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iPhone for Boomers

by **Sandy Berger, CompuKISS, www.compukiss.com**

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According to the data from the International Communications Union, the world now has more than 2 billion cell phone or mobile phone subscribers. While some business and high tech users are using their phones for email and the Internet, I venture to say that most of those 2 billion users are only using their cell phones to make calls and to text message. In fact, I am sure that many users don't know how to do much more than that, even though their phones are capable of much more.

The reason is that up until now, cell phones with their tiny buttons and complex menu systems have frustrated many average users. The recent introduction of a fast, stable, and more affordable iPhone is poised to change all of that.

While the twenty- and thirty-somethings are flocking to the iPhone as the latest status symbol, the forty-, fifty- and sixty-somethings are acquiring iPhones because there are no tiny buttons and no complex menu systems. In fact, the large bright touchscreen, big icons, and the on-screen keyboard make the iPhone extremely easy to use.

One button brings up the Home screen of icons. The screen is clear and uncluttered. The icons are all easily identifiable by their pictures, so the iPhone experience is very visual. The four most used icons are placed on the bottom of the screen. By default, they are Phone, Mail, Safari (the Internet browser), and iPod. You can put whatever you use the most on the bottom row. You can also rearrange all the icons to suit your taste.

The way you rearrange the icons is indicative of the ease of use of the entire gadget. To rearrange the icons on the Home screen, you simply press any icon and hold your finger down until all the icons start to wiggle. Then you drag the icons from place to place. To put an icon on the second page of the Home screen, you simply drag it off the screen to the right. The second page will appear with the icon on it. To return to the first screen of the Home page, just drag your finger across the screen in a leftward motion. To stop the wiggling and confirm that you are done moving the icons around, you simply touch the Home button. You can't miss it because while other cell phones seem to have a million buttons, the Home button is the only button on the surface of the iPhone.

As you can tell by this explanation, the iPhone is also very tactile. You can move things around the screen with your finger. To make a web page larger, you simply flick your two fingers apart on the screen. Bring your fingers together and the webpage gets smaller. Double-tap the screen and the page fits the screen. To take a picture, you press the camera icon, aim the camera on the back of the iPhone, and press the icon on the bottom of the screen. It is so intuitive that it is actually fun!

On top of that, Apple has added an Apps store to its iTunes Online Store. They have over 500 applications that you can add to your iPhone. Many are free. Others cost \$1. Most of those which you have to pay for are under \$10. Some of these ap-

plications are just for fun, some are for productivity. For instance, if you download an application called Recorder, you can turn your iPhone into a voice recorder. But you can also choose an application that turns it into a light saber, or one that lets you pop bubbles on the screen.

At \$199 for the 8GB model, the iPhone has a lot to like. To use it you must subscribe to AT&T for two years. That is not unusual for a cell phone service contract. You also have to have an additional data plan that costs \$30 a month. While this might seem costly, you get a lot for your money.

Not only is the iPhone intuitive, visual, and tactile, but it has access to the Internet and lets you send and receive email. It is like having a mini-computer in your hand. For many it will replace the laptop they drag along when traveling.

The iPhone is also a full-blown iPod that plays both music and video. Since it has its own speaker, you don't even need earbuds or headphones as you do with most other music players. Oh, and did I mention, it has the best audio quality of any cell phone I've ever used.

Am I hooked? You bet I am.... And the same thing will happen to many others who try the iPhone. It is poised to change the way we use cell phones.

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Security and Deleting Files: A Common Misconception

by Bob Schwartz, Member of HAL-PC, Texas, www.hal-pc.org

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You have just deleted a file from your hard drive. It's gone, isn't it? Sorry! It is still there.

You want to clean up your hard drive, so you format it. It is now clean. Nothing is on it anymore, right? Nope! Everything is still there, except for the file directory.

How can this be? Doesn't Delete mean remove? Doesn't Format clean the disk?

Each file system has a file directory which records the file name and its location. To delete a file, the disk system only alters the file's name in the file directory, usually by changing the first letter of the name. Formatting goes one step further, it just empties the file directory. Neither does anything to the files on the disk! They remain.

