

# COMPUTER NEWS



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## The Napa Valley Personal Computer Users Group will meet Wednesday, Sept 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00-9:00 P.M.

At the Napa Senior Activity Center,  
1500 Jefferson Street, Napa, California



The meeting begins with Random Access, an open-floor question-and-answer period during which attendees can ask questions about computers and computer-related problems and receive helpful information from other meeting attendees. Questions may be submitted before the meeting by emailing them to Random Access moderator **Jerry Brown** at [Questions@nvpcug.org](mailto:Questions@nvpcug.org).



July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Computer Tutor topic member **Jeff Solomon** will show us a System Tray Cleaner. This program can help you which helps you remove useless icons from your system tray. If you have an idea or question that the Computer Tutor **Jeff Solomon** at [tutor@nvpcug.org](mailto:tutor@nvpcug.org).



This month **Beth Pickering** will talk to us about a new/old browser, OPERA. By NEW I mean you may never have heard of it and by OLD I mean that this browser has been around longer than Mozilla Firefox, the search engine Google and even IE. If you have a suggestion on which feature and topics should discuss in the future, please contact **Susy Ball** at [susyball@aol.com](mailto:susyball@aol.com). See ya all at the meeting. \*

*Could you use some practical information that would help you make better use of your computer? Come to this meeting! Guests are always welcome. Admission is always free.*

*Interested in becoming a member? See page 26 for application information.*

# NVPCUG

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS & MAC GROUP

In SIG meetings you can learn about a subject in greater detail than is feasible at NVPCUG general meetings. SIG meetings are open to everyone. Meeting times and locations occasionally change, so for current meeting information, see our Web site, [www.nvpcug.org](http://www.nvpcug.org), or contact the SIG leaders.

### Investors SIG

Meets: Monthly, second Monday  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Jerry Brown's home,  
23 Skipping Rock Way, Napa

Leader: Jerry Brown  
(707) 254-9607  
[bqandjbb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bqandjbb@sbcglobal.net)

### Napa Valley Mac User Group

Meets: Monthly, second Thursday  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Napa Senior Activity Center  
1500 Jefferson St., Napa

Leader: Ron Rogers  
(707) 226-5352  
[ronrogersnapamug@gmail.com](mailto:ronrogersnapamug@gmail.com)

## About Opera

### Opera Add-ons

With Opera Add-ons, you can change the browser's look, feel and functionality with a single click. Add-ons include extensions, widgets, unite, link, mail, turbo, and skins.

### What are extensions?

Extensions run inside the browser allow you to easily add functionality to your Opera browser. Some extensions have user interface elements, but not all. An extension can for example add a button next to the Google Search field with a popup menu when you click on it. Other extensions don't have user interfaces at all, but run in the background. More extension examples are adding the option to download videos from YouTube or notifying you of new Facebook events. There is an Opera extensions forum where you can discuss the extensions you are using, or want to use. Currently there are 746 extensions.

### What are Opera Widgets?

Opera Widgets are fast, free and connected applications that are easy-to-install and use. They run outside the browser and will work even if the Opera Web browser is not running. Each Opera Widget runs in a separate process, providing more speed, security and stability. In fact, they can look and behave just like normal desktop applications. There are 1,820 available widgets.

### What is Opera Unite?

Opera Unite is a new technology platform allowing you to share content directly with friends, without having to upload anything to a Web site. It was designed to offer a simple and easy way for people to share data and collaborate online. You can stream music, show photo galleries, share files and folders, or even host your own Web pages directly from your browser. Opera Unite is not designed to replace professional Web servers, but to make it easy for people to share content and communicate without the technical knowledge required to run a server, let alone program in PHP.

### What is Opera Link?

Opera Link allows you to share data between all your computers and devices that run the Opera browser. It can synchronize your browser information, such as bookmarks, Speed Dial, passwords, and notes, so they are available to you wherever you go. Once you enable Opera Link, you can easily access your search engines, bookmarks and Speed Dial from your phone, tablet or another computer. Log in to Opera Link and your data is always synchronized until you log out. You can also choose what you'd like to synchronize. Synchronization occurs continuously. This means that if you delete a bookmark while at home, this bookmark will also be automatically deleted on the online server and, therefore, your work browser and any other instances of the browser that has Opera Link enabled using the same Opera account. The browser is kept exactly as you left it each time, wherever you are. However, as changes are applied to all instances of the browser, it's best not to think of Opera Link as way to keep a backup of your data. There are more applications and types of data you can link with computers than devices that use Opera Mini or Mobile.

### What is Opera Turbo?

Opera Turbo loads webpages faster on slow Internet connections while other browsers get left in the dust. It is available on computers and phones. You cannot always get fast web access. Perhaps you have to connect with Wi-Fi in a busy cafe or use a laptop connected to a mobile phone. In these situations, surfing the Web can be frustratingly slow. That is why the Opera browser includes the unique Opera Turbo mode that can load webpages up to five times faster than other browsers. Even while using Opera Turbo, secured connections do not go through Opera's servers. This means that when you are using your bank or transmitting sensitive data, you are talking directly with the website. \*

**Note:** *This is the program Beth Pickering will bring to us at the general meeting. If you can, download this program before you come at [www.opera.com](http://www.opera.com).*

# Napa Valley Personal Computer Users Group Contact Information

## Officers for 2011

### Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	Jim Gray	unlisted	<a href="mailto:President@nvpcug.org">President@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Ron Dack	unlisted	<a href="mailto:VicePresident@nvpcug.org">VicePresident@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Marcia Waddell	252-2060	<a href="mailto:Secretary@nvpcug.org">Secretary@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Roy Wagner	253-2721	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@nvpcug.org">Treasurer@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Other Directors:</b>	Susy Ball, Julie Jerome, Bernhard Krevet, Dick Peterson, Bob Simmerman, Raylene Thompson, Tom Uboldi and Dean Unruh		

### Appointed Officers

<b>Computer Tutor Coordinator</b>	Jeff Solomon	553-2114	<a href="mailto:Tutor@nvpcug.org">Tutor@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Facility Arrangements Coordinator</b>	Dianne Prior	252-1506	<a href="mailto:Facility@nvpcug.org">Facility@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Greeter Coordinator</b>	Raylene Thompson	unlisted	<a href="mailto:Greeter@nvpcug.org">Greeter@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Greeter Coordinator</b>	Bob Simmerman	259-6113	<a href="mailto:Greeter2@nvpcug.org">Greeter2@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Librarian</b>	Dean Unruh	226-9164	<a href="mailto:Librarian@nvpcug.org">Librarian@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Membership Director</b>	Bob Simmerman	259-6113	<a href="mailto:Membership@nvpcug.org">Membership@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Susy Ball	337-3998	<a href="mailto:Editor@nvpcug.org">Editor@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Product Review CoCoordinator</b>	Susy Ball	337-3998	<a href="mailto:Reviews@nvpcug.org">Reviews@nvpcug.org</a>
	Marcia Waddell	252-2060	<a href="mailto:Reviews2@nvpcug.org">Reviews2@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Co-Programs Director</b>	Bernhard Krevet	unlisted	<a href="mailto:Programs@nvpcug.org">Programs@nvpcug.org</a>
	Susy Ball	337-3998	<a href="mailto:Programs@nvpcug.org">Programs@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Publicity Director</b>	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		
<b>Random Access Moderator</b>	Jerry Brown	254-9607	<a href="mailto:Questions@nvpcug.org">Questions@nvpcug.org</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Ron Dack	unlisted	<a href="mailto:Webmaster@nvpcug.org">Webmaster@nvpcug.org</a>

• All telephone numbers are in Area Code 707.

**NVPCUG General Meetings**  
**Held the third Wednesday of each month, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**  
**Napa Senior Activity Center,**  
**1500 Jefferson Street, Napa**

### NVPCUG Computer News

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# P-Flip Power Dock

A review by George Harding, Treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, AZ, April 2011 issue, TCS eJournal, [www.aztcs.org](http://www.aztcs.org), [georgehardingsbd@earthlink.net](mailto:georgehardingsbd@earthlink.net)

This is a compact portable battery you can use to charge your MP3 player, mobile phone, camera or whatever when you run out of power. It's frustrating to find out you forgot to charge your phone when you need to make an important call, or your camera when you have the opportunity for a great shot. The device is attractively designed to sit upright when your phone is connected to it. The unit I received for review works with the iPhone 3G/3GS and iPod 2G/1G. There are other versions of the device that work with Blackberry units.

The charger base contains the battery and is about 2" X 3" and has a hinged holder for the device to be charged. The accompanying cable has a mini-USB plug on one end and a USB plug on the other. Charging is solely by a USB port in your laptop or other unit. There is a small button on one side that allows you to check the charge status. The three LED lights on the top light up: 1 or 2 for partial charge, all 3 for fully charged. The battery stores enough to provide up to 8 hours of talk time, and provides 2,000 mAh of power. The battery is lithium polymer. If your phone is connected to a laptop, you can sync your iPhone data with iTunes. So, this is a dual-function charger, updating your saved data as well as charging the phone. A version of the device charged by solar energy is also available from the manufacturer. \*



About: P-Flip Power Dock  
Manufacturer: Dexim  
[www .dexim .net](http://www.dexim.net)  
Price: \$30 from AT&T.com

By  
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## NVPCUG Calendar

Sept 21	7:00-9:00 p.m.	NVPCUG General Meeting, + A
Oct10	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Investors SIG meeting + C
Oct13	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Napa Valley Mac User Group + A
Oct19	7:00-9:00 p.m.	NVPCUG General Meeting, + A
Nov5	10:00-11:30 am.	Board of Directors meeting + D
Nov10	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Napa Valley Mac User Group + A
Nov14	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Investors SIG meeting + C
Nov16	7:00-9:00 p.m.	NVPCUG General Meeting, + A
Dec 8	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Napa Valley Mac User Group + A
Dec12	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Investors SIG meeting + C
<b>Dec14</b>	7:00-9:00 p.m.	NVPCUG General Meeting, + A
<b>Dec 14</b>	7:00-9:00 p.m.	NVPCUG Annual Christmas Party, + D

### Meeting Locations

- A** - Napa Senior Activity Center,  
1500 Jefferson Street, Napa
- B** - Piner's Nursing Home,  
1800 Pueblo Ave., Napa
- C** - Jerry Brown's home,  
23 Skipping Rock Way, Napa
- D** - Peterson's Family Christmas  
Tree Farm, 1120 Darms  
Lane, Napa.

