourself.

The target audience is hobbyists. Fil and Robin emphasize that you do not need to spend a lot money on photo equipment. Once you have a camera and a flash, you can shoot fine photographs with only a few other tools. In fact, they recommend borrowing or making your own items until you find yourself using them enough to justify buying.

Focus on Lighting Photos seems to be geared for readers who are somewhat familiar with photog-

raphy in general. I would say intermediate level. However, there is a very good glossary of the photo terms used. If you have not taken a photo class, it is fairly easy to follow along.

The writing style is informal, clear and precise. I really enjoyed Focus on Lighting Photos. The techniques it presents are exciting and inspiring. It is a fairly easy read.

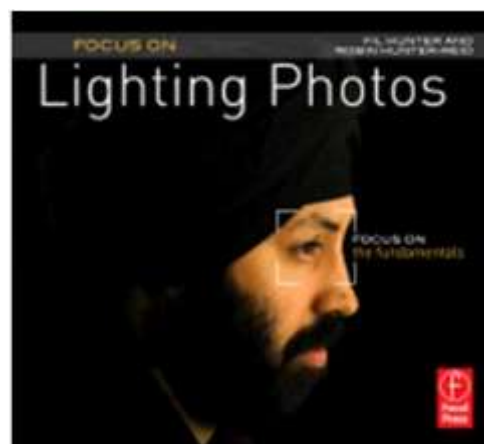
Focus on Lighting Photos

Hunter, Fil and Reid, Robin

Focal Press, 2011, 200 pages

\$19.95, ISBN 978-0-240-81711-8

User Group Discount 40%



Media

Media Sharing & Devices

By Jerry Grommes, Editor, Sandwich Computer Users Group, IL

April 2012 issue, SCUG News

www.scug.org

As many of you know I feel strongly that my media, whether it's pictures, videos, music, recorded TV, etc., should be available to me on whatever device I own and not just tied to a computer, CD/DVD player or a DVR. With the increasing number of different kinds devices coming to market, each with its own nitch, I have finally resolved myself to the conclusion that there is not going to be a one size fits all anywhere in the near future.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

About three weeks ago Bob Dell sent me a quote from the Tribune's business section (Visions of technology's future): **"Five years from now," says Nate Williams, Motorola Mobility's senior director, head of product marketing for the Converged Experiences group, "you're going to see a dramatic increase in the number of connected devices. The number is about five in the average home now — tablet, gaming console, PC — and it's going to 15 to 20. You're going to have a home with more technology and, hopefully, it will be managed in a way that's a lot more efficient."** I thought that over a bit and started counting. I have eight, which puts me a little above average but less than half of where they are predicting us to be at in the next five years.

Where are you at? Start counting, (Desktop PC, Notebook, Digital Camera, MP3 player, Smart phone, Smart TV, Tablet) that's 7, so you can see, they are adding up fast. Do they all share your media? The answer is yes, but not easily. In my opinion the industry has a long way to go to make it seamless for end users to have their content available across all devices and platforms.

All this lead in was to get to the point of sharing recorded TV and device #9. Ever since migrating from the Commodore to a PC, I have had a TV tuner card in every one of my PCs and if I want to record TV that's how I do it (record it on my computer). From there I can convert the recording to various formats for different devices or burn to DVD. This worked well until the arrival of digital TV. I have cable and they gradually kept dropping the analog channels till it got to the point where I had to add a DTA (Digital Transport Adapter) to the TV tuner in my computer in order to get most of the basic channels again. This happened about the time that I migrated to Windows 7. Since most versions of Windows 7 include MCE (Media Center Edition), I decided to try MCE and found it to be an excellent avenue for watching TV in a little window or for recording TV. The programming guide makes it a snap to schedule recordings.