To clean a drive, either overwrite the whole drive or the unused space. The most common way to clean drives, especially older drives, is to write fixed or random data to obliterate the old files.

Fortunately, all ATA drives over 15-20 GB produced since 2001 have an internal drive command that will clean the drive sufficiently that it will meet DOD requirements. At the University of California at San Diego's Center for Magnetic Recording Research (CMRR) you can download their free program for Secure Erase, entitled *HDDerase.exe*. Its use meets U.S. Government requirements for disk erasure. Secure Erase should provide the greatest peace of mind. Internet Commentary suggests it is even better than mechanically shredding the disks.

If you have a good machine with good software that you would like to pass on to some else, and you

don't have all the original disks, remove personal information. I suggest this approach:

1 "Delete" the contents of: all the "My" folders—My Documents, My Pictures, My Music; Recent; Temp or Temporary folders; Recycle Bin; Cookies; Downloads; and the entire folders for Quicken and Tax preparation software.

2 Clean your Registry of all personal data. For XP, go to Start | Run, type *regedit* and press Enter. Go to edit and click on *find*. Enter your last name, click on *find next*. When the first entry is found, go to edit and select modify. Delete your name (it should be in color). Depressing the space bar may clear it. Go back to edit and click on *find next*, etc. Keep on until you get a message that you have reached the end. Then repeat the above with your first name, then your street, your phone number, bank name, broker name, and anything else of a personal nature that you used.

3 Find and download a registry cleaner. Use it to remove unnecessary items from the registry. Ccleaner is an example.

4 Defragment the drive. This condenses the files and moves them toward the beginning of the drive.

5 Locate and download a wipe application such as *bcwipe*. Use it to wipe (overwrite) all unused space.

Important Note: Before editing your "registry," back it up first, please.

This should effectively sanitize your disk, leaving it clean, safe and usable.

Loss of personal information and the risk of identity theft is a risk for you. For a business, the loss of personal, financial, or medical data

may subject it to risk from recent laws, both federal and state.

I have been repairing or rehabilitating older machines as a hobby to give them a second life. There are many good machines and plenty of worthy recipients. If there is good software worth keeping, remove all personal data. If the software is not worth keeping, then wipe the disk clean to install an operating system and applications.

Removing the hard drive before you dispose of an old machine is not a solution, unless you plan to use it in your new machine, or store it permanently—you still ultimately have to sanitize it.

Programs available, free or fee, include: Secure Erase (mentioned above), Secure Delete, Wipe Drive, Acronis Privacy Expert, East-Tec Eraser, East-Tec Dispose Secure, Eraser, SysInternals SDelete, Darik's Boot and Nuke (dban), OverWrite, Wipe, Kill Disk, BCWipe, and Auto-clave. This list is NOT exhaustive. And, you have to determine which is suitable to (1) wipe the entire drive or (2) wipe only the unused space.

Bottom line is, when you give away or dispose of a used computer, either clean the hard drive yourself or give the machine to someone you can trust who will do it for you. The comments and opinions here are wholly mine. I welcome alternative perspectives.

Bob Schwartz is a HAL-PC member, retired EE, 14 patents, technical writer, active in civic affairs: President, Brays Bayou Association; Vice President, Marilyn Estates Civic Association; Correspondence Secretary with the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy. This article has been provided to APCUG by the author solely for publication by APCUG member groups. All other uses require the permission of the author at [bobx\(at\)hal-pc.org](mailto:bobx(at)hal-pc.org).

Simple file management enhancements are at the top of a wish list for Windows 7

by Linda Gonse, Editor, Orange County IBM PC Users' Group, www.orcopug.org

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Besides the obvious—a stable system that performs fast, without vulnerabilities—I have thought of a few things I'd like to see integrated into the Windows 7 OS which may be released in 2009/2010.

When it comes right down to it, I don't care if I can use 10 fingers to Paint with or other iPhone-like multi-touch features, or if Internet Explorer can recall a previous browsing session. Simple file management enhancements are at the top of my wish list.