# The Google 2-step!

By Drew Kwashnak, Member, Danbury Area Computer Society, CT, June 2011 issue, DACS.doc, [www.dacs.org](http://www.dacs.org), [dacseditor@dacs.org](mailto:dacseditor@dacs.org)

If you are one of those users with “password” as your password, might I suggest you use Google for your email, calendar and other online needs! Even if you use a password not on the list of “The Top 500 Worst Passwords of All Time” it might be a good idea to use Google’s 2-step verification.

## The 2-Step Verification is, in Google’s own words:

2-step verification adds an extra layer of security to your users’ Google Apps accounts by requiring them to enter a verification code in addition to their username and password, when signing in to their account.

This Verification code is not another password to memorize. Instead, the verification code is generated at the time you try logging in, and is only valid for a short period of time. Even if somebody were to pluck your username, password AND verification code out of the air they are to act quickly before the verification code is expired.

Corporations have made use of this verification method for years but have had to rely on distributing a keychain FOB with an automatically changing verification code. Google uses something more readily available; your phone.

When turning on 2-step verification for your Google Account you are walked through the set up process. At minimum you have to supply a phone number and you have the option receiving the verification code either as an SMS (text) message, or an automated voice message.

While you can change which method to receive the verification code when logging in, you cannot change where it is sent. This also means anybody trying to log into your account cannot redirect the verification code to their phone. You can, however, set up a second backup phone and method. This is helpful just in case you don’t have your phone handy.

That’s it! The next time you log into your Google Account, or any of the numerous Google Apps, you will get the familiar login request except when you click Sign In, you will see a page asking for your Verification code and within moments your phone will be receiving this code.

Once you have successfully logged in, you don’t have to worry about going through this process every time. It remembers the computer you are using and afterwards it will function with just your username and password, unless you log completely out.

Since most local applications, such as email or chat clients, do not know how to handle a verification code, you can create what is called Application Passwords. These

are randomly generated, strong passwords that allow only applications to access your Google Applications, not a browser and not your account settings.



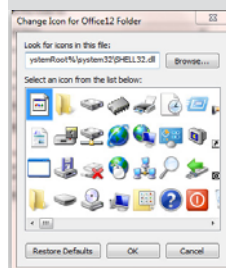
These passwords can be easily created and deleted as necessary only after logging into the account using the 2-step Verification. This could be used for temporary use, easily changing the password every so often, or having each system or application use their password.

So not only does Google add a layer of security with the additional verification code, it also separates application-level access with the account settings controls to limit the damage somebody can do if they were to gain access to your username and password.

Once set up it is not a difficult process to follow, and the return of greater security is well worth it in my opinion.

Drew Kwashnak spends way too much time on the web and ran across this feature from Google when his account was closed for “suspicious activity”. Since then, he hasn’t had any issues with “suspicious activity” or the like. \*

## Folder Icons



If those boring manila folder icons on your Desktop are too bland for your taste, go ahead and change them. Right-click a folder, select Properties, and click the Change Icon button on the Shortcut tab. Scroll through the available default icons on your system (or browse to other icons you’ve downloaded from the Internet). Just highlight the new icon and click OK.

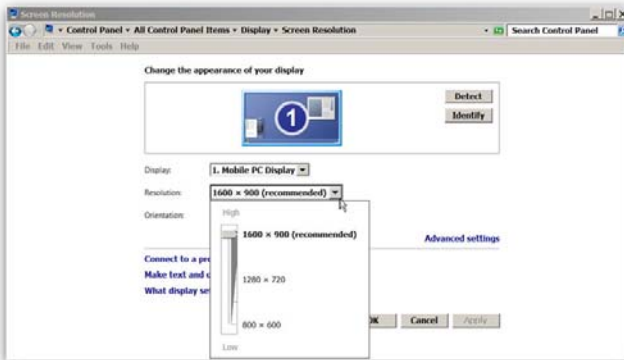
*Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing. Visit [www.SmartComputing.com/Groups](http://www.SmartComputing.com/Groups) to learn what Smart Computing can do for you and your user group!*

# Discovering Windows 7 – Part 14

By Neil Stahfest, Vice President, Tacoma Area PC User Group, Washington, April 2011 issue, the Data Line, [NCStahfest@msn.com](mailto:NCStahfest@msn.com), [www.tapcug.org](http://www.tapcug.org)

Do you have trouble seeing the text on your computer's display? New computer displays come in a wide range of sizes. Twenty years ago an 800 pixel by 600 pixel display was considered to be pretty high resolution. Modern LCD displays are available in a number of sizes that can range from 1024 by 600 pixels to 1920 by 1080 pixels. By default Windows attempts to match your computer's display setting to the number of pixels in the display to give you the sharpest image possible. Sometimes, particularly if you have a very large display, the text may look to small.

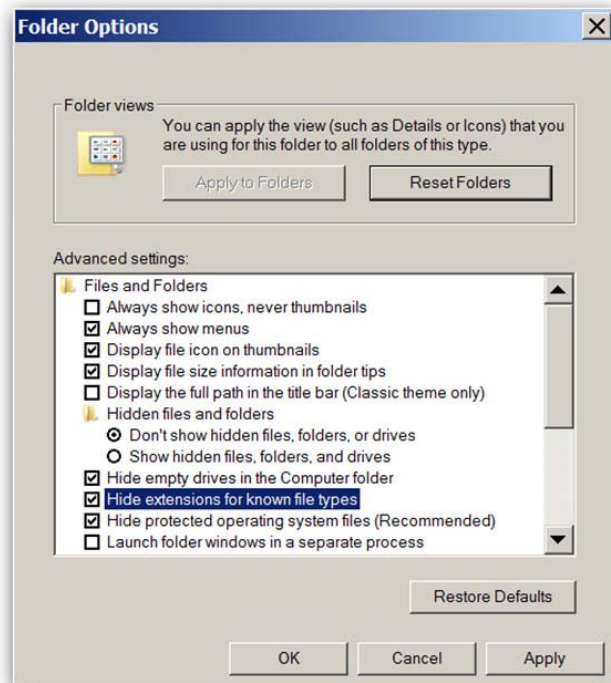
Sometimes, however, your display settings may get changed. If you attach a different display or a projector to your computer may change your settings. When you change back to your original display things may look "different" (icons in new locations and bigger or smaller, text larger or smaller).



Windows 7 makes it easy to check and change your display settings. Just click on the Windows Start button and then the Control Panel. Under Appearance and Personalization, click on Adjust screen resolution. This will produce a window like the one shown here which lets you change the appearance of your display. What we want to look at is the button next to Resolution. As shown, when you click on it a small window with slider appears which shows you the range of settings available to you.

Now that we've "conquered" the subject of video settings, let's talk about file extensions. File extensions are a group of letters at the end of a file name that identifies the type of file for the programs in your computer. For example, if I had a picture on my computer it might be named cat.jpg. The name of the file is cat and the extension .jpg identifies it as a picture file for the Windows Photo Viewer program, as well as other programs that I might have for viewing pictures. Through the magic of Windows, you don't have to specify a particular program to open or view a file. In our example, just double-clicking on cat.jpg will start the right program so I can see the picture of a cat.

I have a new laptop computer. It came with Microsoft Word 2010 on it. My old computer has Word 2003 on it. When you create a document with Word 2010, Word places a file extension of .docx on it. If you create a document using Word 2003 it has a file extension of .doc. Why? Because Microsoft changed something in the way it formats document file with Word 2010. Word 2010 can read .doc files created by Word 2003 but Word 2003 cannot read Word 2010 documents with a .docx file extension. For people like me that use Word 2003 on one computer and Word 2010 on another computer, it means that I can't read documents created on the new computer on my old computer. Fortunately Microsoft has provided a solution. It lets me save documents created with Word 2010 with the format used by Word 2003 (with a .doc file extension) so I work with the same document on both computers.



Now we get to Part 2 of my problem. By default Windows 7, as well as other versions of Windows, hides file extensions. This means that by just looking at the name of a document, I can't tell if it was saved as a .doc or .docx file. In older versions of Windows there was a way to unhide file extensions. I did that years ago on my old computer, it was something to do with "folder options" but I no longer remember how I did it. It doesn't matter. I want to unhide file extensions on my computer with Windows 7. As it turns out, this is very easy.

Start by clicking on the Windows 7 Start Button. In the Search Box that appears above it, type "folder →

options.” In the window that appears above the Search Box we’ll see “Folder Options.” We can also see that it is located in the Control Panel, but that isn’t important right now. Just by double-clicking on “Folder Options” gets us to the Folder Options window. Which is what we want? If we click on the view tab (as shown in the illustration) we see a list of Advanced settings, including one that says “Hide extensions for known file types.” Notice the check

mark in the box next to it. Click on the box to uncheck it and click “OK” to unhide file extensions.