Device #9

So on to device #9. Two weeks ago I was surfing the channels and found a program that I wanted to record to watch later, problem was it was a High Definition channel which is not broadcast on an alternative digital channel thus I could not record it. Comcast seems to be do-

ing more of this High Definition-only thing lately (not because you get a better viewing experience but rather they can rent you more HD boxes). While watching the show I couldn't record, I grabbed my tablet and started searching for a solution for recording HD on my computer. In a few clicks I was at the Hauppauge web site reading the specs on the WinTV-DCR-2650, a dual tuner Cable CARD™ receiver for your Windows 7 PC. I then clicked on the "Features" tab which stated:

WinTV-DCR-2650 is just like a cable TV set top box (a "DVR" box) in that it can be used to watch and record TV from digital cable. There are a couple of differences:

- WinTV-DCR-2650 needs a PC to work. Currently, only a PC with Windows 7 Media Center is compatible with the WinTV-DCR-2650.
- WinTV-DCR-2650 does not have any internal disk storage: it uses your PC for storing recorded TV programs. The nice thing about using your PC for storage is that if you fill up your hard drive with TV programs, you can easily add a new hard drive to your PC.
- WinTV-DCR-2650 records in the original transmitted quality. For example, if you record from an HD channel, the recording will be HD.
- There is no monthly fee for the WinTV-DCR-2650. Once you buy it, it's yours to use forever. But you still need to sign up for cable TV service, and you will still need to rent a digital cable card from your local cable operator.

After reading the 3rd bullet point, that it could record HD channels, I changed my search to a shopping search and had my order placed before the show I wanted to record was even over. How's that for impulse buying?

As you can see from the Quick Setup Guide instructions, there is not much to the setup and installation, it took approximately a half hour to complete the 1st time through. However, I had to repeat step 4 three additional times before everything was fully functional and that took over three hours because after every call I was instructed to wait 45 minutes or more before all the channels would be available. Overall, ap-

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

prox. four hours from out-of-the-box to watching and recording High Definition TV on my computer.

WinTV-DCR-2650 rear panel connectors



Installation instructions for the WinTV-DCR-2650

- Step 1. Run the Windows Digital Cable Advisor to make sure your PC is compatible with the WinTV-DCR-2650.
- Step 2. Plug the WinTV-DCR-2650 into your PC via the USB cable. Connect cable TV. Insert the cable card you received from your cable operator into the back of WinTV-DCR-2650.
- Step 3. Run the Windows Media Center TV Tuner setup and select your cable TV operator.
- Step 4. Call your cable TV company to activate your cable card and “pair” it to the WinTV-DCR-2650

Four calls

In each of the four calls to Comcast a different support person was on the other end, each was very courteous, spoke very good English and seemed very knowledgeable. In the first call the support person activated the card and told me to wait 45 minutes or more before all the channels would be available. After 45 minutes I had all of the digital channels but only the basic (2, 5, 7, & 9) HD channels.

Second call

In the second call the support person said she would resend the activation to the card and told me to wait 45 minutes or more before all the channels would be available. This netted the same results so I ran the Hauppauge diagnostic program that was included on the installation CD. It reported that the firmware on the CableCard was out-of-date and not supported.

Third call

On the 3rd call I gave the diagnostic information to the support person who put me on hold while he collaborated with another technician. When he returned he stated that he would have to flash the firmware of my CableCard and told me to wait 45

minutes or more before all the channels would be available. He also gave me a different phone number to reach a higher level of support if flashing the card didn't work. After my 45 minute wait I retried and had all digital channels but no HD channels (lost ground). I reran the Hauppauge diagnostic and it reported no errors and said all is well.

Fourth call

The 4th call was to the new number given by the last rep and the support person on the other end had all my information from the previous calls and said she would run some diagnostics on the card from her end, after which she said she would reactivate the card asked me to tell her what lights were flashing while she was doing it. While this was going on she said that if this didn't work she would schedule a service call. By the time we were done talking the reactivating had completed and I had all channels (including the HD Channels) that I subscribe to and I didn't have to wait for 45 minutes.

All Channels

I am very pleased with the Hauppauge WinTV-DCR-2650 picture quality; it is very good and since I was already using MCE there was no learning curve. I can receive every channel on my computer that I can get from the Comcast HD Box except On Demand and Pay Per View. With two tuners built-in you can watch one show while recording another. As for media sharing I give it a thumbs up because I can now record a HD TV show and use Windows Live Movie Maker to save it to a format that can be viewed on my Android Tablet.

Hauppauge is headquartered in Hauppauge, NY and has been bringing TV to the PC since 1992. The Company is the worldwide leader in developing and manufacturing PC based TV tuners and data broadcast receiver products. Hauppauge's products allow PC users to watch television on their PC screens, videoconference and create both still video images and digital TV recordings. Hauppauge's flagship product, the WinTV, is the leading branded TV tuner card for PCs.

