



MUG Monitor

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Next Meeting:

Protecting & Monitoring Children on the Internet

by Lizz Russell & Sgt. Amy Stewart

Macon Community Facilities Building
November 10th, 7 PM

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Protecting and Monitoring Our Children on the Internet

by Lizz Russell

Parents and grandparents today are faced with problems and dangers for their children at levels that previous generations had not experienced. These problems originate from the rapidly evolving computer and internet technologies that have become part of our lives.

There are pedophiles that are using the internet to gain access to our children.

In 2007, University of New Hampshire researchers found that 42% of children between the ages of 10–17 had been exposed to unsolicited pornography in the past year, and that number is higher today. This has been shown to lead to young people becoming more sexually active at an earlier age, and it also leads to addictions.

There are children downloading music without paying for it and are therefore committing a crime called copyright infringement, which is now a criminal offense.

Some children are doing very sneaky things to hide their true activities on the internet. In addition, children are hacking into other children's computers.

Thanks to assistance provided by Sheriff Robert Holland, Sgt. Amy Stewart of the Macon County Sheriff's Department will be presenting part of the material, along with me.

If you have children or grandchildren and they use computers, please come to this presentation. These are things you NEED to know.

How to Be a Geek Goddess

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

I am an old hat when it comes to technology. I was a computer programmer back in the seventies before computers came into the home, and I've kept my hand in the technology arena all these years with my own computer consulting business and my technical writing career. Yet I've never considered myself a "Geek Goddess." As a matter of fact I have often been a little aggravated to hear Kim Komando refer to herself as "The Digital Goddess" — like she is something really special.

But Christina Tynan-Wood in her book, *How to Be a Geek Goddess*, isn't advocating that a Geek goddess is someone above everyone else. She says that being a Geek Goddess is "a simple matter of embracing the incredible innovation that's going on in our times and harness it for our own purposes."

Oh yes, and Christina understands the differences between how men and women look at, and deal with, technology. She

(see *Goddess* on page 2)

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Monthly Meetings

MUG meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7 P.M. in the Macon County Community Facilities Building on Georgia Road (US 441 South).

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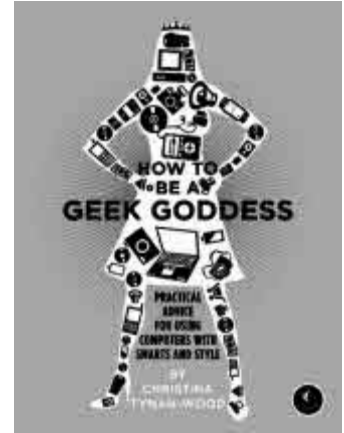
Rhonda Tomlinson, editor

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(Goddess—continued from page 1)

starts the book off with the sentence, “My husband is a pompous ass.” Many of us have noticed how men seem to pound their chests and promote themselves as the technology heroes of the day. Women, on the other hand, just want to use and enjoy technology.



Christina’s book is filled with good information about technology with everything from how to choose a computer sales person to hooking up with others online. There are tips on everything from controlling your email to troubleshooting a wireless connection. Chapters include: Getting in Touch with Your Software Side, Where the Stores Never Close, The Wireless Home, Keeping It Safe, Geek Parenting, Groovy Gear and Gadgets, and Your 200 Closest Friends.

The information in this 315 page book is all accurate and informative. Yet, this is not a reference book. It is rather like a free-flowing novel with technical information. If you want a book where you can look up how to do things, you will have to look elsewhere. This is a book for women who want to absorb some pointers here and there while reading about all the things you can do with your computer. If you are already very familiar with computers, you can skip this book. But again, if you want to immerse yourself in technology and pick up some knowledge and useful tidbits on the way, you will love this book. And you may even become a Geek Goddess yourself!

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Quick Tip

Get Home Quickly

Whether you’re searching a web page, halfway through a long Word document, or checking out the latest numbers in an Excel sheet, in order to get to the very beginning of the information you’re looking at, you can press CTRL-HOME. This will instantly return you to the start of any page without you scrolling your mouse or pressing an arrow key until you get to where you need to be.

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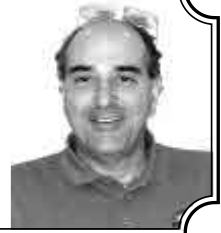
**Treasurer’s Report
Phyllis Minnich**

Balance forward.....	798.20
Income: interest, dues, 50/50.....	2112.55
Expense.....	(298.55)
Balance*	
(including equipment fund).....	\$4227.81
*Equipment Fund (50/50, auction).....	31.00
Investment Fund.....	1615.61

Lou's Views!