While we’re here in the Folder Options window, notice that there are a lot of other options. I’ll leave it to you to explore them. Just remember, if you mess things up, just click on the “Reset Folders” button to restore everything to the default settings. \*

## Discovering Windows 7 – Part 16

By Neil Stahfest, Vice President, Tacoma Area PC User Group, Washington, June 2011 issue, the Data Line, [NCStahfest@msn.com](mailto:NCStahfest@msn.com), [www.tapcug.org](http://www.tapcug.org)

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

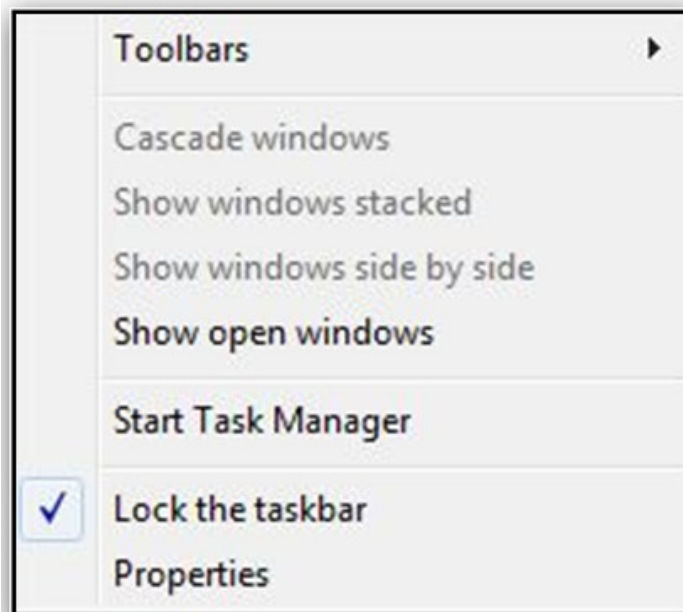
You can attach programs to the taskbar by first opening the Start Menu and locating the program you want. Then, place your mouse pointer on the program name and press the right mouse button. In the window that opens, locate “Pin to taskbar” and left-click. That’s all there is to it!

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

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

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

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



# Training My Dragon

By Beth Pickering, member of the Napa Valley PCUG, [www.nvpcug.org](http://www.nvpcug.org),  
[bethpick@emailx.net](mailto:bethpick@emailx.net)



Dragon NaturallySpeaking 11.5 needs two things to work well: memory to move around in, and training. I think training is the most important. My Dragon is a little cramped, but it still works better every time I use it. I have decided I need to do training every day, unless I am out of town.

My Dragon is at a slight disadvantage. I use web based e-mail, so there are no e-mails it can read. The documents I have written are mostly saved in PDF format, something else Dragon cannot read. So my Dragon is learning only by me reading other people's material, and my dictations. I also need to add more memory to give it room to work. Still, my Dragon is doing very well.

I am also in training. I need to learn which commands to use. The dictating commands are fairly easy for me. Commands to control other things, however, are not so easy. Because of time constraints, I have also had to learn "on the fly". It can be frustrating when I don't get the command right and think I am misunderstood, or am actually misunderstood. Trying to make corrections often result in some pretty funny dialogue. It also doesn't help that the people who write help menus never used terms I try to search for. I am not doing so well.

We haven't been training very long, but I am trying to use my Dragon in a very noisy situation anyway. I want to know how it's going to handle this. It seems to be doing pretty well there seems to be no errors at this time. I am surprised. This is actually in a supermarket with all the noise of the carts, and the registers, and the announcements - still my Dragon is just listening to me. It is not putting anything else in. When I pause I get a flash to "please say that again", so my Dragon does pick up the sounds. But as long as I'm talking, it doesn't seem to have any problem telling what is and isn't me. [It knows I am its owner/master 😊]

I also like working outside on my porch (more of a veranda). My Dragon is very good at ignoring street noises, even the garbage trucks. The first time we worked out here it had trouble understanding me, but today we are doing very well. More training definitely makes a difference.

I don't always have something to dictate, so I created a new document "Dragon Diary" for just talking to my Dragon. This document is called "Dragon Dialogue". My Dragon never mixes them up. Sometimes we work on commands. This training is more for me, so I can get the commands right. When there is a dictating mistake I have my Dragon read back what I said. When I goof, I delete the word and say the right one. When my Dragon goofs, I use the correction menu to get the right word. Since what we do each session is added to my profile, this helps my Dragon learn correctly. At the end of each session I read



to my Dragon on the Accuracy Center. This helps my Dragon learn how I pronounce words. When Dragon NaturallySpeaking first opens up there is a box with tips or me. Later I may turn these tips off, but right now I need them because I am learning.

My Dragon does much more than typing. He can find things for me. I don't know where the Accuracy Center is. When I want it, all I do is tell my Dragon "open Accuracy Center" and he fetches it for me. He will open any file or folder I can name. When I'm done all I have to say is "click close" and he will put them back. He can also open programs, work with menus, and search the Internet. Right now there are three problems:

- My Dragon cannot work all of the features unless he has more memory to move around in.
- I don't always know the right command to use.
- The words I use for help don't get me the results I need.



Dragon NaturallySpeaking 11 Premium is a lot better than the other versions I have experienced. It can be used right out of the box, although it does better training. It isn't as sensitive to outside noises and can be used in very busy environments. Its dictation mode works well even on computers with less memory than recommended.

I am going on a trip, and my Dragon has to stay home. When I get home, I am going to get more memory for my computer. This will let my Dragon access all the features of Dragon NaturallySpeaking. As then we will really get to work – but that's another story for another day. \*

## Minimum System Requirements:

- CPU: 1 GHz Intel Pentium or equivalent AMD

processor, or 1.66 GHz Intel Atom processor. (SSE2 instruction set required.)

- Processor Cache: 512 KB
- Memory (RAM): 1 GB for Windows XP and Windows Vista, 2GB for Windows 7 and Windows Server 2003/2008.
- Free hard disk space: 2.5 GB (2.8 GB for localized non-English versions)

### Supported Operating Systems:

- Windows 7 (32-bit and 64-bit)
- Windows Vista SP1 and SP2 (32-bit and 64-bit)
- Windows XP SP2 and SP3 (32-bit only)
- Windows Server 2003
- Windows Server 2008

### DVD-ROM drive (required for installation)

- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 or higher (free download available at [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com))
- Nuance-approved noise-canceling headset microphone (included, except for upgrades).
- Creative Labs Sound Blaster 16 or equivalent sound card supporting 16-bit recording.
- For details on Bluetooth microphones, Tablet PCs and other hardware, please go to [support.nuance.com/compatibility/](http://support.nuance.com/compatibility/)
- An internet connection is required for activation

### Recommended Specifications:

- CPU: 1.8 GHz Intel Dual Core or equivalent AMD processor. (SSE2 instruction set required).
- Processor Cache: 2 MB
- Memory (RAM): 2 GB RAM for Windows XP and Windows Vista, 4 GB for Windows 7 and Windows Server 2003/2008 64-bit.

**Notes:** *During the install process, the software checks that your system meets these requirements; if they are not met, it will not be installed.*

*Only the Medical edition of Dragon supports dictation directly into Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Systems.*

### The following applications have been tested and are compatible with Dragon NaturallySpeaking 11:

- Internet Explorer 6.x, 7.x and 8.x

**Note:** *Internet Explorer 9 is compatible with Dragon NaturallySpeaking 11.5 and higher.*

- Windows Explorer (on Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7)
- Microsoft Word (Office 2003, 2007 and 2010)
- Microsoft Excel (Office 2003, 2007 and 2010)

- Microsoft Outlook (Office 2003, 2007 and 2010)
- Outlook 2010 (Natural Language Commands in English only)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (Office 2003, 2007 and 2010)
- Microsoft InfoPath (Office 2003, 2007 and 2010)
- Mozilla Firefox 2.x and 3.x (up to version 3.63)

**Note:** *Firefox 4.x is compatible with Dragon NaturallySpeaking 11.5 and higher.*

- Mozilla Thunderbird 2x and 3.x (up to version 3.04)
- OpenOffice Writer 3.1 and 3.2

**Note:** *OpenOffice Writer 3.3 is compatible with Dragon NaturallySpeaking 11.5 and higher.*

- Microsoft Outlook Express 6
- Windows Mail (Version 6 running on Windows Vista)
- Windows Live Mail version 14 (Full Text Control, Menu Tracking, and Natural Language Commands)

**Note:** *Windows Live Mail 15 is compatible with Dragon NaturallySpeaking 11.5 and higher.*

- Microsoft WordPad (on Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7)
- Corel WordPerfect X3, X4 and X5



#### Can't Open Email Messages?

It sounds like your PC is missing a supporting application. To resolve the issue, you must determine the file type as indicated by its three- or four-letter file extension. You can view the extension by accessing My Computer, opening the Tools menu, selecting Folder Options, clicking the View tab, and deselecting the Hide File Extensions For Known File Types option. Click OK to save the new setting and then access the file on your PC. The extension will appear at the end of the file name. Once you determine the file type, you need to identify a program that supports it. A file extension directory, such as the one found on [SmartComputing.com](http://SmartComputing.com), can help you accomplish this task. After identifying the corresponding application, download and/or purchase it and then install the application on your system. You should be able to open the file attachment from within the specified application.

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# Paragon Drive Copy 11 Professional

Reviewed by Terry Currier, President of the WINNERS WINDOWS users group, Fountain Valley, CA, June 2011 issue, The Notepad, [www.windowsusers.org](http://www.windowsusers.org), [winnersug@aol.com](mailto:winnersug@aol.com)

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

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

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

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

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

- Prepare a bootable recovery environment from any ISO image, including their WinPE 3.0 image



## Paragon Drive Copy Key benefits:

- Ultra high-capacity HD support (>2.2TB) migrates existing system from Master Boot Record (MBR) to modern Retained GPT (GUID Partition Table also known as Hybrid GPT) HDD and gain access to complete HDD capacity
- All partitioning (resize, move, creation) and copy with resize operations now take partition alignment problems into account with all volumes being automatically aligned by sector
- Dissimilar hardware support allows migration of existing system and makes it bootable in a new environment
- Copy features – copy a full hard disk or a separate partition, and resize a partition while copying
- Supports all major virtual machines: MS Virtual PC, VMware Workstation, Oracle Virtual Box, VMware Fusion
- Basic partitioning features
- Refined User Interface – improved two-level user interface (Easy/Advanced) to satisfy needs of every customer
- Boot Corrector
- Empowered data safety and disaster recovery tools for both physical and virtual Windows environments.
- Updated wiping technologies can efficiently dispose of data on any HDD, SSD, flash-drives and laptops.
- USB 3.0 ready: New USB 3.0 port grants the possibility to access to external HDD and Flash drives on the new high-speed version of the traditional serial port

PARAGON DRIVE COPY™



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

Paragon Drive Copy 11 Professional is available for \$39<sup>95</sup> via download from <http://www.paragon-software.com/home/dc-professional/>

## System Requirements

- Operating systems: Windows XP/Vista/7 and XP SP2/Vista/7 64-bit

- Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher
- Intel Pentium CPU or its equivalent, with 300 MHz processor clock speed
- 128 MB of RAM (256+ recommended)
- Hard disk drive with 100 MB of available space
- SVGA video adapter and monitor

- Keyboard
- Mouse

## Additional requirements

External USB hard drive to store data

\*

# SuperTooth Buddy - Can it be too good?

By Terry Currier, President, WINNERS (WINdows usERS Group), CA, January Issue, the Notepad, [www.windowsusers.org](http://www.windowsusers.org), [winnersug@aol.com](mailto:winnersug@aol.com)



When the charge is low it gives a steady red light behind the multi-function button. With the adapter they supply you plug it into the cigarette lighter socket and it will charge in three hours. It can also be charged from a PC via USB Cable.

