



MUG Monitor

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February 2010

Next Meeting:

Streaming Movies & TV

by Club Members

Macon Community Facilities Building
February 9th, 7 PM

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Windows 7 Upgrade: My Experience

by Sandy Berger, CompuKiss, www.compuKiss.com

Those of you who follow me know that I really like Windows 7 and have no qualms about recommending it. This is not a program that you have to wait to purchase until the problems have cleared. I have been successfully using it for months and have just installed it on my everyday computer.

So if you are ready to buy a new computer, go right ahead and buy one with Windows 7. However, if you are going to upgrade an older computer, there are a few things you should know.

First, I don't recommend upgrading an older computer running Windows XP. Although Windows 7 may run on your old XP computer, XP is more capable for computers with limited memory and outdated graphics. Also, if you upgrade from XP to 7, you have to do a clean install. (More on that later.)

Even if you are upgrading to Windows 7 from Vista, there are a few things that you should know. My recent upgrade experience may help.

Last week I got an advance copy of Windows 7 and decided to upgrade my Vista computer.

There are two possible ways to upgrade: An in-place upgrade or a clean install. A clean install is preferable, but it means that all your data and your programs are wiped out. This is good because it puts your computer into a like-new status. However, a clean install requires a lot of work. It entails backing up everything, reinstalling all of the programs, transferring the data from a backup back to the

computer after the upgrade, and readjusting any programs that you had previously customized. After listing the number of programs that I had installed on my computer, I decided that after a clean install it would probably take me at least 2 days to get my computer back to where it was. With time at a premium, I opted for an in-place upgrade. I had already installed all of the updates and service packs, so my computer was ready to be upgraded.

The first thing that I did (and that everyone should do before upgrading), was to back up my data. I chose to use a program called True image by Acronis to make a complete backup of everything on my computer. I put the backup on a portable hard drive. It was 350GB, so I expected this upgrade to take a long time.

Then I surfed over to the Microsoft website to check out their compatibility upgrade advisor for Windows 7. I installed this Microsoft program on my computer and ran it. It told me that my Belkin wireless network needed a new driver for Windows 7, and that my Logitech webcam might not work properly with Windows 7. I surfed over to both manu-

(see Win7 Upgrade on page 2)

Streaming Movies & TV Online

7 PM, February 9th

Macon Users Group Franklin, NC

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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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(Win7 Upgrade—continued from page 1)

facturers' websites and found that they had no specific drivers listed for Windows 7. Since I already had the most current Vista drivers, I decided to just go ahead with the upgrade.

I put the Windows 7 disk in the computer and clicked on "Install." I made a few choices, like choosing between an in-place and a clean install. To my surprise, the install program told me that I had quite a few incompatibility problems. In addition to the two devices that I had been warned about, it listed a printer that I had previously uninstalled and several games that also had been previously removed. However, it also listed iTunes as incompatible. I use iTunes every day to sync my iPhone, so this could have been a deal-killer. Yet, I knew that I had the latest version of iTunes, so I just crossed my fingers and clicked "Next" to go on.

After that, the installation was easy. The computer pretty much did all the work, including rebooting several times. While a clean install can be accomplished in about ½ hour, my in-place install over 350 GB of programs and data on a pretty speedy computer took 3 hours.

Once the update was complete, I found myself at the Windows 7 desktop. There was a new desktop background and the taskbar had much larger icons (something that I like about Windows 7), but other than that, all of my icons were there and my desktop looked pretty normal.

To my surprise, the Belkin wireless card that I had been warned about worked seamlessly. The Logitech Quick Cam, however, gave me an error. On a hunch, I reinstalled the webcam driver. Although this was the same driver that I had been using with Vista, Windows 7 now seemed to like it. It also functioned perfectly. Oh, and the iTunes program that I had been warned about also worked perfectly, except that I had to reauthorize the computer, which was a simple process.

I am not sure if Microsoft was a little too harsh in their assessments of incompatibilities, or if I was just lucky. Since I did my upgrade before the actual launch of the Windows 7 product, Microsoft's Windows 7 Capability Center was not yet available. As you read this, however, it should be open. Just type "Windows 7 Compatibility Center" in the search box at the Microsoft website and you should be able to check the compatibility of most software and hardware.