I want to be able to print a list of my files and file information—a print directory feature. In the “old days” of DOS, you could do this. And now, you can use third-party programs to accomplish this, but why isn't this already built into Windows?

In Windows 3.11, there was a simple undelete feature. In later versions, the Recycle Bin gives you a chance to recover files you delete in haste or ignorance. But, what about files you deleted from the Recycle Bin? If you don't have a third-party program installed, the files are really history.

Wouldn't it be great to have autofiltering in Windows Explorer? Clicking on the top tab in a folder allows you to sort by Size, Date Modified, Type, etc.—but you still have to scroll through all the files in a directory to get to the specific file you are looking for. If you could set an autofilter, such as Excel has, you could choose which extensions would be viewable, click on one, and only those files would be visible.

Windows 3.11 had the capability to only show certain types of files. This was closer to what I'd like, but it was a little involved to set it up and then be sure you reverted to the default file view afterward.

And, what about being able to flag a file and see the flag in Windows Explorer? Or, jot a post-it like note and attach it to a file?

DOS also allowed you to rename extensions on an entire directory of files. That would be a handy tool now.

What happened to the “quick view” inside of a word processing file in a directory? I want it back again.

A constant aggravation is the Open and Save As boxes in Windows and applications. Sometimes there is a miniscule box to view an entire directory in bite sizes. Why can't all the boxes be large ones? And, why can't they be modified permanently so you can always view them the way you like them, such as you do in Folders?

Another drawback to these windows is that despite file names that are not very long, to the right of the file name I have to slide the first two columns—Size and Type—closer, scrunching them together, so I can see the Date Modified tab in the same window. Sometimes you can scroll to see the Date Modified tab, but that is still not handy.

I have rearranged the headings to suit my need for selecting files by the most current. But, after closing

and reopening an application, I have to modify the list again. Why can't my modifications be permanent? Also, I'd like to see these types of windows open up larger or have a resizing option to drag a corner border to make them larger.

Why do directories sometimes get scrambled? They aren't alphabetized or in any other order. Before I can open a file (not every time), I first have to click on the Name bar to alphabetize the directory. (Yes. There is a trick to closing a window to retain the order when it's reopened. Hold the Shift button down as you click on the “X” in the corner. But, you shouldn't have to do this.)

I'd also like to be able to format file names and related information in a directory. Maybe make some bold and orange, or some a bit smaller. Or, add stars or a ranking notation to files. The logical next step would be to set-up a sort function to be able to look for all items in a certain color or in 8 point type, or the file ranking.

Do you see the usefulness of these changes in sorting files? Modifying directory listings can be very helpful. It would allow users to see at a glance which items are important, or used most often, etc.

This is my short list. Have I mentioned anything on yours?

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IOGEAR Digital Scribe Review

by Rebecca Feinstein, a member of WINNERS – WINdows users, www.windowsusers.org

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I was thrilled when I first found out there was a digital scribe product at the last WINNERS meeting. As many of you recall, I was well, somewhat reluctant shall we say, to give up the raffle donation item. At the 35% discount I could not wait to get it.

The IO Mobile Digital Scribe took six days to get here from Illinois. It comes with the pen, cable, mobile unit, two program CDs, something that looks like a green tipped stylus (turned out to be the pen/refill), two small (hearing aid size) batteries and a Quick Start Guide.

Installation of the software was easy—Mobile Digital Scribe (Note Management) and My Script Notes Lite (handwriting recognition software); as was charging the mobile unit and installing the batteries into the pen. However, installing the pen was a bit puzzling, as in the reference guide, IOGEAR never shows the actual size of the refill in the pictures. It also took a few emails to Customer Support and product management to find out where you can purchase the refills as well.

Okay, I got it up and working, I did a few test runs with it at home with the mobile unit attached to the computer. The note management software required a bit of a learning curve, but still was fairly easy to use. Included with the software is a pdf users guide for the entire kit (58 pages). The handwriting recognition software was pretty impressive. With my handwriting I expected it to have a problem with my convoluted short-

hand as well as my capital Is, js and my contractions. To my surprise, the software only had a problem with the Is. It even captured my signature scrawl quite well! As with a regular pen, the program doesn't erase; but recognizes crossed out information as crossed out.