I really did like the SuperTooth Buddy for its clarity,

So why did I ask can it be too good? Well the strength of the connection is actually too strong. It says it will connect up to 30 feet away from the unit, and it's true. I can have the car parked on my driveway walk in, and in the back of the house hear the phone and read the message on the phone saying Bluetooth was disconnected. That would not be so bad, but I can actually walk to the front of the house and have my cell phone reconnect to the unit on the driveway. And of course the microphone and sound functions are transferred to the SuperTooth Buddy – in the car. I have parked the car and in a straight line get about 50 feet away before it finally disconnects.

[www.hypercel.com/Z004088E](http://www.hypercel.com/Z004088E)

Company Website: [www.supertoorth.net](http://www.supertoorth.net)

The SuperTooth Buddy is a hands free Bluetooth speakerphone (bar) for your car. On the back is a strong round magnet, and it comes with a metal clip you put over your sun visor. You simply “attach” the unit to the metal clip. Pairing it to my phone was very easy. It can be paired with two mobile phones simultaneously, if both want to use it at the same time it will default to the last one paired. In fact it will remember and pair up to eight phones.

While driving you are facing the microphone so it picks up your speaking very well. In testing it my wife said I sounded very clear. The microphone is designed to absorb noise and vibrations to enhance outgoing voice quality. It has full duplex audio with echo canceling and a double noise canceller. The speaker produced good sound with plenty of volume. If your phone supports it you can also use call waiting, and voice dialing.

## Voice Dialing

I tested it with a Samsung phone. It uses Bluetooth version 2.1; they say it is compatible with all Bluetooth phones, including the iPhone, Blackberry and Smart Phones (Android O.S., Windows Mobile).

You may be tempted to turn it off when not in use, but the SuperTooth Buddy has a standby charge of 40 days (1,000 hours.) Talk time is up to 20 hours. It was easy to just leave it on all the time and have it automatically reconnect with my cell phone when I got into the car. Note: it did take a couple of minutes for the reconnect, it was not instant.

## Dial2Do

[www.dial2do.com](http://www.dial2do.com)

While not exclusive to SuperTooth Buddy a new service was listed on their website since I started this review. Dial2Do allows the subscriber to create reminders, send texts, listen to and send email, and access favorite 3rd party services - all while keeping your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road. They say it will work with any phone, but have extra features on Smartphones.

When you subscribe to the service you are given a number to call. When you call a voice will ask you what you want to do. Some of the other things you can do is check your calendar, Toodledo task list, post to your blog on WordPress, weather, news, and yes you can even use Twitter. You can try a free 30-day trial of their basic service – create and listen to reminders, voice to text transcription, and Smartphone applications. The Basic will cost you \$2.<sup>49</sup>/month or \$24.<sup>99</sup>/year. With the pro version you can do all the other neat things at a cost of \$5.<sup>99</sup>/month or \$59.<sup>99</sup>/year. \*

# Review - Apple TV

By Richard Corzo, President, Danbury Area Computer Society, CT, January 2011 issue, DACS.doc, a Computer and Technology Newsletter, [www.dacs.org](http://www.dacs.org), [dacsprez@dacs.org](mailto:dacsprez@dacs.org)

Last fall, Apple came out with a second generation Apple TV device (<http://www.apple.com/appletv/>) for connecting to your high-definition TV. It's significantly cheaper (\$99) and contains no hard drive. It's a way to stream video and music to your TV and stereo or home theater surround sound system.

I never owned the previous model, probably because I don't have an HDTV. But I got curious about the new one and was interested in a way to show my recent Turkey vacation photos to my family out of state on a Thanksgiving visit. My family members all have an HDTV, and the new Apple TV is so compact that I thought it would be easy to travel with. I could potentially show photos from my iPod with an audio/video cable to connect to the TV, but they would be in standard definition. I hoped the Apple TV might be able to show my photos at a higher resolution.

I went to the local Apple store and explained my interest to the salesperson. I already had my photos uploaded to a MobileMe (<http://www.apple.com/mobileme/>) gallery. The salesperson said I should notice a difference, but it was hard to tell by looking at their sample photos she showed me on their demo TV. For \$99 I decided to take a chance.

Although I don't have an HDTV at home, I have a flat panel monitor with an HDMI connection, so I was able to set it up before travelling to visit my family. You need a home network to connect to, either via a wired Ethernet connection or the Apple TV's built-in Wi-Fi capability, and a power outlet. Using the small 7-button remote I navigated the on-screen keyboard to enter the Wi-Fi password, and the Apple TV came up to show its home menu: Movies, TV Shows, Internet, Computers, and Settings.

Movies and TV Shows are things you can rent from the iTunes Store right from the Apple TV. You can also view Apple's collection of movie trailers under Movies > In Theaters. If you have previously purchased music or movies/TV shows from iTunes on your computer, you can listen to or watch them by looking for your computer's iTunes library name under Computers. Your computer will need to be turned on and running iTunes. In iTunes 10 you need to enable Home Sharing on the computer as well as on the Apple TV by entering your iTunes Store account and password. Once you do that, you'll be able to browse all the iTunes content on your computer from your Apple TV.



Internet has a list of things that can be streamed from the Internet. The first is Netflix and if you have a Netflix account you can stream any movie or TV show in their growing catalog of items available via streaming. Some movies are only available in DVD form, but I've seen a couple on Netflix that are only available by streaming. If you're not interested in receiving mailed DVDs from Netflix, you can now get a Netflix streaming-only account for \$8 a month.

The next item under Internet is of course the ubiquitous YouTube. If you have a YouTube account you can enter that to get access to your favorites and YouTube channel subscriptions. Otherwise you can browse recent videos or search for specific ones using the on-screen keyboard.

You can view photos that have been uploaded to a MobileMe gallery or Flickr by entering your account information. MobileMe is a paid cloud service offered by Apple, and photo galleries is just one of its features. I can vouch for the fact that the photos looked better on the HDTV than they would have if I had connected my iPod to the TV. In the case of Flickr, your photos will need to have been marked as public in order to view them. My handful of Flickr photos are marked as viewable only by friends and family, so I'm not able to see them on the Apple TV.

If you have a flat panel TV you may have already figured out that the built-in speakers are OK for watching TV, but don't impress much for watching movies or listening to musical programs. So you should have your HDTV connected to a home stereo or surround sound system for better sound. In addition to an HDMI connection the Apple TV has a "TOSlink" optical digital audio connection. Your home theater system should be able to handle this kind of input, but if you have an older home stereo with only analog stereo audio jacks, you'll need to buy a converter like this GefenTV Digital Audio to Analog Adapter ([http://www.gefen.com/gefentv/gtvproduct.jsp?prod\\_id=5279](http://www.gefen.com/gefentv/gtvproduct.jsp?prod_id=5279)).



The features I've mentioned so far may be enough for you to shell out \$99 for an Apple TV, but Apple has sneaked in an additional killer feature that could really convince you. If you have a recent iOS device: iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch, you can use a feature called AirPlay. This won't work on some older devices like my iPhone 3G, but if you have a newer model, you start playing something on your device and you'll see a little AirPlay icon (rectangle with a triangle). Tap it and select Apple TV. The media will start playing on your TV or stereo connected to the Apple TV! You can also initiate this when playing something in iTunes. There are some restrictions on what will work—one of our

Mac SIG members had trouble getting a video from his iPad to play on the Apple TV. I initially had trouble playing something from iTunes on Windows 7, but was able to get it to work after modifying the Windows firewall settings.

My assessment is that if you're already into the Apple ecosystem: iTunes, iPod, MobileMe, etc., then the Apple TV is a really nice device. If you're not already so much into Apple technology, you may want to check out some alternative devices such as the Roku box (<http://www.roku.com/>), which supports Netflix and a number of services not available on the Apple TV, but won't be able to play your iTunes purchased content. \*

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## Database Redux

By Wil Wakely, President, Seniors Computer Group, California, May 2011 issue, Bits and Bytes, The Official Electronic Newsletter of the Seniors Computer Group, [www.SCGsd.org](http://www.SCGsd.org), [wilw@adnc.com](mailto:wilw@adnc.com)

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

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

This is how Google can return umpteen thousand hits in milliseconds for some obscure search you have made. Their database is huge and is constantly updated as new sites come on line or old ones are updated. A 'web crawler' program constantly seeks out new Internet information which is immediately added to the giant database. New databases on a plethora of subjects are being created every day which add to the universal information pool, both public and private. Printed encyclopedias are practically obsolete with on-line databases instantly available to all who have access to the Internet. Is the Britannica still published? Recently, I updated some databases that I maintain: Computer CDs, Video tapes and DVDs, Music (LPs, CDs, cassettes, (no

longer 8-track)), Xmas lists, Publication subscriptions, Contact lists for various organizations and Collections (art, jewelry, etc.). Pictures can also be stored with each record along with the data. We seniors recall that in the olden days obsessive types spent hours keeping such lists by hand in notebooks, and if they were very large, searching and sorting was a real headache.