A Neutral Net

by Louis Vitale (aka 44RAILGUY)



In 2007, Verizon Wireless blocked NARAL, an abortion rights group, from communicating with its members, saying its network was closed to groups with content or an agenda that “may be seen as controversial or unsavory to any of our users.” AT&T cut off the audio during an online broadcast of a rock concert by Pearl Jam when singer Eddie Vedder started criticizing President Bush. The company did not want “politically charged content” to use its network.

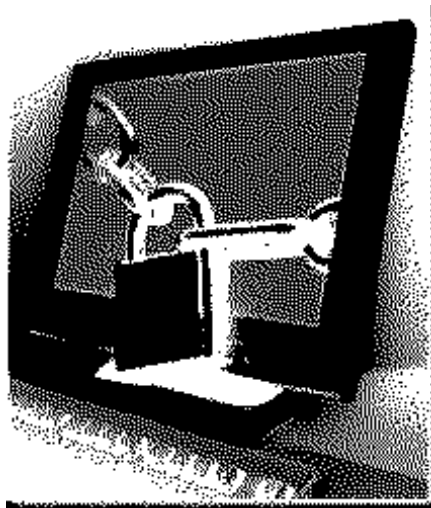
Clearwire, a major cable provider of broadband services in the Midwest, has in the past bragged about its blocking VoIP (internet telephone service) and streaming media, and proudly promised to block any type of traffic or application it didn't like. Comcast recently prevented some of its users from uploading legal content on peer-to-peer networks including BitTorrent.

These are just some examples of internet providers censoring content they did not like. Some were for ideological reasons, some for political reasons and some for business and complete reasons. But all the reasons were up to the provider. They own the pipe—they get to decide what goes through it.

Problem. The internet is the life-blood of our new economy; it may be privately owned, but it serves a very *public* purpose. Just like every type of communication before it, there must be rules, and there is that little thing called Freedom of Speech. Of course, the First Amendment does not apply directly

to the internet, but we as a people value our freedom to express ourselves and our culture of innovation. The internet is where this happens in the 21st century.

There were such rules protecting the neutrality of the internet but, surprise, they were revoked during the Bush administration. It seems the big telecoms and corporate interests did not want to be regulated, and wanted to decide what people could access on their networks. The more control, the more profits.



Well, the FCC now wants to codify the notion that everybody must be treated equally on the internet. After all, that is the history of the net, and it is that equal treatment that has allowed such explosive growth and innovation. Small start ups like Google, Amazon, YouTube, Wikipedia, eBay and Twitter did not exist before the net.

Without a neutral internet, do you really think the existing corporate powers would have allowed these companies to succeed? How about

Skype—do you think AT&T would have permitted it to succeed? It would have crushed it like an ant if it could have gotten away with it. Well, it can now—unless the rules are changed back to the way they were.

This is another classic example of money and power attempting to gain the advantage. Enormous resources are now arrayed against “Net Neutrality.” As usual, these entities are trying to turn the argument on its head. They want a free internet—of course they do, for them to freely “manage” their business as they see fit.

“More regulation will stifle competition and innovation.” Hello, it was a neutral net that allowed competition, and innovation flourished. Of course they would like to control what goes down their pipes, that way any competition can be nipped in the bud and their company won't have to innovate to keep up.

We, as consumers of the internet, have a vested interest in keeping the internet free of corporate control. It is not the government we have to be afraid of, it is someone with money and power who wants to control what we have access to. Next time, AT&T might not like *your* favorite cause, and guess what, your site might just go dark.

Preventive Computer Maintenance

by **Stuart Rabinowitz, Editor-in-Chief, the PULP, newsletter of the Hartford User Group Exchange, CT, www.huge.org, [s.e.rabinowitz \(af\) aff.net](mailto:s.e.rabinowitz@aff.net)**

The single most important maintenance item that should be done on a regular basis is *back up your data*. What the schedule is depends on how much data you can afford to lose. Try daily/weekly to an external hard drive and monthly to a CD/DVD, or use a backup application. Make sure that your software is updated—primarily the operating system and your primary browser.

Use utility software: get a sense of how your computer operates when it's operating correctly. For the Mac, use "Activity Monitor" or "Tech Tools." On the PC, (in the control panel) administrative tools | performance. You can also check your internet connection speed at: reviews.cnet.com/internet-speed-test/.