With all this practice under my belt, I decided it was time to haul out the big guns—*work!* As a technical writer, as with many other positions, I attend a lot of meetings. My expectations were high for my new tool. No more having to rewrite all my notes into electronic format for distribution. I was armed and I was ready for combat. After receiving permission to install the software on my office unit, I got set up and ready to rock. I attended three meetings that day.

On the big plus side, it was very nice to have my notes appear in e-form without having to transcribe them at all. This made putting them into agenda form a breeze.

On the problem side of using the scribe, a major drawback is the mobile unit clips are made to only grab a few pages of paper at a time. Unless you are intending to take just one page's worth of notes, you have to remove the mobile unit to turn

pages to take more notes. This proved to be distracting and inconvenient in one of my meetings. And I found it to be very unwieldy when I was standing to take notes as the mobile unit added weight to the top of the paper pad.

The pen, which is thicker than I'm used to (standard stationery pens) felt unwieldy in my hand to begin with. The button that allows you to switch between pen mode and mouse mode is located in the lower part of the pen, towards where it writes on the paper, and I kept inadvertently clicking it as I was writing. So some of my notes from the first meeting resembled a word game puzzle.

Another problem, though a lesser one, is the quick reference guide itself. The print is so small, I had to borrow a friend's magnifying glass to read some of it. Keith Renty was correct when he said at our meeting that the user information was not written well. Nowhere in the users guide or quick reference material is a description of everything that was to come with the kit (the graphic that points to everything in the kit to make sure you know the stylus is actually the pen cartridge). There is no technical support information listed in the users guide, but contact information is listed in the back of the quick start guide.

Overall, I'm pleased with the performance, and not so pleased with the customer support.

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The Global University: Use Google to Locate Free Online Textbooks

by Mike Moore, BGAMUG, www.bgamug.org

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With new textbooks costing upwards of \$100, and some publishers devising web-based content requiring the use of new texts every year, student advocates and concerned administrators have been considering ways of moderating this cost, while at the same time making textbooks available online or on electronic books such as the Amazon Kindle, and providing incentives for publishers to use creative licensing for their intellectual property.

The open source mantra that we have written about so often in these pages is now being applied to textbooks and other intellectual property in an effort to support students, control wasteful revisions and stop killing so many trees.

For the purposes of this article, we will refer to any electronic format for a textbook as an "E-text."

Some of what I'm about to show you may surprise you, and you may wonder how it can be that these valuable multimedia materials are just lying around out there on the internet. Trust me, we are not going to be hacking any university computers, and if anything about a Google search can be said to be illegal, well, then I guess we're all in a bit of trouble. Either that, or Google is!

For those E-texts that have gone open-source (that is, are in one way or another unencumbered by copyright), the university will usually put them on a public website, and for those of you familiar with search engines, that makes them fair game for you and me!

I am fond of saying that Google indexes only the WorldWide Web, but in this case, the WWW is exactly

where we want to go. By way of caution though, I will say that just because we find something lying around on the internet, does not mean it's free for any use at all. The user/reader is at least partly responsible for respecting copyrights, particularly if you intend to redistribute or use that material in any other way besides your own personal enjoyment. For an excellent copyright primer that is targeted toward teens, see tinyurl.com/ypqj8x.

Even a relatively small university, such as our own Western Kentucky University, has a truly massive web presence, and in order to filter out everything but E-texts, we need a flexible search engine that has the power to filter results based on file types.

Google more than fills the bill.

Some of you may remember a while back we hosted a presentation featuring Google's keyword filters. For example, adding the filter

filetype:pdf to your Google search will return only results in the form of Adobe's Public Document Format, which is often the format of choice for E-texts. Conversely, if you want to look at all results *except* for PDF files, you can add the negative sign in front, like this: **-filetype:pdf**.