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

## Happy computing! \*

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### Printers

When you print a document, the printer doesn't print it immediately. Instead, it is sent to a file on the hard drive (called the spooler) and printed from there. Spooling is a timesaving technique. Because even complex printing files can be saved on a hard drive faster than being printed, spooling a document lets the printing program continue working while printing continues from the spooling file in the background. However, you can adjust spooling options. In WinXP, click Start, Control Panel (make sure you're in Category view), Printers And Other Hardware, and Printers And Faxes. Right-click your printer, select Properties, and select the Advanced tab. If you have trouble spooling a document, click the Print Directly To The Printer radio button and click Apply

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# Ganked by a nOOB

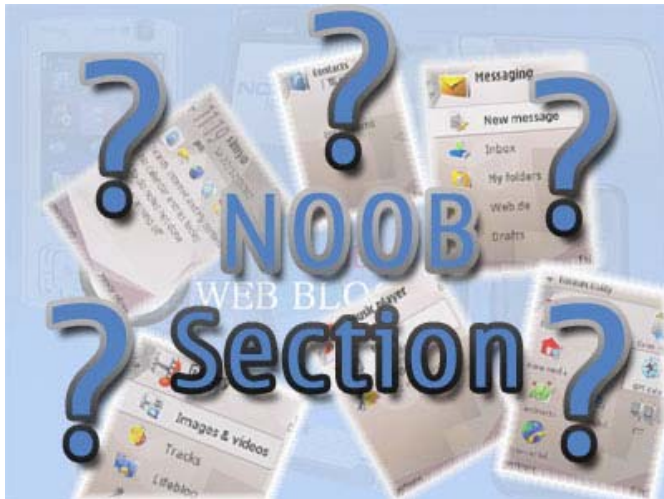
By Vinny La Bash, Regular Contributing Columnist, Sarasota PCUG, Inc., FL, April 2011 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor, [www.spcug.org](http://www.spcug.org), [labash@spcug.org](mailto:labash@spcug.org)

If you find the above phrase meaningless, you haven't experienced the online social networks where you can have the most fun. We're not talking about Facebook or Twitter. Ditto for other social network sites like MySpace which these days looks like Empty Space.

If you're not playing one of the more popular Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (MMORPG), you may be missing out on one of the most interesting and fun-filled experiences you can have with a computer. MMORPG is a genre of web based role-playing games in which a very large number of players interact with one another within a virtual game world. You're certainly not alone in this world. It could be inhabited by dozens, hundreds, and in some cases thousands of players. One game, World of WarCraft (WoW) has over a million players.

Most MMORPGs need only a PC to connect to an online server to play. Others require a game console. After storing some basic information about the player, the action starts.

In a MMORPG you the player create and control a character represented by an avatar which you direct to explore, solve problems, and find items necessary to complete tasks which take you closer to achieving the ultimate objective of the game. Other tasks may be part of the game such as building and destroying things, fighting opponents, interacting with other characters, assembling tools, earning or otherwise acquiring the local currency, and so on.



There are games which require you to make moral choices which will affect the outcome of the game. For example, you are leading a team of specialists in an attempt to rescue a large group of people from an imminent natural disaster. Because of the circumstances, which are no one's fault, you can succeed only by leaving an important member of your party behind to ensure the success of the rescue. However, the team member will almost certainly die in the process, and he or she could be crucial to the success of an

even more important operation further along in the game.

Some academics devote time to study games that require players to work with currency of one form or another. There is one game that uses bottle caps for money in the context of its virtual world. Characters designed by players have developed sophisticated economies within games, at times with mechanisms to exchange online currency for real money. These "synthetic economies" bear an eerie resemblance to our own world which is remarkable considering that the most popular games have players who come from all parts of the globe. These "synthetic economies" evolve from players of different cultures which means they may be tapping into something fundamental about human nature.

All this has been made possible through the world wide penetration of broadband internet connections. MMORPGs have gained enormous popularity not only in America but in South Korea, Taiwan, and China. Playing a MMORPG might mean you could be a member of a team that is truly international, requiring levels of continuous cooperation from individuals that most governments haven't been able to pull off.

Many of these games require a monthly subscription fee to play but many of them don't. Simply search on "Free MMORPG Games" and your search engine will bring up dozens of these games that you can play for free. Use them to get a sense of how to play before committing any cash to the most popular ones. Don't neglect to go to [http://www.mmoglossary.com/mmorpg\\_terms/1/index.html](http://www.mmoglossary.com/mmorpg_terms/1/index.html) to get familiar with common game terminology before traveling to an unfamiliar world.

The better you understand the virtual world, the more you can enjoy the experience. Make an effort to understand at least some of the vocabulary. "Ganked" is a combination of two words, **gang kill**, which refers to a group of experienced players ganging up on a new, greenhorn player and killing off his character for amusement. nOOB is a way of referring to a new, inexperienced player. It's a variation of "newbie", but has the additional meaning of clueless. That's why it's spelled nOOB to make it resemble boob, a real dummy. Therefore if you're "Ganked by a nOOB" you've experienced the ultimate indignity of MMORPG playing. \*



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# IPv6 is Coming

By Cal Esneault, President and leader of many Open Source Workshops & SIGs, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, Louisiana, April 2011 issue, Cajun Clickers Computer News, [www.clickers.org/](http://www.clickers.org/), <http://cccclinuxsig.pbwiki.com>, [cjesne@bellsouth.net](mailto:cjesne@bellsouth.net)

Canonical (Ubuntu Linux) and Google recently announced they would participate in a 24-hour trial of IPv6 on June 8, 2011, along with Facebook, Yahoo, and others. This means that some of the big names in open source software will be involved with the new Internet Protocol, version 6 (IPv6) which will be needed to replace the current Internet Protocol, version 4 (IPv4).

To get to an Internet address, we usually type in a name, such as *Clickers.org* or *Google.com*. Software then goes to a distributed database from a Domain Name Server (DNS) and uses a table to translate this into a 32-bit numerical identifier. The identifiers are split into four 8bit segments. Since 8 binary digits (bits) can span the range from 0 – 255, we sometimes see these addresses as the decimal equivalents separated by periods. For example, 192.168.1.2 is a typical address for our internal networks when using routers. If we use the last “block” (last 8 bits), we could theoretically have 256 computers in this network. The total number of distinct addresses in IPv4 is  $256 \times 256 \times 256 \times 256 = 4.3$  billion. When the Internet first started, no one could conceive that more than 4 billion addresses would be needed, but the need for each home network and each mobile phone to have an address is straining that concept. Recently, the last big “blocks” were issued to area centers for distribution. The problem is not as bleak as it may seem since many addresses can be issued temporarily, some early users took more than they really need and can give some back, and only one address is needed for a private network which handles many computers within its structure. Some believe that we will run out of freely available addresses by the end of 2011, and that new addresses will have to wait for an old one to be freed up.

Internet designers have been working on the new IPv6 protocol to solve issues with the old system. It will have 128-bit addresses which will provide for a possible of 340 trillion, trillion, trillion addresses ( $3.4 \times 10^{38}$ ). This at first seems silly today since each person on earth could have trillions of addresses, but it becomes more reasonable when you realize that any electronic device in your home (which will soon be a computer) and any device in a factory or automobile could have a unique address for control purposes. Also, it is hoped this will be sufficient for a very long time so that the change will be permanent in even our grandchildren’s lifetimes.

The addresses for IPv6 will be split into eight 16-bit units. Since the decimal number for each unit is large ( $2^{16} = 65,536$ ), the addresses will be in hexadecimal notation ( $a = 10, b = 11, \dots, f = 15$ ). An example address might look like fe80:0:0::200:f8ff:fe21:67cf where fields are separated by

a colon, leading zero’s can be omitted, and blank fields can be represented by multiple colon marks. There will be a protocol which allows current IPv4 addresses to be contained within the new IPv6 address. If all works as hoped, we won’t care since our DNS resources will fill in numbers for us when we type in *Clickers.org*, etc., just like it happens today.

Modern operating systems (Windows, Mac OS, Linux, BSD) have already been configured to allow for IPv6 protocol. However, your current router and your ISP (Internet Service Provider) equipment may not be ready. In complex computer networks, all of the interactions between equipment and older software are not sufficiently known. Therefore, the test on June 8 will be the first of probably many to debug the issues which will have to be addressed. A similar situation was envisioned when we moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century (known as the Y2K issue, where ambiguity between dates could occur since early software only used the last two numbers for years).

In that case, the situation was handled well and none of the dire predictions about airplane crashes and business shutdown came to pass. It did, however, take a lot of work and effort to prevent chaos. Will IPv6 be a big event, or just a problem for computer professionals? We don’t know yet, but open source folks are in there with everyone else to help keep our systems functioning. \*

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## Locked Up

If you travel with your laptop, you may need to leave it unattended, so a physical lock is a handy security accessory. A laptop lock features a cable that you can wrap around an immobile object and a connector that attaches to a port or security slot on your laptop. Kensington’s MicroSaver Alarmed Lock (\$54<sup>99</sup>; [www.kensington.com](http://www.kensington.com)) fastens via security slot, and the lock sounds an alarm if the cable is cut.

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## Use Your Hard Drive First

Prepare all DVD projects (and ideally all CD projects, as well) on your hard drive before burning them. Use your DVD software’s preview and testing features; make sure that all links (chapters, scenes, features, etc.) work properly and that all video displays as it should. With everything in place, burn the content to the DVD. Use this guideline whether you’re preparing original DVD video or copying existing video.

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# This and That or Things That May Interest You

By Lynn Page, Editor, Crystal River Users Group, Florida, December 2010 & January 2011 issues, CRUG newsletter, [www.crug.com](http://www.crug.com), [newsletter@crug.com](mailto:newsletter@crug.com)

## Windows Explorer



### Check Boxes

I use the Control key to make multiple selections in Windows Explorer but you can also use check boxes. With Windows 7 in Windows Explorer, click Organize and select Folder and search options in the drop down menu. Select the View tab and in the Advanced Settings window scroll down, check the box for Use check boxes to select items and click OK. Then when hovering the mouse over a file in Windows Explorer, a check box appears next to it. Click the check box to select the file. The checked box remains next to the file. Clicking it again removes the check and the box disappears when the mouse is moved away.

### Windows 7

Run Multiple Copies of Applications from the Taskbar If a program is already running, to launch another copy of the application from the taskbar, hold down the Shift key and click the icon.