From the Editor

Submissions for the October 2012 News Journal will be due by September 15. All articles are welcome and appreciated.

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JOHN COLOSIMO
JULIO RIVERA

Did You Know

The Problem: Muffled Sound

By Steve Baer, Feature Writer, Hilton Head Island Computer Club, SC
May 2012 issue, Island Computing
www.hhicc.org
Baer (at) ieee.org

Lately when I'm with groups of friends there is an increasing chance that some subset of people will complain to me about how bad TV and DVD sound is getting, and how hard it is to at times to understand the dialog. I have been noticing this myself and decided to try to understand what is happening. There are several things going on, all of which conspire against us.

1 – As we get older our ears become less able, especially at higher frequencies. This is called Presbycusis, and there is good information on it on the web. Coming from Bell Labs, I learned about this almost 50 years ago, but I never thought it would apply to me!

2 – Many of the newer flat-screen TV's have very small bezels, and hence have small speakers or worse, put them at the sides or rear. When we put these sets in cabinets, or bookcases, the

sound – especially the high frequencies, gets absorbed in the cabinets.

3 – Many DVDs have a very large dynamic range, the difference between the softest and loudest parts. Hence, in order to avoid being blown away during a car chase or explosions, we lower the volume overall. Then at the dialog passages, the sound is too low for our older ears.

4 – Many new DVDs are encoded with multi-channel sound. When you play the DVD, you probably have seen the setup menu where the multi-channel options are labeled with terms such as: 5.1, 6.1, 7.1, DTS, THX, etc. This refers to the number of channels of sound that are in the film, if you have the equipment to decode and the right number of speakers. (The .1 represents the sub-woofer channel.) One of these channels is the center channel that usually carries most of the dialog.

If you have made an incorrect selection on the DVD setup menu or an external amplifier, and are trying to play back multichannel sound through a system without all the multi-channel speakers, you will miss a lot of the audio. If you are watching a movie through an ordinary TV without multi-channel sound capability, be sure to pick the appropriate audio option on the movie setup menu.

Some Solutions

There are some ways around these problems:

1 – Many people use a product such as "TV Ears" which wirelessly puts the sound into stethoscope type earphones that they wear. I have tried these, and they work extremely well. However, they are expensive and I have found them to be mechanically fragile. I have already had to repair two sets for friends – both failing in the same way.

(Perhaps newer models are better made.) Two people would also require two sets. Be sure that you understand where the base station will plug in to your system in order to broadcast the audio to the stethoscope part.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

2 – Several of my friends have supplemented the flimsy and poorly aimed speakers in their TVs with sound bars such as shown in the figure below. This is a Vizio model available from Wal-Mart for about \$100. This does not solve the multi-channel problem, but for one or two channel sound, with the speakers facing the listener, they work amazingly well.

In my experience, good one or two channel sound is far superior to poor multi-channel sound. I heard this particular sound bar unit a few nights ago and I was amazed at the clarity. It is an active speaker, meaning that it has its own small amplifier built in. It can receive audio input from your DVD player or your TV set via red (right) and white (left) type of standard RCA cables. Some sound bars also have digital inputs for more complex setups.

3 – If you use an amplifier to drive a multi-channel speaker system, make sure that the center channel speaker is aimed, directly firing at the listener. Also raise the treble to make up for your possible high frequency loss from Presbycusis.

Finally, many amplifiers will have a compression setting that minimizes the differences between loud and soft passages. Make sure that you engage that feature. I recently did these three things in my system, providing a large improvement in intelligibility.



What you should know

Spam and Spyware

It Takes Two: Senders and Receivers

By John Roy, President, The PC Users Group of CT
May 2012 issue, The Program

www.tpcug-ct.org

johnroy1 (at) comcast.net

As a recipient, everyone must be cautious before opening any email including those from family or friends. Fortunately, most ISPs do a fairly good job of stripping out obvious spam/malware email so it never reaches your inbox. You may even have a second filter to further reduce what arrives in your real mailbox but it is impossible to eliminate all spam/malware. Therefore, the final filter is a manual decision by you not to open a potential Spam/malware email.