For the PC users—do regular spyware/virus scans. Make sure the definitions are up to date. Primarily for PC users—defragment your hard drive (this may take a while). Mac users do not really need to do this since OS X (10.3+) does it automatically.

Free up some space on your hard drive (PC users can use disk cleanup; Mac users can use CacheOutX). Clean out old files that you don't use, after you've backed them up. Uninstall those programs that you don't use. Apple recommends that you have at least 10% free, a bit more for PCs, this will improve virtual memory and may improve disk performance.

Clean the Hardware—to clean the monitor and keyboard, use a dry microfiber cloth (be sure the computer is turned off) and gently (don't press hard) wipe the monitor, unplug the keyboard and wipe. If there are hard-to-clean areas, spray

the cloth lightly with a vinegar/water solution and then wipe. For an optical mouse, wipe the bulb gently. You'll need to open a mechanical mouse to clean the rollers. Use a cotton swab with isopropyl alcohol.

If your computer case is easy to open (i.e. not an iMac or Mac Mini), then open it up (after shutting down and unplugging it) and use compressed air to blow out the dust. Do not use a vacuum since it may create a static charge that could damage the electronics. After closing the case, you can clean out the fan in the back.

You'll also probably want to have the following tools:

- Screwdrivers—standard, Philips, and torx in different sizes (especially the small ones)
- Nutdrivers—1/4" and 3/16"
- Pliers, part grabbers, and tweezers
- Compressed air

- Microfiber cleaning cloths
- Antistatic strap—especially if you want to put your hands inside the computer

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Quick Tip

Downloading YouTube Videos
by "PC Don" Edrington

Wal Towells wrote to ask if there is a free program for downloading YouTube videos. Yes. Charles Monica called to tell me about just such a program. It can be found at youtubedownload.altervista.org. I found the program easy to use, and it offers various options as to what video format you would like a download saved in. I am very pleased with the MP4s it created for me.

Dnet's Dial-Up Service is \$19.95/month or \$199.50/year

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Web Video: Making It Great, Getting It Noticed

Reviewed by Iris Yoffa, Member, Tucson Computer Society, Arizona.
May 2009 eJournal, www.aztcs.org

We seem to be living during the decade of the rise of video as the media of choice for self-expression. And where better to publish for maximum exposure than the web. In the beginning, just about any online moving picture was considered good and worth the wait, no matter how long it took to load and how poor the quality turned out. It was new, cutting edge and so exciting to be part of. However, the world-wide audience has become more discerning and has come to expect a touch of story, direction, and technical quality in the visual and audio. So, a book with the title of *Web Video: Making It Great, Getting It Noticed*, would seem to be the ticket to success.

The authors, Jennie Bourne and Dave Burstein, have done an admirable job of putting together an extensive array of basic to quite-involved information, tips, online resources, explanations of relevant technologies, and production techniques, approached in an entertaining format. There is a lot to be learned here for the individual involved in the bare bones to studio quality video. And, being totally new to the subject, I really enjoyed this unique insight into the world of video production. This is a very different beast than using a video camera to record home and business inventories where no editing is required.

The book's 321 pages are divided into nine chapters. "Making It Great" is the focus of chapters one through seven. Publishing to the web for a world-wide audience of varying technologies and viewing



devices presents many issues to consider that film, TV and home movie enthusiasts and professionals don't have to deal with, in addition to the challenges that they do have to take into consideration.

So to start you need to have a plan and a great idea, target an audience and keep it as simple as possible. Because of the heavy compression used in web video, the varying bandwidths for download, and the variety of hardware your viewers will be using to watch your movie, there is a lot that is out of your control for you to consider. You'll learn about the pros and cons when making choices about equipment such as video camera, tripod, microphone, lighting, cables and connectors, recording media and backup options.

There are also a variety of techniques and approaches to consider for videoing events, interviews, how-to's, and news. Editing is a much overlooked and underutilized part of the process, but is essential for

refining your focus and message. There's a lot to consider in addition to which video-editing software to use, such as shaping the story, adding transitions, titles, graphics, and sound, working with compression and selecting an encoding format.

"Getting It Noticed" is discussed in the last two chapters. This is a lot trickier than one might think, and there is no sure formula to get you there. Going viral is usually the result of inspired marketing. There are a lot of ideas here and vignettes of success stories to get you going.

However, you must first make it great.

This book is packed with excellent ideas and resources to help you make a success of your production. The chapters end with projects for you to work on, based on what you've absorbed so far. Throughout there is a focus on techniques for improving your video skills and methods, and to assist you in this are interviews with accomplished video folks which cover a broad range of topics. The information, interviews and tips are interspersed with vignettes of web video success stories. This insight into a world unto itself was just fascinating to me.