Since we did that presentation,

Google has allowed additional file types that they never previously filtered for, such as **filetype:mp3** or **filetype:avi**, which find, respectively, compressed music or speech and video files. These file types, along with **mp4**, are often what you might find on a professor's website containing interesting lectures or other course material.

It might seem logical to restrict your search for E-texts to scholarly sites, such as colleges and universities. We can do exactly that by using the **site:.edu** filter. You can even expand this to include only one particular college site by issuing, for example, **site:wku.edu** along with any additional keywords we want to search for. This would search the Western Kentucky University website for articles matching our keywords. The Google search returned using **site:wku.edu lecture** gives the figure below.

(see *Google* on page 6)

The screenshot shows a Google search interface with the search term "site:wku.edu lecture" entered in the search box. The search results are displayed under the "Web" tab. The first result is "Syllabus of the Biochemistry I Lecture Spring 2008" with a PDF file format. The second result is "Introduction to Molecular & Cell Biology, 220, (c) 1998, Western ..." with a lecture series. The third result is "WKU Campus Activities Board: Lecture Series" with a lecture series. The fourth result is "Department of Library Public Services" with a lecture series.

(*Google—continued from page 5*)

There is one additional search filter in Google's bag of tricks that will help you find more E-texts and multimedia lectures than using the **file-type** filter alone, and that is the **intitle:"index.of"** filter. Intitle looks for the specified keyword after the colon, in a web page title. Looking for the keyword "index.of" allows you to hunt down information-rich index pages, which can be thought of as the best place to go for E-texts and recorded lectures on university websites because, as the name implies, they are like a table of contents.

As an example, let's Google using these keywords:

site:.edu intitle:"index.of"
(mp3|mp4|avi) lecture

The vertical bar symbol between those file types is called the pipe symbol—it is over your backslash key, which is itself located just north of your Enter key. The pipe symbol, in this context, means to search for "index.of" entries that have either mp3, mp4, or avi in their text. This search yields the figure below—the first of only 48 links.

It's not really that surprising that using the MP3|MP4|AVI filter only finds 48 links—after all, there is considerably more concern about copyright issues when looking at file types that might be used to contain music, movies and the like. Just for the heck of it, though, I tried this search:

Intitle:"index.of" mp3 beatles

The resulting search was impressive at finding mp3 files of the Fab Four's recordings, but the webmasters behind the pages it found were equally impressive at not letting you play the files without paying for the privilege, and since most of this music is copyrighted, that is only as it should be.

Even so, using the **intitle:"index.of"** filter is extremely effective at locating E-texts, particularly when combined with the **site:.edu** filter to only search university and college sites.

So your best bet on Google to find general E-texts is:

intitle:"index.of" _____

And just fill in the blank with whatever subject you're interested in. I used **intitle:"index.of" caves** and got 315,000 hits, the very first of which was a really cool teaching site

(tinyurl.com/5854v9) about caves from the US Geological Survey.

I wish I could give you an idea of what **intitle:"index.of"** is actually filtering for. If you can imagine the internet functionally layered, like a Broadway production; got that picture? Okay, searching the WWW with Google using plain old normal keywords with none of the fancy filters we've talked about here—will lead you to find hits on what's going on about the stage and the actor's names and so forth. Now **Intitle:"index.of"** comes looking, and isn't interested in the play, the credentials of the performers, the lighting—nothing on the stage. That little but critical filter ignores all of that stuff, but instead searches behind the scenes, finding hits at the level of the executive producer, the writer of the screen play, and where they all went to school. That analogy is reaching a bit, but suffice it to say that specialized filters yield specialized results.

Please share your E-text searching successes!