## Outlook 2007



### Find Related Messages or Messages from Same Sender

To find related messages, right-click the message, on the drop down menu select Find All and then select Related Messages. The Advanced Find dialog box appears with a list of related messages. To find all messages from the same sender, right-click the message, on the drop down

menu select Find All and then click Messages from Sender. The Advanced Find dialog box appears with a list of related messages.

### Color Code Outlook Items

Color categories can be assigned to items like messages, contacts, appointments and tasks. So color code messages, tasks, and calendar items relating to the same project with the same color. For an existing item like a message in the Inbox, right-click it, point to Categorize, and click a color category.

### Reading Pane

The Reading Pane lets you read the content of a message, preview and open attachments, follow a hyperlink, use voting buttons, view the follow-up information in the InfoBar, and respond to meeting requests.

### Preview Messages without Opening

View messages safely in the Reading Pane. Potentially malicious scripts or attachments are not activated or opened automatically in the Reading Pane.

### View Email Properties

When viewing a message in the Reading Pane, view email properties about a name in the From, To, or Cc field by double-clicking it.

## Turn on or Off

### Turn the Reading Pane on or off in the View drop down menu.

To turn the Reading Pane on in the View menu, point to Reading Pane, and then click Right or Bottom to specify where it will appear. To turn the Reading Pane off in the View drop down menu, point to Reading Pane and select Off. On the View menu, point to Reading Pane, and then click Right or Bottom.

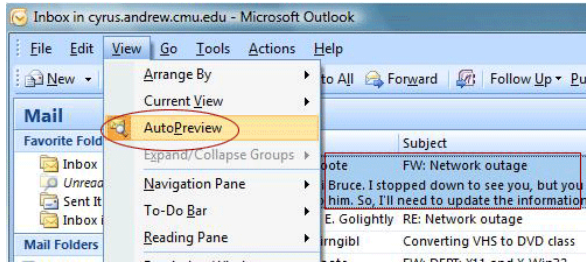
### Preview an Attachment in the Reading Pane

With the Reading Pane you can quickly see what the attachment contains without opening it. But you need the appropriate 2007 Office application installed on your computer.

To Preview an attachment, in the message list, select the message that has the attachment. in the Reading Pane, select the attachment and click the Preview file button. To

return to the message body, click the Message button.

## AutoPreview



Another way to quickly scan through email is using AutoPreview. I personally use AutoPreview only and do not have the Reading Pane turned On. It displays the first three lines of each message in the message list, along with the sender's name and the subject line. In the View drop down menu, point to Current View, and then click

Customize Current View. Click Other Settings, and then click Preview unread items.

AutoPreview and the Reading Pane can be applied to any mail folders, like Sent Items and Drafts, but must be set for each folder.

## Windows Live Mail Options

Access Mail, Email Account, Newsgroup, Feeds and Safety options through the drop down menus.

## Write Messages Offline

Windows Live Mail saves messages on your hard drive, rather than on the web. So when travelling or using an unsecured WI-FI write messages and read those already downloaded while offline. Then connect to the Internet to download new email and send messages you have ready and waiting in the Outbox.

## Add Recipients to Windows Live Mail Contacts

To add other recipients of an email, right-click on the recipient, select Add to Contacts and confirm the details. This works for recipients in the To and CC lists. Right clicking a recipient already in the Contacts list offers an Edit Contact option. \*

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### Tips & Tricks | Tutorial

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# Better File Information with Windows Explorer

## Sort your files more intelligently with a few simple clicks.

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

April 2011 issue, PC UPDATE, [www.melbpc.org.au](http://www.melbpc.org.au), [editor@melbpc.org.au](mailto:editor@melbpc.org.au)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Extra Tip

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

### Extra Extra Tip

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

# My Photo Is Being Used Without Permission: Now What?

By Carolyn E. Wright



You're sitting in your easy chair, surfing the web. You're not paying much attention, until you see it. It's your photo, but you did not post it on this website. You can't believe someone used your photo without your permission. Now what? The next steps you take are important to protect your rights.

## Make Sure That the Use Is an Infringement

Not all uses of your photographs are infringements. Do you use a licensing agency that may have authorized the use? Did you grant too broad of a license so that a licensee could have licensed your photos to others? Finally, is the use a fair use? While only a court can ultimately decide what is fair use, the law gives us guidelines as to what may qualify. (Read more about fair use in my blog entry [here](http://www.photoattorney.com/?p=299) (<http://www.photoattorney.com/?p=299>).

## Save Proof of the Infringement

After you decide that the use is an infringement, make copies of it – both in electronic and print forms. The infringer may remove your photo without notice or once the infringer knows the infringement has been discovered. You may need that evidence later.

## Investigate the Infringer

Next, find out what you can about the infringer. Research the infringer's website to find a contact name and address, such as by searching the website's "who is" information. Several websites provide free "whois" services, such as [whois.net](http://www.whois.net) (<http://www.whois.net/>). After you enter the website name there, you may be able to find contact information for the owner/administrator of the website.

## Option #1 – Do Nothing

You always have the option of doing nothing. If the infringer is in a foreign country where infringements are

difficult to enforce or runs a small personal website with little traffic, you may decide that it's not worth your time and effort to fight the infringement.

## Option #2 – Prepare a DMCA Take-Down Notice

Thanks to the U.S. Digital Millennium Copyright Act ("DMCA") enacted in 1998, the Internet Service Provider ("ISP") that hosts a website is not liable for transmitting information that infringes a copyright only if the ISP removes the infringing materials from a user's website after receiving proper notice of the violation. The notice must: be in writing, be signed by the copyright owner or the owner's agent, identify the copyrighted work claimed to be infringed (or list of infringements from the same site) and identify the material that is infringing the work. Additionally, the notice must include the complaining party's contact information, a statement that the complaint is made in "good faith," and a statement, under penalty of perjury, that the information contained in the notification is accurate and that the complainer has the right to proceed (because he is the copyright owner or agent). Check my article [here](http://www.nppa.org/member_services/advocacy/dmca_takedown_procedure.pdf) ([http://www.nppa.org/member\\_services/advocacy/dmca\\_takedown\\_procedure.pdf](http://www.nppa.org/member_services/advocacy/dmca_takedown_procedure.pdf)) to learn more about how to prepare a DMCA take-down notice. Even if you don't reside in the U.S., you may use this great tool to stop an infringer from using your work as long as the ISP is in the U.S.

## Option #3 – Send a Cease and Desist/Demand Letter

Another option you have for resolving infringements is to contact the infringer yourself. You may request payment for the infringement and/or ask that the infringer cease use of the image. It's best to do this in writing – a letter by surface mail seems to have more clout than email correspondence.

If the website would provide a marketing outlet for you, you may only want the infringer to give you proper credit. If so, make a written agreement with the infringer that you will provide a license for the image (be sure to designate the parameters of the use, such as who, what, why, when and where – see my blog entry on the subject (<http://www.photoattorney.com/?p=130>) for more information), on the condition that the infringer posts your photo credit/copyright notice on or adjacent to the image, along with a hyperlink to your website. You may get additional work from the infringer or others.

Photographers sometimes send an infringer an invoice

for three times their normal license fee as an offer to resolve the infringement claim. While the 3x fee may be an industry standard, is not a legal right given by any court of law or statute. Instead, U.S. law states that you are entitled to actual or statutory damages for infringement as provided by 17 U.S.C. Chapter 5 (<http://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap5.html>), specifically section 504. The damages that you can receive from infringement - especially if you timely register your photographs - sometimes can amount to a lot more than three times your normal license fee. So you may want to think 2x before you send the 3x letter.

Your demand for payment may be admissible against you in an infringement case, which can limit your ultimate recovery. To avoid this possibility, include in your demand letter that “these discussions and offer to settle are an attempt to compromise this dispute.”

### Option #4 – Hire a Lawyer to Send a Demand Letter

When an attorney gets involved, the matter is escalated and tensions rise. While the infringer may be more defensive, the weight of your demand letter is dramatically increased if it comes from an attorney and the infringer generally takes the matter more seriously. Some attorneys charge a flat fee to send a letter; others may charge a contingency fee that is based on the percentage of recovery; or the fee may be a combination of both.

If you or your attorney send a demand letter, then there is some risk that the infringer will preempt your infringement lawsuit by filing a request for declaratory judgment that the use is authorized. This may involve you in a legal action for which you may need legal counsel in a jurisdiction (court location) where you don't want to litigate.

### Option #5 – File a Copyright Infringement Lawsuit

Your most aggressive option is to pursue your legal remedies by filing suit. You first must register your copyright with the U.S. Copyright Office, hopefully before but at least after the infringement. (If you created the photo in a country that is a signatory to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berne\\_Convention\\_for\\_the\\_Protection\\_of\\_Literary\\_and\\_Artistic\\_Works](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berne_Convention_for_the_Protection_of_Literary_and_Artistic_Works)), you do not have to register in the U.S. to protect your copyright or to file an infringement lawsuit in the U.S.)

You must file your infringement claim (<http://www.uscourts.gov/districtcourts.html>) in a federal district court. It's best to hire an attorney to help you with your suit because the legal procedures are complicated. Note that you have three years from the date of infringement to sue for copyright infringement.

When the copyright to a photo is not registered with the U.S. Copyright Office prior to the infringement (or within three months of the first publication of the photo), a copyright owner may recover only “actual damages” for the infringement (pursuant to 17 U.S.C. 504 (b)), instead of statutory damages. Courts usually calculate actual damages based on your normal license fees and/or industry standard licensing fees. You also may recover the profits the infringer made from the infringement if they aren't too speculative. If you have registered your copyrights, then you are eligible for statutory damages of up to \$150,000 for willful infringement of each photograph. “Willfulness” means that the infringer either had actual knowledge that it was infringing the owner's copyrights or acted in reckless disregard of those rights. Evidence that the infringed works bore prominent copyright notices supports a finding of willfulness.

### Additional Claim for Removal of Copyright Management Information

While many photographers place their name, copyright notice, and/or contact information, constituting “copyright management information,” on their images as “watermarks” or in the metadata of the image file, it's fairly easy to crop or clone over the watermark or to remove the metadata. Fortunately, the DMCA section of the Copyright Act provides a remedy in addition to your infringement claim when the infringer removes your CMI to hide the infringement. More information is available on my blog (<http://www.photoattorney.com/?p=163>).