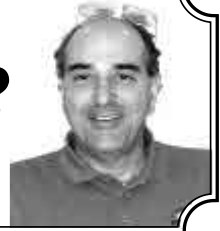
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Treasurer's Report Phyllis Minnich

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!

iPhone, iPod, iTunes, iPad, iBot?

by Louis Vitale (aka 44RAILGUY)

Steve Jobs has done it again, or so he hopes. The new iPad is a ½-inch-thick 10-inch screen that does everything. Is the hype justified? Given the history of the iProducts, it may be. In the movie *Avatar*, the computer technicians carried around glowing clipboards that were in fact computers, and the new iPad looks very much like one of these. Its capabilities are very much the stuff of science fiction, unless you already own an iPhone.

As a piece of hardware, it is very impressive. According to Cent's comprehensive review, here is what it is made of: "The device uses an Apple-designed chip it is calling the "A4," which runs at 1GHz and is used for managing everything: processing, graphics, and I/O. The system has between 16 and 64GB of memory, contains Bluetooth and EDR wireless connectivity, has a speaker and microphone, and also contains Apple's accelerometers, ambient light sensors, and digital compass with assisted GPS technologies. There is a 30-pin connector for attaching the device to computers, but it also uses Bluetooth and Enhanced Data Rate technologies for fast wireless access up to 3Mbps. The device has a powerful battery that gives up to 10 hours of usage, and nearly a month of standby time."

So this device can just about connect to any network or computer, it knows where it is in



As impressive as its capabilities are, the real impact of this device will be the third-party applications that will be developed for it. Just like the iPhone, thousands of developers will start creating new ways to use this device. If nothing else, it will spur creativity and probably lead to uses we can't even imagine yet.

What is there not to like?

The price for one thing, \$500 to \$900 depending on which model you buy. I personally don't like it being tied to Apple. All these functions and applications will be locked into the Apple format and controlled by the exclusive marketing platforms, like the iTunes store. Certain functions like "flash" have not been incorporated in order to keep this device isolated from any competitive application and to maintain tight control on your iPad experience. Sound familiar?

But these are not the only limitations on this device. It can run only one program at a time, so if you are listening to music, you can't do your spreadsheet. The screen is optimized for video, so as a book reader it will not be as pleasant to use as a tablet using e-ink, which is much easier on the eyes. And battery life is like the mpg sticker on a new car, I doubt you will get 10 hours of use, and like other Apple products, there is no way to access the battery.

So is it just a big iPhone, or is it a game changer and the next big thing, who knows? I am just waiting for Steve Jobs to announce the iBot.

space, and it senses its environment. It can run any one of the 150,000 applications written for the iPhone, function as an e-book reader with its own bookstore, and it is an excellent gaming platform. With its touch screen keyboard, it can function as a computing device for an ever expanding list of programs. An iPad keyboard dock will make this an excellent portable email device.

The touch screen is interactive; that means you can manipulate pictures or text by moving your finger around the screen. It acts just like the magic touch screens used on weather shows on TV or those political maps used to show election results. You can push pictures around on the screen, make them bigger or smaller, open files or close them, all with just a touch of your finger.

Of course it also functions as an iPod on steroids, and from what I read the speakers are excellent. Movies and internet videos are exceptionally vivid and pleasing to the eye. Web browsing is much easier and faster than any other available tablet device.

The Deals Guy

by Bob Click,
Greater Orlando Computer Users Group



Interesting Reading

Everyone is interested in Flash Memory technology these days, but few end users really understand what it's all about. Information Week had an interesting article that explains some of how it works along with the shortcomings, and what the future might bring. This article might fill in some blanks, but it's written for IT people so read it carefully. tinyurl.com/ya6hl7j.

Another interesting article in IW is about "The Internet of Things," keeping track of all kinds of things, using RFID tags, and other types of information tags. It covers different topics and problems not covered in the RFID article I gave you recently, and might give you something to think about. tinyurl.com/yakophg.

Oops, Nobody Home

In my November DealsGuy column, I wrote about an interesting 3D address book with a discount. Two of my readers have told me they tried to order it, but were unable to do so, or even get a response to email. We both tried to contact the PR person that I coordinated it with, but to no avail. They don't seem to respond at all and I have no idea why. I have that problem a lot with vendors who send out announcements for a new product, but when that happens I don't usually use that item, but in this case, I had several communications with the person and she assured me everything would work fine. I guess those things happen, but I can't help but feel bad. I'm still trying to contact them.