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Google

Web Results 1 - 10 of about 48 for site:

[Index of /high/lectures/Doolabi](#)
DOLABI 2 mp3 18-Jun-2007 20:57 20M [SND] DOLABI 3 mp3 18-Jun-2007 21:01 5.3M [SND]
DOLABI 4 mp3 18-Jun-2007 21:01 12M [SND] DOLABI 5 mp3 18-Jun-2007 21:02 ...
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Index of /SummerSchool08/lectures/Antiochos/cme2 ... [VID], bkout-204are avi,
17-May-2006 20:47, 39M [VID], reconnect-proms avi, 16-May-2005 15:29, 36M ...
[www.lpi.arizona.edu/SummerSchool08/lectures/Antiochos/cme2/](#) - 3k -
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Zelle - Chapter 07 mp3, This is the audio only of the Zelle Chapter 7 - Decision Structures
lecture I did not pre-record the screen. Zelle - Chapter 03 mp3 ...
[http://tools.umich.edu/access/content/group/40551b15-656-4a38-004b-3a801183425](#)
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[Index of /2007 audio](#)
20071029_113_women mp3, 30-Oct-2007 20:42, 16M [SND], 20071030_101_Fallows ...
30-Oct-2007 20:43, 16M ... 20071101_111154 mp3, 08-Nov-2007 21:25, 16M ...
[econ101.berkeley.edu/2007_audio/](#) - 11k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#) - [Note this](#)

[Index of /rasmuES-260](#)
3_9 avi 06-Sep-2007 08:57 1.3M [VID] 3_13_a avi 06-Sep-2007 08:57 1.3M [VID] ... **lecture**
on IMPERFECTIONS IN SOLIDS.ppt 26-Sep-2006 09:02 48K ...
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When to Turn Off Personal Computers

U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.
A Consumer's Guide to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy,
www.energy.gov/forconsumers.htm

If you're wondering when you should turn off your personal computer for energy savings, here are some general guidelines to help you make that decision.

Though there is a small surge in energy when a computer starts up, this small amount of energy is still less than the energy used when a computer is running for long periods of time. For energy savings and convenience, consider turning off

- the monitor if you aren't going to use your PC for more than 20 minutes
- both the CPU and monitor if you're not going to use your PC for more than 2 hours.

Make sure your monitors, printers, and other accessories are on a power strip/surge protector. When this equipment is not in use for extended periods, turn off the switch on the power strip to prevent them from drawing power even when shut off. If you don't use a power strip, un-

plug extra equipment when it's not in use.

Most PCs reach the end of their "useful" life due to advances in technology long before the effects of being switched on and off multiple times have a negative impact on their service life. The less time a PC is on, the longer it will "last." PCs also produce heat, so turning them off reduces building cooling loads. For cost effectiveness, you also need to consider how much your time is worth. If it takes a long time to shut down the computer and then restart it later, the value of your time will probably be much greater than the value of the amount of electricity you will save by turning off the computer.

Power-Down or Sleep Mode Features

Many PCs available today come with a power-down or sleep mode feature for the CPU and monitor. ENERGY STAR® computers power down to a sleep mode that consumes 15 Watts or less power,

which is around 70% less electricity than a computer without power management features. ENERGY STAR® monitors have the capability to power down into two successive "sleep" modes. In the first, the monitor energy consumption is less than or equal to 15 Watts, and in the second, power consumption reduces to 8 Watts, which is less than 10% of its operating power consumption.

Make sure you have the power-down feature set up on your PC through your operating system software. This has to be done by you, otherwise the PC will not power down. If your PC and monitor do not have power-down features, and even if they do, follow the guidelines below about when to turn the CPU and monitor off.

Note: Screensavers are not energy savers. Using a screensaver may in fact use more energy than not using one, and the power-down feature may not work if you have a screensaver activated. In fact, modern LCD color monitors do not need screensavers at all.

Windows Pains: Task Manager

by Bob Balogh, President, Boca Raton Computer Society, Florida, www.brsc.org

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Task Manager is a helpful application that is part of the Windows Operating System (2000, XP & Vista). You can open it with the three fingered salute—Ctrl/Alt/Delete, or more easily, my preferred way, by a right click on an open space on your Taskbar, and clicking on Task Manager. You may also open Task Manager by going to Start-Run and typing *taskmgr*.