Web Video: Making It Great, Getting It Noticed

- *Authors:* Jennie Bourne, Dave Burstein
- *Publisher:* Peachpit Press, www.peachpit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0321591585
Price: \$39.99, \$26.39 at Amazon

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Exploring Microsoft Windows 7 Beta 1

Part 3: What I've Discovered About Windows 7 (A)

by Lee Reynolds, Contributing Editor, Boca Raton Computer Society, Florida,
Boca Bits, May 2009, www.bcrs.org

This time around we are going to take a look at the new aero effects of Windows 7.

Aero Shake

Let's open a few windows on your Desktop to show some of the new Aero capabilities built into Windows 7. We'll put several of them there, all partially on top of one another (Figure 1).

Suppose you wanted to see the window where the mouse cursor is, which is partially obscured by a couple of other windows that are open. If you just click where the mouse is, then that window would come to the forefront, just as in previous versions of Windows.

Suppose as you click with the mouse on that window, you shake it back and forth a couple of times, left and right. Magically all the other windows minimize to the Taskbar, and you are left with only the one you wanted to look at (Figure 2). A bit quicker than making numerous clicks to minimize or close all the other windows!

This feature of Windows 7 is called "Aero Shake," but that's only half of it. If you now shake the one open window left and right a couple of times, all the other windows that were open but partially obscured appear back on the screen.

Aero Snap

Figure 3 shows two windows open, one partially behind the other. Note that they are two views of similar text documents that have been opened in Windows Notepad.

Take the one on the left, put your mouse near the left side of the Title

bar, and drag it over to the left until the mouse just barely touches the left edge of your screen. A faint outline of half the Desktop shows up.

If you release the mouse button, then the window that you moved toward the left side of the screen resizes and fills up that half of the screen! (Figure 4.)

Now take the window on the right, put your mouse near the right side of the Title bar, and drag it over to the right until the mouse just barely touches the right edge of your screen. Then the faint outline of the right half of your Desktop shows up, and when you release the mouse button the window will resize itself to the right half of your Desktop. Very easy to see the two windows side by side for comparison purposes, for example.

But that's not all there is to Aero Snap. Now let's open a single

window of our display of a text document through Notepad, and next drag it to the top edge of the screen, until the mouse barely touches it. A faint outline of the entire Desktop shows up, and if we release the mouse button, then magically, the Notepad window maximizes to fill the screen! (Of course, this works with any window, not just a Notepad window.)

Finally, if we drag the maximized window downward away from the top edge, and let it go, it returns to its previous size.

One more thing about the Aero Snap feature—there are shortcut keys for these effects if you would prefer to use the keyboard rather than a mouse:

- Windows key + up arrow—Maximize window

(see *Windows 7* on page 7)



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(*Windows 7—continued from page 6*)

- Windows key + down arrow—
Restore window
- Windows key + left arrow—
Display on left half of desktop
- Windows key + right arrow—
Display on right half of desktop.

Aero Peek

The Aero Peek feature has a number of characteristics. It is particularly useful if you have a number of windows open on your screen. Each of the windows will of course correspond to a Taskbar button.

Some of the Taskbar buttons will appear to be several layers deep (one button behind another, like a row of dominoes) if you have multiple instances of the program open at the same time. If you have several tabs open in Internet Explorer 8, there will be a button for each of the tabs. When this is true, there is a little upward pointing arrow to the right of the taskbar icon which you can use to choose which of the program instances you want to work with.

Hovering over a Taskbar button (one which is not a pseudo Quick Launch button) without clicking it will open up a miniature image preview of that window over the Taskbar.

If you hover over any of those miniature image previews, then all other windows that are open on your screen become transparent and you see only the window whose image preview you are hovering your mouse over. It is like you can peek through all the other windows to see that one window. (Of course, that is why the feature is called Aero Peek.)

So if you wanted to see what is in a window without transferring control over to it, you can very easily do so. If you actually click on one of those image previews, it becomes the active window. You can also close a window (or a tab, in the case of an

Internet Explorer Taskbar button) by clicking on the small “X” icon in the image preview.