Need To Uninstall Something?

Mike Ungerman (musings-from-mike.blogspot.com, interesting site)

of Central Florida Computer Society (www.cfc.org) suggested Revo Uninstaller as his favorite product for program removals, tinyurl.com/2fdekq. User Group members in Florida will remember Mike as the founder of the Florida Association of Computer User Groups (FACUG). He put his own money on the line in the hopes that FACUG would be a success that first year, and it has been a resounding success every since, with the help of many other people.

Here is an excerpt from the Revo Website: "Revo Uninstaller includes: Junk Files Cleaner, Windows Tools, Auto Run Manager, Browsers Cleaner, MS Office Cleaner, Windows Cleaner, Evidence Remover and Unrecoverable Delete tools! You can reach all these tools from the 'Tools' tool bar button of Revo Uninstaller."

Another of Mike's recommendations Belarc Advisor is a popular product for analyzing your system, but Mike suggests a similar program, SIW—System Information for Windows—that, in his opinion, presents the data in a more manageable format (www.gtopala.com). Check their website to find out about its many features and download the freeware version. This is an impressive program.

Be Warned About Those Nasty Websites

Hewie Poplock (www.hewie.net) of Central Florida Computer Society alerted his Windows SIG to this valuable utility, linkscanner.avg.com. Some of the nastiest malware could download unknowingly from innocent looking websites, so a timely warning might help. I recently mentioned Site Advisor from McAfee and Site Hound from FireTrust to warn you about

(see *Deals Guy* on page 7)

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What's in MS Windows 7

by Randy Esdon, a member of Big Blue & Cousin, Canada. www.bbc.org

Hopefully you've heard of the new version of MS Windows called Windows 7. So what is the home user getting should they wish to upgrade their computer? In this article I'll try to highlight some of the basic home-user features. This is not a complete highlight of everything that has been added or improved upon, but explains those items the average user might notice.

First off, the core applications that got an update are Windows Media Player, Internet Explorer, Paint, Calculator and Wordpad. The first two programs I listed usually do get updates and are already available for Vista and XP.

The other three are basic programs that haven't seen any updates in a while. Basically their User interface (UI) and some functionality have been improved. The UI of each program now has the ribbon style of interface, like that of Office 2007. MS Paint added some more brushes, and can now use "shapes" within the drawings. The best improvements are in the calculator, where they have added selectable tools or modes such as a mortgage calculator, a gas mileage calculator, a statistics mode, and even a programmer mode.

The next item Microsoft worked on was the desktop management area. They added several user friendly features, such as Snap to Docking, Aero Shake, an updated Taskbar, Jump Lists, Aero Peek, and Gadgets wherever you want them.

Snap to Docking has three functions:

- to maximize a window, drag it to the *top* of the screen,
- to restore the window, drag it *from* the top of the screen,

- to compare two windows side by side, drag them to the *opposite sides* of the screen.

Aero shake is simple, and provides a great way to focus on just one application. Grab the Title Bar of the screen you have open, shake the mouse, and all the other applications that are open will disappear.

Taskbar has been updated to include the ability to switch the order of the screens that are open. For those who multi-task, this is good when you want to prioritize your work. You can also point to a Taskbar icon to see a thumbnail preview of open files or programs. Then move your mouse over a thumbnail to preview the window as a full screen.

Jump Lists are smart lists of links specific to each application, such as:

- a history of pages visited—Internet Explorer or Firefox.
- opened files—MS Word.
- Frequently played songs—Media Player. Whenever you open a program, an up arrow becomes available next to the program icon. Click the list, and save time navigating to where you want to start within that program.

Aero Peek gives you the power of X-ray vision so you can peer past all your open windows, straight to the Windows 7 desktop. Simply point to the right edge of the taskbar and watch opened windows instantly turn transparent, revealing all your hidden icons and gadgets.

Gadgets can now be placed anywhere on your desktop, as opposed to just in the docking bar, as is the case in Vista.

Home Networking Features has been updated to make it easier to securely share files between computers. When you save a network as a home network, Windows pops up a dialog box which lets you decide what you want to share at home. To connect a second Windows 7 computer to the same network, enter the key given to you by the first machine, and you have instant secure file sharing. Microsoft has also included the ability of the computer to use different printers depending on what location you're at. This will simplify things for those people who take their laptop from home to the office, and use a printer at both locations.