Common sense about opening any questionable email has been published numerous times and need not be repeated here. Those of you that heed this generic advice will minimize your chances of becoming infected. The people that can't resist knowing what lies behind the questionable email will continually be infected. The bottom line is if it doesn't look right delete it. If you really think your friend sent something important, just respond requesting a follow up without opening the pending email.

Are you or your email address being flagged as the sender of this spam/malware? If you are being accused of sending spam/malware one or more of these things have happened.

- Your computer is infected and is sending this email without your knowledge.
- A friend of yours with your email address has a compromised computer that is sending the spam/malware using your email address.
- One or more of your email address passwords has been cracked and consequently compromised by a criminal.

Of course there could also be random spoofing of common email addresses. Some other clues that you may notice is getting replies or bounce messages to email you never sent.

So what can be done? When I receive a potential email threat from someone I know I first disable any active hyperlink and respond to the sender letting them know that spam/malware is

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

being received from their email address. I recommend the person take preventative action by first running several malware tools such as Malwarebytes on their personal computer.

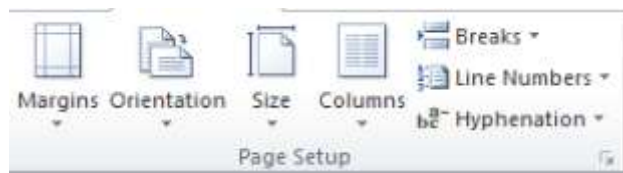
They can also change their ISP password in case that has been compromised. If the spam/malware source is someone else's computer or just random spoofing there really isn't much more that can be done but hope it eventually stops.



Setting Up a Page in Word 2007/2010

By Nancy DeMarte, Regular Columnist (Office Talk), Sarasota PCUG, Florida
April 2012 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor
www.spcug.org
ndemarte (at) Verizon.net

Most Word users know that when composing a document, they can select the font (style) and size of the text and can apply effects to the text, such as bold or italic. But many users don't think about how important the page set up is. Here's an overview of the useful tools to make the text fit on the page you way you want it to. These tools are located in the Page Setup group on the Page Layout tab in Word 2007 and 2010. Almost all of them are also present in Word 2003, but the locations are different.



Margins

Word 2007 simplified its approach to margin-setting. Clicking the Margins button reveals seven thumbnails of page margin choices. Normal is one inch on each side. Moderate is the Word 2003 pattern of .75 inches left and right and 1.0 inch top and bottom. Narrow, wide, and mirrored (for a two-page layout) complete the standard choices. With your cursor anywhere in the document, click a choice and watch the margins change. I find it useful to try different margin patterns when I want to get rid of that pesky one or two lines of text that have spilled onto the next page. Narrowing the margins often solves my problem. Of course, you can also customize margins by clicking "Custom Margins" in the Margins menu and typing specific measurements. Be

careful not to set them too narrow or the edge text might not print.

Orientation

Most documents look best taller than they are wide, known as Portrait view. Since this is the default orientation in Word, many people don't even think that some documents might be more effective in Landscape view, or wider than they are tall. For instance, if you are creating a list of names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, they would be more likely to fit on one line in Landscape than in Portrait orientation. Landscape is also good when creating a folded booklet from a standard sheet of paper or when printing a page from the Internet.

Paper Size

This convenient button lets you choose from many paper sizes. Clicking the Size button drops down a menu showing standard sizes at the top, followed by numerous others with specific measurements listed for each. Clicking "More paper sizes" lets you create a custom size. These options are useful when creating notes to fit odd-sized envelopes or creating a large sign. They let you work with the full range of paper that your printer is equipped to handle.

Columns

This command is the lifeline for those of us who write newsletters, but it has other uses as well. Open any document and with a couple of clicks you can display it in column format – almost any number of columns, evenly or unevenly spaced. The thumbnails in the columns list make it easy to see how the columns will look on the page. Click "More Columns" to customize. For those new to columns, the text on a page will fill in the first column, then wrap to the top of the next column as in a newspaper. Besides newsletters, setting up a directory of names and addresses in two or three columns lets you insert a new person in the correct alphabetical spot without disturbing the list layout.