### Conclusion

Infringements are rampant these days, both because it's easier for the infringers to find and copy your images and because too many people think that they have a right to use your photos or they won't be caught. Fortunately, there are many tools to battle copyright infringement. It's up to you to use them.

*Carolyn E. Wright is a licensed attorney dedicated to the legal needs for photographers. Get the latest in legal information at Carolyn's website, [www.photoattorney.com](http://www.photoattorney.com). These and other legal tips for photographers are available in Carolyn's book, *The Photographer's Legal Guide*, available on her website.*

**NOTE:** *The information provided here is for educational purposes only. If you have legal concerns or need legal advice, be sure to consult with an attorney.*

#### Term from Smart Computing : underflow

A mathematical calculation that results in a number so close to zero that a computer cannot represent it using binary digits. Some systems will give the user an error message if this occurs, while other computers will guess at the number and go on.

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# Malware, Viruses, Trojans Defined

By Ira Wilsker, Member, Golden Triangle PC Club, TX; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont, TX; Radio Show Host, Mondays, 6-7pm CT, KLVI.com,

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In the past week, I was called upon four more times to clean malware off of infected computers. One user had a major name brand antivirus program installed, running, and updated and could not understand how the malware had penetrated his antivirus software and contaminated his computer. He had purchased the antivirus software last fall from a big box electronics store based on the recommendations of a salesperson. He had been told that this particular brand of security software was the best as it was their top seller, and that antivirus software was all that he really needed. Based on that recommendation he plopped his hard earned money on the counter, went home, installed it, updated it, and blissfully surfed the internet, opened email attachments, downloaded software and music, and had just a jolly good time online until his computer gradually slowed to a crawl, and friends informed him that they were receiving spam emails from him. This user was perplexed, as his antivirus software was running, and indicated that it was updating several times a day. He just could not understand how 90 different malware programs had infected his computer. His problem started when he purchased inadequate security software; while the product he bought was excellent at protecting his computer from viruses, and some Trojans and spyware, it did not offer the all-inclusive protection of the comprehensive security suite offered by that publisher (and others as well) that would have only cost him a few dollars more.



There is a common misconception in user circles that viruses are the primary computing threat, as users have had heard about viruses for several years. Today, viruses are present, but a relatively minor threat in terms of prevalence. I did a quick analysis of the most common new threats recently listed by TrendMicro, and found that viruses only made up 4% of the new significant threats to our computing security. On the other end of the spectrum, Trojans made up 42% of the commonly seen new threats, worms were at 14%, backdoors at 14%, web based threats were at 6%, java script malware was at 6%, 4% were hacking utilities, 2% adware, and about 8% other threats. It is obvious that protective software that protects the computer primarily from viruses is failing to protect the user from the majority of contemporary threats; it is precisely this fact that led to this user's infected computer, despite his premium quality antivirus software. A lot of users have a misconception about the common threats



in circulation, believing that they are generically all viruses, but, as I saw in this case, this blissful ignorance may lead to a computing nightmare.

While not necessary to use a computer, it would likely be beneficial for computer users to be aware of the different threat groups that can impact our computing. According to Wikipedia, "A computer virus is a computer program that can copy itself and infect a computer." Many viruses attach themselves to legitimate programs or data files on the infected computer. The fact that a computer virus can copy itself to infect other computers is what makes it different from other types of malware, for which viruses are commonly confused. Viruses can be spread through digital media (USB drives, CD or DVD discs, and floppy discs) or through network connections that the virus can use to copy itself to other attached computers. Once a virus has infected a computer it may perform a variety of tasks as programmed by its author. Viruses may damage the data on a hard drive or degrade the performance of the computer. Some of the viruses are stealthy and their effect may not be noticeable by the user, as the viruses do their damage in the background. Some viruses are functionally benign, other than they reproduce themselves countless times on the infected hard drive, until they consume all of the free space on the hard drive.

Computer worms are a malicious computer program that wriggles through computer networks sending copies of itself to other computers attached to the network. Most worms are free standing programs, and are commonly programmed to spread themselves through the network without any action by the user. Most worms have an explicit nefarious function such as deleting files on the infected computer, or encrypting critical files, only releasing them after an extortion payment is made to the cyber criminal. Some worms open a backdoor into the computer that will enable the creator of the worm to take remote control of the computer, converting the computer into a "zombie" under his control, which can be used to generate revenue for the originator of the worm by sending spam mail from the infected computer, with the spam fees collected going to the author of the worm. Some worms are used to create a zombie network of computers, also called a "botnet", where the compromised computers can be used to launch directed cyber attacks on other computers or networks, in an act of cyber terrorism.



For those who are aware of the epic “Helen of Troy” of Greek mythology, the term “Trojan Horse” means an object looks like it serves one purpose, but really has an unobvious, usually nefarious, purpose. Cisco, the networking company, describes a Trojan as, “It is a harmful piece of software that looks legitimate. Users are typically tricked into loading and executing it on their systems”. In cyber speak, a Trojan Horse, typically shortened to the simple moniker “Trojan” is a program that appears to have a useful function, but after being installed by the user, the Trojan may be used to perform other undesirable functions. Some Trojans are money makers for their authors because they place paid (and usually unwanted) pop up advertisements (Adware) on the infected computer, redirect web searches, or shift online purchases to a seller not of the buyer’s choice without his knowledge. Some Trojans are keyloggers, which are commonly used for identity theft, or to give unauthorized users access to a computer system. Trojans are often spread through intentionally downloaded software, surreptitiously bundled with another often legitimate program, from email attachments, and purloined websites with executable contact (ActiveX is sometimes used for this). Some Trojans can be installed on the target computer by way of code written in Java, or a Java script, that when executed, implants the harmful content on the victim computer.

One of the more recent and costly types of malware to attack our computers is generically referred to as “Rogue Antivirus Software”, which is usually implanted on the victim’s computer by a Trojan. There are thousands of these rogue programs in current circulation, infecting millions of computers at any given time. Rogue antivirus is sometimes installed by the user using “social engineering” tactics, which tricks the user into clicking on something that installs the rogue software. Some of the common lures to ensnare the user into loading rogue software on the computer are offers for free screen savers, toolbars, utilities to play specific video formats (often attached to an email), sham online security scanners, contaminated PDF files, insecure web browsers, and other vectors. The common thread of this rogue software is an authentic looking popup that informs the user that his computer is (falsely) infected with hundreds of viruses and Trojans, and for a fee it will clean the computer. These popups which will not permanently close will typically hijack the computer, destroy the installed legitimate security software, prevent access to online services that can kill it, prevent cleaning utilities from executing, and otherwise take control of the computer until the user pays a fee, typically \$30 to \$70. This fee is to be paid by credit card or other online payment service to a website that looks legitimate, but is

really a complete scam. Not just will the rogue software not clean the computer of the pseudo infections after the fee is paid, but now a cyber criminal, often in Russia, has the user’s credit card information. It is not uncommon for that same credit card information to promptly be sold on illicit websites, and to have substantial unauthorized charges appear on the compromised credit card account.

While there are many other cyber threats out there, those listed above are among the most commonly encountered by users. The traditional antivirus software will protect from some of the threats listed, but not all of them; this enhanced security capability is in the purview of the comprehensive security suite, or a combination of different types of individual security utilities, and not the free standing antivirus program. This is explicitly why I currently recommend a high quality integrated security suite, rather than an antivirus program. There are several good commercial security suites available, as well as a few free security suites. Just be aware that antivirus software by itself is inadequate to protect against today’s contemporary cyber security threats. \*



### Two Great Speakers Beat Six Mediocre Ones

We all want the full surround-sound experience, but if you have to make a financial choice between buying a low-priced full 5.1 surround sound setup or a single pair of high-quality stereo speakers for the same price, in practically every case the high-quality pair will give you better sound. Read the dynamic range specs for each of the speakers in both systems and pay attention to the amount of power that goes to each speaker (not just the entire system). Distortion ratings also matter, especially if you’re using your TV instead of an external amplifier to power the speakers. Listen to all the choices, by all means, but listen to crisp, clear, full, undistorted sound to guide your decision.

### Think Green

Keeping your electronic equipment clean can help extend the usability of those items in the short run, but keeping your electronics from heading to your local landfill can help everyone in the long run. The EPA’s Plug-In To eCycling Web page ([www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/consERVE/plugin](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/consERVE/plugin)) provides information about how to properly dispose of, donate, and recycle computers, monitors, TVs, and other electronic equipment. Click the Resources link for Questions To Ask A Recycler and Guidelines For Materials Management documents.

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# Corel Paint It

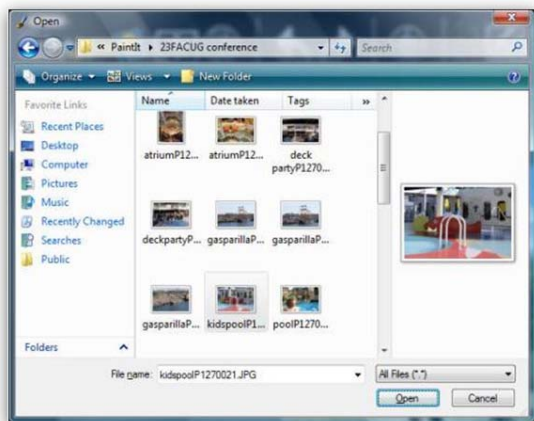
By Lynn Page, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster, Crystal River Users Group, FL, March 2011 issue, CRUG newsletter, [www.crug.com](http://www.crug.com), [editor@crug.com](mailto:editor@crug.com)

## Overview

Corel's latest photo painting application, Paint It, is based on Painter, their professional natural media painting application. Painter provides a very wide range of brushes and textures for the artist. It is the standard for professional art programs and as such requires a high degree of skill and talent to use effectively. Corel Painter Essentials is a step down in difficulty and versatility so is easier to use but still requires some time to learn. Corel's Paint It is their newest and easiest painting program.