Most of us have only experienced dealing with the Task Manager when a program no longer seems to be functioning. We then open the Task Manager and click on the Applications Tab, see the list of running programs, highlight the program we are having difficulty with, then click on “End Task” at the bottom of the page. Voila, the program is shutdown and is no longer causing you a problem. Of course, you still will want to find out why the problem began or why the program froze in the first place. However, that is for another time.

Processes

You can also click on the “Processes” tab, to see exactly which programs are running in the background. Go on, open yours up and see what is running. This is part of mine:

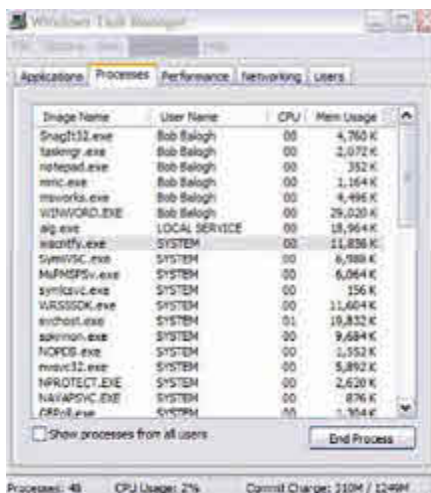


Image Name	User Name	CPU	Mem Usage
Snagit32.exe	Bob Balogh	00	4,760 K
taskmgr.exe	Bob Balogh	00	2,072 K
notepad.exe	Bob Balogh	00	332 K
msvc.exe	Bob Balogh	00	1,164 K
msworks.exe	Bob Balogh	00	4,496 K
WINWORD.EXE	Bob Balogh	00	26,020 K
alg.exe	LOCAL SERVICE	00	18,964 K
smssvc.exe	SYSTEM	00	11,836 K
svchost.exe	SYSTEM	00	6,988 K
MFMSPV.exe	SYSTEM	00	6,064 K
svchost.exe	SYSTEM	00	156 K
WRSSSDK.exe	SYSTEM	00	11,604 K
svchost.exe	SYSTEM	01	19,832 K
sdmon.exe	SYSTEM	00	9,684 K
NOPDS.exe	SYSTEM	00	1,552 K
msvc32.exe	SYSTEM	00	5,892 K
NPROTECT.EXE	SYSTEM	00	2,620 K
NAVAPSVIC.EXE	SYSTEM	00	876 K
csrss.exe	SYSTEM	00	1,764 K

Of course all these programs do not have to run. In fact while many of these programs are useful and are needed, others are not needed and may at times cause problems. The problem is what determining what these programs do. Even if you are not inclined to stop any of these programs it is a step forward to know what these programs do so at least you have an idea as to what may be causing a particular problem when it arises.

To see a list of most of the possible programs that are running in the background, just go to this website, tinyurl.com/1yy4, and peruse the programs from A-Z. Well, you don't have to look at all of them, just the ones you have listed in your Task Manager.

Remember, all the programs that are listed in your Task Manager may not be listed at “Answers that Work.” Why you might ask? Well, just look at my list and you will see a program listed called Snagit32.exe. That is a program that I added to my computer, and use often.

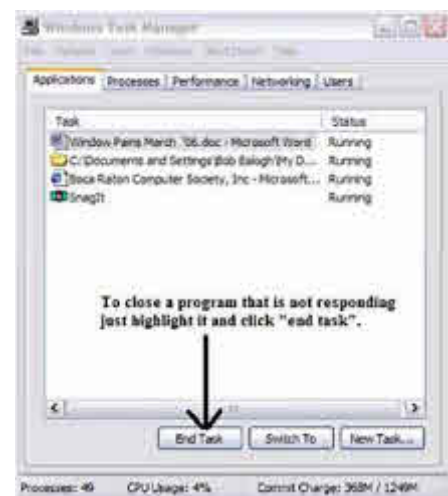
Actually, it is the program I used to create the picture of the Task Manager above. So it is listed, since it was still “running” when I made the screen capture. Could I turn it off? Sure, all I have to do is close the program.

If you want to turn off a program that is running in Task Manager, don't change or disable it in the Windows Task Manager. Instead, go to Control Panel | Administrative Tools | Services, and change them there.