Program Compatibility Troubleshooter has been added to help with using older programs within Windows 7. Basically this feature will ask you a series of questions to help you get a piece of incompatible software working. This has been much more streamlined than in Vista. Simply select the software that is giving you issues, list the problems associated with the software, select the operating system it does work with, and run the test. If the software works, save the settings and you should be set up to use that program in the future.

Biometrics features of Windows 7 have been enhanced. This allows users to use fingerprint biometric devices to log on to computers, grant elevation privileges through User Account Control (UAC), and perform basic management of the fingerprint devices.

Tablet PC has many improvements for handwriting recognition. Support for handwriting recognition, person-

(see *What's in Win7* on page 11)

Windows 7: Up and Running

A Quick, Hands-on Introduction by Wei-Meng Lee

**Reviewed by Elsie Smith, Editor, PC Community, CA,
PCC News, November 2009, www.pcc.org**

Looking for the quickest path to get started with Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system? With *Windows 7: Up and Running* (O'Reilly), by Microsoft MVP Wei-Meng Lee, you get the essential information you need to upgrade or install the system and configure it to fit your activities, along with a tour of Windows 7's features and built-in applications.

And for those of you who have been around the block a few times with Windows, Lee says, "Even if you are already familiar with Windows, this book will still offer you some info that you may not already know."

Microsoft has learned from the mistakes of Windows Vista, and Windows 7 shows it—this new OS is much faster and more stable. Lee says, "When I tried Windows 7, it became clear to me that this was no Vista—Windows 7 is actually more stable and it runs beautifully even on older hardware."

With *Windows 7: Up and Running*, you'll learn what's new and what's changed from XP and Vista, and get advice on ways to use this system for work, entertainment, instant communication, and more. Windows 7 is poised to be a big hit, and with this handy guide, you can be up and running—and productive—with it right away.

This book will show you how to:

- Master the user interface, including the taskbar, jump lists, desktop gadgets, Aero Shake, and notification area
- Discover the joys of networking with HomeGroup file sharing and improved Wi-Fi
- Tour the system's improved security, including the Action Center, User Account Control, and Credential Manager
- Learn how to use Windows Live Essentials for messaging, photo sharing, moviemaking, emailing, and blogging
- Get to know built-in applications such as Internet Explorer 8, Windows Media Player 12, Microsoft Paint, and WordPad
- Learn about optional Microsoft software to enhance your Windows 7 experience

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- Ch. 7: Using Windows XP Mode
- Ch. 8: Windows 7 Tips and Tricks

Product Information

Windows 7: Up and Running, A Quick, Hands-on Introduction, by Wei-Meng Lee

O'Reilly Media, Inc.,
www.oreilly.com, (800) 998-9938

List Price: \$24.99; UG Price \$16.24
at www.oreilly.com/store/

Free Online Edition: To try out Safari and the online edition of *Windows 7: Up and Running* for 45 days, go to www.oreilly.com/go/safarienabled and enter the coupon code shown on the last page of your book. To see the complete Safari Library visit: safari.oreilly.com.

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Windows 7, Thanks, But No Thanks!

by Herb Goldstein, Editor.
Sarasota PCUG, Florida, www.spcug.org

I am a devout XP user. It's not by any means perfect. It has its own set of quirks (like everything else), but it's better than anything that came before and it works quite well. It's like my house... I know where everything is. I can navigate it in the dark. I've got it furnished and decorated just the way I want it, and it took me, bit by bit, a long time to do. So why should I move across the street and start all over again? For whose benefit?

Some weeks ago, Microsoft provided their release candidate of Windows 7 free for all takers. I installed it on a spare hard drive and have been playing with it every now and then. It's a nice functional operating system, but from a practical standpoint it provides me with nothing that I really need or must have that's missing in XP. If you are starting as a new computer user with a new computer, it's just fine. In fact it will be on your new computer right from the get-go, want it or not.

For whatever the many reasons, there is no upgrade path to migrate from XP to Windows 7. You need to start from scratch reinstalling all your software programs, all their many updates and upgrades, and all the customized settings you have factored into them over the period of time. Now that's providing you even have your original installation disks or some record of those that you originally downloaded for which you have no installation disks at all. You will also need all their serial numbers that you were originally required to provide, if you still have them. Talk about monumental tasks!