Paint It has a selection of brushes, such as an airbrush, pen, pencil, sponge, and smudge tool, to make photos into a painting, charcoal sketch or pencil drawing. The primary purpose of Paint It is the automated photo painter but the brushes let you add your own special effects to the painting. I tried out a lot of the brushes on the finished photo paintings and used a couple of the brush tools on a photo prior to photo painting. For ease of use and simplicity the tools and interface are limited.

Paint It opens with a welcome screen in front of the workspace. This allows you to easily select a photo for photo painting, resume working on an already opened photo or open the Quick Start Guide.



Clicking "Create a photo-painting" or "Open a Saved Image" opens a dialog box to browse to and open the photo to be painted.

As an example I chose a picture I took of the children's pool at the FACUG Technology Conference/Cruise.

## Workspace

The Paint It workspace is very clean and simple. The Toolbar across the top over the working image has obvious access to undo and redo commands, save, brushes and brush controls, view option, and program help. Less obvious are the Get Started link (asterisk like button) and the controls for transforming the open image (star like button). I think the transform image controls are important enough that I would like to see a grouping of smaller icons representing them on the toolbar. However mousing over any of the buttons on the Toolbar or in the Toolbox gives a tooltip so all tools and commands are still easy to find.

The Toolbox down the left edge of the workspace contains icons for important tools. Remember that the brush icon selects the brush as it has been defined in the brush drop down menu on the toolbar. The color palette is located below the working image. The Photo Painting pane runs down the right edge of the workspace.



The heart of Paint It is the photo painter. You choose from among the 10 styles, such as Oil Painting, Impressionist Painting, Detailed Watercolor or Pen & Ink Drawing that are displayed in the Photo Painting panel down the right side of the workspace. After selecting a painting style click the Start Photo Painting button, and watch the program create the painting in the selected style. The automatic photo painting is based on the colors and composition of the photograph. Let the photo painting run to completion or stop it at any time by clicking the Stop Photo Painting button. When a painting is complete some of the photographic detail can be added back with the Restore detail brush, located in the photo painting pane below the start and stop photo painting buttons. This brush is especially useful when painting photographs of people. Select the Restore detail brush and the brush area on the Toolbar becomes visible again. The brush tools are not available

during photo painting or afterwards until the restore detail brush or a brush tool in the Toolbox is selected. Set the brush opacity and size and then brush over areas where you want the detail brought back.

After photo painting Paint It allows you to add finishing touches to the project. Add a signature, embellishments or smudge or soften the image with the brushes. A pressure sensitive tablet provides better use of the brushes but a mouse or laptop touchpad can also be used.

## Brushes

Paint It contains 15 brushes plus the restore detail brush, many with control over color, size and opacity. The brushes can be used on the finished photo painting or the original photo. The specialty Fire, Fairy Dust, Leaf, and Pattern brushes have limited or no control over color. The other brushes either work with the color in the underlying image or with a user selected color.



## Color Palette

The Color Palette on the bottom of Paint's workspace offers a selection of colors to be used with the color controlled brushes. I like to use the eyedropper tool, from the Toolbox on the left, to pick a color from the photo. Once a color is selected, it can be further refined with the Color dialog box. Click the color swatch of the selected color to open the Color dialog box. The dialog box lets you choose a basic color or any color in the color spectrum associated with that color.



The Color Palette doesn't change so personally selected colors aren't available after you have selected another color. This is not too inconvenient as it is simple to use the eyedropper

to reselect a color. So if it is important for you to use exactly the same color it is better to use one from the palette.

## Printing

Paint It's print command is located in the Image destination drop down menu that looks like a save button on the Toolbar. It opens the Windows print dialog box. So I would print the finished image as any other saved photograph.

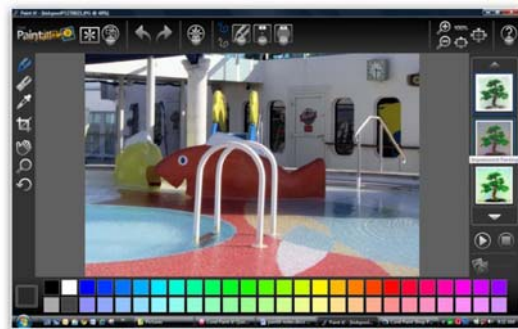
## Conclusion

I found Corel Paint It is a fun, easy-to-use program. It is ideal for novices who enjoy working with their pictures and want simple way to convert a photo into a basic painting or drawing. For more control to create art that is finely tuned Corel Painter Essentials is still my choice. And I am looking forward to working with Corel Painter which I won at the FACUG conference.

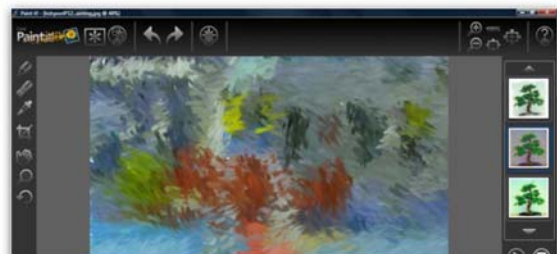
## Photo Paintings

As previously noted my first Paint It painting was of the children's pool on our cruise. I selected it because it is a simple picture with bright colors.

With the image to paint open, look at and select a painting style from the thumbnails on the photo painting pane. I missed being able to see the thumbnail of the selected image as on Painter Essentials but the thumbnail still gives you an idea of how the painting will look. Mousing over the thumbnail displays the painting style. I choose impressionist. Click the thumbnail to select it and click the start photo painting button to start automatic photo painting.



As Paint It is painting the image watch the brush strokes. The paint colors and brush stroke directions follow the photo colors and lines as they would when actually painting. The brush strokes get smaller and shorter as painting finishes. You can click the stop photo painting button at any time in the painting process or let Paint It run to completion.



**Corel Paint It cont. from page 23**

This is how the impressionist painting looks at an intermediate point in the painting process and as the finished painting.

I used the restore detail brush to bring out the eye. To save the finished painting click the Image Destination button in the toolbar and select save image as. I use save as to have the most control but there is also a save button.

**Adding Embellishments**

For embellishments I selected the furry brush and with the eye dropper tool set the color to one from the fish and painted in an extended tail.



**Other Photo Painting Styles**



**Modern Painting**



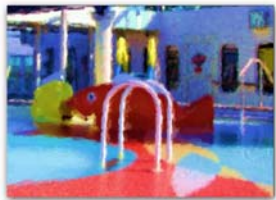
**Modern Painting with Smudge brush to blend the colors in the pool.**



**Oil Painting**



**Oil Painting with Pattern open on walls and columns of the oil painting, the Fire brush in water, the Fairy dust to add random color sparkles and the Leaf brush to paint in green leaves for the embellishments.**



**Detailed Watercolor Painting**



**Detailed Watercolor Painting embellished with the Sponge brush using colors selected from the painting.**



**Oil painting with the Dissolve brush giving a pebbly look to the water.**



**Illustration**



**Illustration with red spray painting in the water and airbrush of the yellow on the slide.**



**Modern Painting**



**Modern painting with colors in the pool blended with the Smudge brush.**

The automatic photo painting is based on the colors and composition of the photograph. With all of these painting styles the paint colors and brush stroke directions follow the photo colors and lines as they would when actually painting. The brush strokes get smaller and shorter as painting finishes. Pencil drawings are different in the direction of the strokes. The pencil strokes are all parallel strokes. The Watercolor Sketch is a combination of painting strokes like the watercolor style embellished with pen or pencil strokes.



**Colored Pencil Drawing**



**Pencil Drawing**

Paint It also has two sketching styles pen and ink and watercolor sketching.





Pen and Ink Sketch



Watercolor Sketch

Before doing another painting I used Corel Paint Shop Photo Pro X3 to remove the hand rail on the original photo. Then I used the Oil painting style in Paint It. After the photo painting I used the Distortion brush to drastically thin down the fish and elongate the tail and dorsal fin. Place brush in area to move and drag it to paint into another area stretching or pushing the color from the original area. Finally I used the wave brush along the water.



Oil Painting



Oil Painting with Distortion brush to blend the colors in the pool.

The brushes can be used on the original photograph as well as on the finished photo painting. So here I used the Distortion brush and Wave brush before running the Oil and Impressionist photo painting styles.



Oil Painting



Impressionist Painting

I chose the photograph of the pool because of its simplicity so that the painting styles would be very evident. To show Paint It with a more complicated photograph I chose a sample of a stream with cascades and varied foliage.



Original



Oil Painting



Modern Painting



Illustration



Pastel



Detailed Watercolor

Paint It lists for about \$40 but I found it available online for under \$20. For such a reasonable price it is incredibly versatile and amazingly easy to use photo painting application. This makes it an ideal way to step into something new with digital photos. It is even suitable for children to get a taste of expressing their artistic likes and dislikes. \*

### Tables In Word

Tools such as Microsoft Word 2003 offer a variety of standard formats that can be applied to tables. Just click anywhere in your table and then click Table and Table AutoFormat. A formatting dialog box will appear, so you can select from a variety of established format styles. Examples are shown for each format, so you can experiment with different looks until you find the one that suits the situation best. When you decide on a format, click Apply to reformat your table. If you make a mistake or change your mind, click Undo and repeat this process to apply another table format.

### Laptop Batteries

The main battery in a notebook PC does not last forever and will eventually start to fail after several hundred charge/discharge cycles. If you rarely use the battery (for example, if the laptop is running from the AC adapter), the battery should last for the life of the laptop. But if you're frequently working on the road, expect to replace the battery after about two to three years of regular use. You can tell the battery is failing when its running time becomes unusually short. For example, if you normally get four hours from a full charge, getting only two hours from a full charge might signal battery problems. You can sometimes extend the battery's working life by periodically draining the battery completely and providing a full recharge.

### Scanner Lights

Some scanners don't have an on/off switch; as long as power is being supplied to the scanner, the light source remains on. One school of thought says that leaving the light source on for a long time results in better scanner performance and more stable output; another says the manufacturer was too cheap to include an on/off switch. Whatever the reason, you can usually safely disconnect the power from your scanner when you're not using it.

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