Another part of Aero Peek is the replacement for the “Show Desktop” icon in the Quick Launch bar of previous versions of Windows. This is a small rectangle at the right end of the Taskbar. If you hover your mouse over this area, you will see a tool tip reading “Show desktop,” but also it will show you an image of your Desktop overlaid with rectangular outlines of any windows you might have open covering parts of the Desktop. So it is as if you are peeking behind all the open windows to see the Desktop. If you actually click that rectangular area, rather than just hover over it, then it will act like the Show Desktop icon of previous Windows versions: all windows minimize to the Taskbar and you see your Desktop. You can also right-click the Show Desktop area of the Windows 7 Taskbar and it will give you a context menu from which you can choose one of the options: Preview Desktop or Show Desktop.

Unfortunately, the Preview Desktop does not work (in fact, it shows as “greyed out” on the context menu) in the Virtual PC environment.

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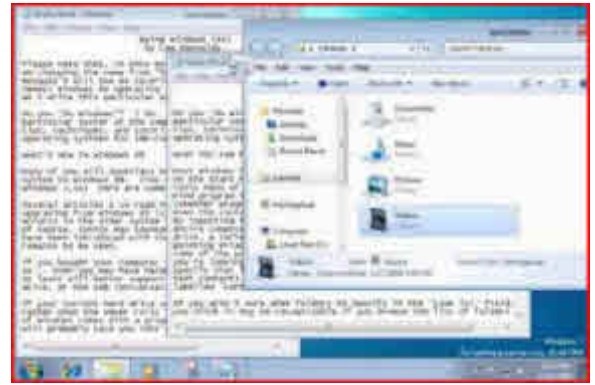


Figure 1—Three Windows Before Aero Shake

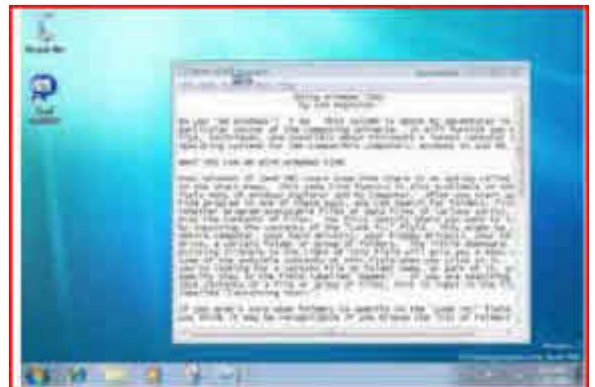


Figure 2—After Aero Shake

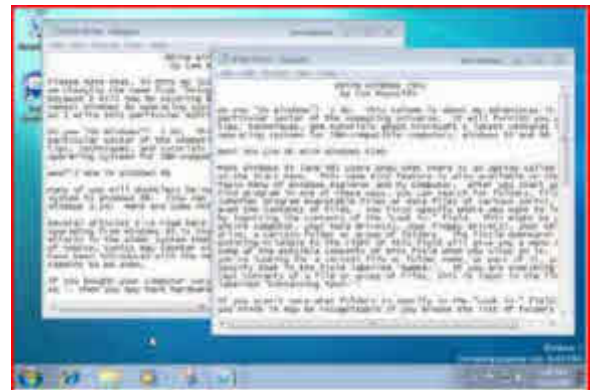


Figure 3—Two Notepad Windows

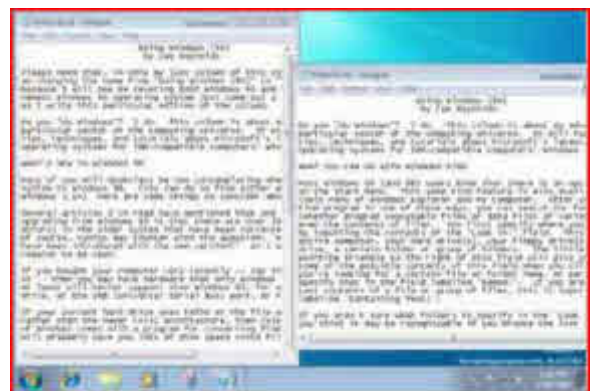
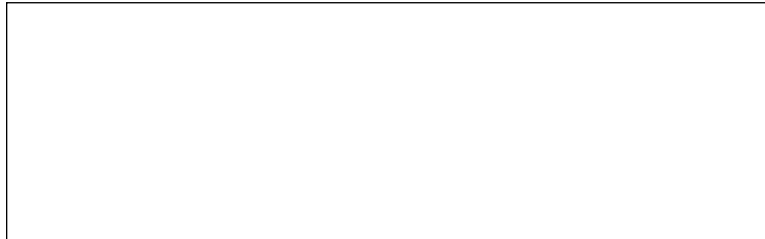


Figure 4—After Aero Snap

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