Breaks

Adding a break between pages in a document is so important to me that I keep the Breaks button on my Quick Access Toolbar at the top of the Word window. So many times in drafting articles or other documents longer than one page, I want to keep paragraphs together or keep text on the same page as related graphics. The Breaks tool contains two categories: Page Breaks and Section Breaks, both with sub-categories. Section Breaks are invaluable in longer documents where, for example, you may want a section of text in columns for

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

part of a page and full page width text on the rest. You insert a Section Break at the point where the layout begins and ends.

If you don't ever compose documents that complex, then Page Breaks should be your focus. With the cursor positioned at the place you want the page to end, click Breaks -- Page Break to move the text following the cursor to top of the next page. The page break will stay until you either delete it or position the cursor at the beginning of the page after the break and press the Backspace key. To see where page or section breaks exist in a document, on the Home tab, in the Paragraph group, click the Paragraph sign (top right corner). This tool shows the specific formatting of the page: spaces between words as dots, new paragraphs with the paragraph symbol, and breaks with a dotted line labeled 'page (or section) break'.

Line Numbers

In legal and other official documents, line numbers are often required for easy access to a specific line of text. This command will add line numbers continuously through a document, re-start them on each page, and several other options.

Hyphenation

Hyphenation means splitting a word between syllables. Many newspapers and magazines use hyphenation to keep a more even space between words in a full-justified paragraph, where text is lined up evenly both left and right. With no hyphenation, which is the default in Word, each line of text on the page ends with a complete word. With automatic hyphenation, Word chooses where to break a word at the right end of a line. If you need to squeeze more text into one page than will fit easily, using hyphenation can buy you a bit more space because each line will be more completely filled. To turn on hyphenation, just click the command button and choose Automatic hyphenation. If you want to be the one to decide where in a multi-syllable word to make the break, click Manual hyphenation.

The next time you compose a document in Word, try some Page Setup tools to create a more professional layout.

The Transitional Operating System

The Transitional Operating System
By Berry F. Phillips, Member, ccOKC
(Computer Club of Oklahoma City)
May 2012 issue, eMonitor

www.ccokc.org

The Operating System (OS) is the most important piece of software on your computer. From a user perspective, the OS provides the interface with which the users interact. Behind the scenes, an operating system carries out many additional functions. The OS recognizes drives and communicates between applications and the processor. The OS manages a directory of files, and manages resources such as fonts and system sounds. Without the operating system nothing happens! In this article we will explore what we can expect from operating systems of the future.

When the OS evolved from command-line interfaces to graphical user interfaces, many tasks that computer users routinely carried out became much easier and user friendly. The graphical user interface or GUIs made possible by the invention of Xerox PARC was the major step toward making the computers accessible to the average computer user not just computer geeks.

In recent years, the standard GUI began to show signs of age. Hardware and software have become increasingly complex. To the rescue, came the wizard--a simple piece of software that converts complicated tasks into an automated procedure. In the future, you can expect to see more wizards incorporated into operating systems.

As various kinds of media were formerly separate--such as mail, television, radio, and telephony--converge on the desktop, expect operating systems to evolve to deal with these seamlessly. Operating systems in the future will easily operate these multiple systems which will be merged with the operating systems in the future.

The ideal OS is one that we never have to think about. It will function as an obedient Victorian era servant who knows our wishes better than we do. We will see voice activation and instruction continue to develop and be integrated into future operating systems. Jeeves, our OS butler, may well take care of most of our commands.

I am speaking to my OS, "Write me an article for the Computer Hysteria column for the eMonitor." Nothing is happening. Well, if my OS cannot do that I will try something else. "Fix my supper and clean my apartment!" Nothing is happening. I guess I will have to wait for future developments of the operating system.



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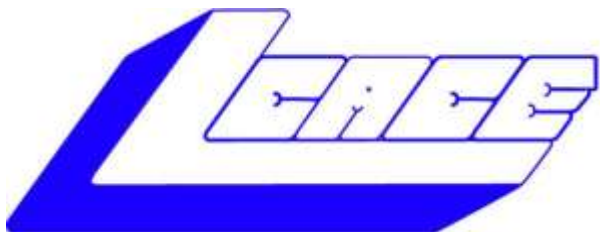
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Holiday Party Help Desk Closed



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Next Meeting

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Meeting Agenda

Mobile Computing
presented by Best
buy of Gurnee

[Future Meetings 2012](#)

October 13 - Windows 8

November 17-Photoshop Elements

December 1 -Holiday Party



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