Double-click on the entry and change it from the dropdown list where it says “Startup Type.” Carefully read what it does, and what it is related to, before making a decision. Write

down what you changed, in the event you wish to change it back.

If you have System Restore or Go Back operating, write down the date and time, in case you want to return to an earlier time, when all was well. Additionally, set a new restore point, prior to doing anything. If the service isn't listed in there, then more than likely it was added by an application you added after the install. You'll need to decide if it's necessary, or if you only want it running when you decide. There also comes a time when a particular program “freezes” and is not functioning as we mentioned at the outset of the article. What should you do? Simply use Ctrl+Alt+Delete, open the Task Manager, and close down the program by selecting it and clicking on “End Task.” The figure below demonstrates it for you.



The Performance tab displays an overview of your computer's performance, including graphs for CPU and memory usage as well as the total number of processes running. Google such other items displayed if

(see *Pains* on page 9)

Windows XP Expires

by **Sandy Berger, CompuKISS, www.compuKISS.com**

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On June 30th, 2008, Microsoft started the death march for Windows XP. As of that date, Microsoft stopped shipments of Windows XP as a stand-alone shrink-wrapped product. So after supplies are exhausted, you won't be able to go into a store and purchase Windows XP. Microsoft also stopped most sales to PC manufacturers. So Dell, Lenovo, HP and others will not get any new copies of Windows XP to install on their mainstream computers. However, Windows XP, Microsoft's longest-lived and best-loved operating system, isn't going to vanish overnight. You will still see copies of the XP software and/or

computers with Windows XP in stores until inventories are depleted.

Microsoft has made four important concessions that will also keep XP alive:

- 1.** Microsoft will support Windows XP until April 2014. They will offer updates, security patches, and technical support until that time.
- 2.** Smaller local PC makers can continue to sell PCs with Windows XP until January 2009.
- 3.** Computers with limited hardware capabilities which are sometimes called ultra-low cost PCs (ULCPC) can sell with Windows XP Home until June 2010.
- 4.** With the purchase of Windows Vista Business or Windows Vista Ultimate, the two most expensive versions of Vista, a customer will be able to move back to Windows XP Professional via what Microsoft is calling "downgrade rights." Details on how this will be handled have not been clearly defined to the public at this time. It is even possible that different manufacturers will handle this in different ways.

To the home users, this all means very little, unless you need a new computer and are violently opposed to Windows Vista. To business users, these new policies and extensions mean that they will be able to keep their fleets of Windows XP computers running for several more years. Microsoft has announced that Windows 7, the next version of Win-

dows, will be available in 2010, so many businesses will be able to skip Vista entirely and instead switch to Windows 7. Intel has already announced that they will do just that.

What this means for everyone is that Microsoft, while not writing off Vista, has made it an "interim" operating system. Microsoft is still pushing Windows Vista. They recently announced that Vista now supports 77,000 printers, cameras, speakers and other devices and components. They also brag that more than 140 million copies of Windows Vista have already been sold, making it the fastest selling operating system in Microsoft history. So Windows Vista is not a flash-in-the-pan like Windows ME which was quickly replaced by Windows XP.

In my opinion, Vista is both better and safer than Windows XP and if you are already using Vista or plan to make the move, it is not a bad choice. Yet Vista has become a lame duck. Microsoft definitely has a dilemma on their hands. The only way they will come out of this is if they can get Windows 7 out quickly while making it faster, safer, and easier to use. They also need to give it a good name and get the members of the press behind it. I'm not sure if the lumbering giant can pull that off—especially if Apple and/or Linux find a way to take advantage of this Microsoft predicament!

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(Pains—continued from page 8)

you are interested in the purpose they serve. I do not wish to get too technical here.

The remaining tabs, Networking and Users, are basically self explanatory. If you are running a home network it will show up under Networking and inform you of its functionability. As far as Users is concerned, you will see a list of those using your computer.

Peruse the headings in the toolbar (top), just to get an idea of what they are and do. Of course the Help tab, as usual, is the most important in explaining the program at hand. Use it and you will learn much.

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