As though that were not enough to completely turn off the bravest among you, Windows 7 has another curve ball to pitch at you. Whatever applications

you want to install in Windows 7 must have perfectly valid drivers that it will recognize. Windows 7 is much more fussy about what it wants to approve. Many smaller software publishers whose applications you may now be using in XP may not have developed drivers that will work in Windows 7. You may well have to kiss some of your most fabulous freebies goodbye. The loudest argument I have heard by those urging the switch is that Microsoft will cease to recognize XP. If the automobile industry operated in similar fashion you would be forced to junk all cars more than a few years old.

So pardon me folks while I continue to avoid fixing what isn't broken. Unless and until Microsoft can offer a much better operating system that will easily migrate everything I am currently using in XP, thanks but no thanks!

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(Deals Guy—continued from page 4)
undesirable websites. They turn your browser red and warn you about possible malicious code. Also check out LinkScanner from AVG Technologies. They acquired this product a while back, which used to sell for \$29.95 before they bought it, but now it's free. It works with Windows 2000, XP, Vista and Windows 7. It's also OK on either 32-bit or 64-bit systems. It's a plug-in for IE6 or later and also works with Firefox.

That's it for this month. I'll have more new product announcements on my website (most not offering a discount). www.dealsguy.com. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click, bobclick@bellsouth.net. Editor's note: This column has been edited for space and content considerations.

Quick Tips

Faster Than Wireless

When you purchase a wireless router, be sure it has extra Ethernet ports that support Gigabit Ethernet, which is the fastest Ethernet standard available. Wired Gigabit Ethernet speeds are even greater than the fastest wireless standard, 802.11 Draft N. Having multiple Ethernet ports will allow you to make a wired connection to devices in addition to wireless connections. If you want to connect a wired network device (one that doesn't include built-in wireless capabilities) to your home network, an Ethernet port and an Ethernet cable will ensure you can still integrate it into your network.

Avoid Evil Twins

Free municipal and college Wi-Fi hotspots are popping up everywhere, and data thieves are taking advantage of them to lift your information. Hackers establish open networks with official-sounding names, such as SeattleFreeWiFi, and then monitor those networks and access users' information at will. Beware a public network unless you can confirm its SSID (Service Set Identifier; its public name) or you are at a reputable business with Wi-Fi access and only that network is within range.

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Directory Updates

See the printed edition.

Windows 7 Is Here and it is good and here's how to get there

by Charles W. Evans, PC Member and the Magazine's Reviews Editor, HAL-PC, Texas
HAL PC News Magazine, Fall 2009, www.hal-pc.org

There is no substitute for prior planning

There is no substitute for prior planning. (Oh! Did I say that twice? Hummm.) Before beginning installing Windows 7, create a plan that details what's on your original system, where it is going to wind up on the new system, configurations, and how you are going to get from one to the other. And yes, it is OK to employ your original word processor to do this and it migrates easily to Windows 7...technically it's called a pencil and paper. ;-)

Determine which edition of Windows 7 you need.

- 1 Is your hardware up to snuff?
- 2 Back up your data before you start the upgrade. Acronis TrueImage, Casper and Ghost are good back up programs and have been reviewed by the Magazine.
- 3 Update Windows XP or Vista data before you begin installing Windows 7.
- 4 As a rule of thumb, if it works under Vista it should work under Windows 7.
- 5 Before installing Windows 7, download the current Windows 7 drivers onto a flash drive or burn to a CD. This is part of being prepared.
- 6 If you are using Windows 7 RC1, no upgrade is possible and you have until June 2010, when it dies. If it is on the hard drive you intend to use for Windows 7, format the hard drive. You will no longer have use of RC1.

Four important notes:

- 1 Clean up your existing computer—really! Get rid of old programs and files and defragment your hard drive.
- 2 Your best option is *not* to upgrade—start with a clean hard drive.
- 3 You will be told that you *cannot* upgrade from Win XP to Win 7. Not so, but it is a convoluted process. I do not recommend this, period. But all is not lost. There are two ways to “salvage” your XP programs. One is to get a new computer with “V” certification; i.e., virtualization gives you capability to run your XP programs on a virtual hard drive under Win 7! There is a different route and that is to “migrate” your XP files to Win 7. I've listed a website that will help you do this. There are some programs that will not successfully migrate. I'll explain later.
- 4 If you upgrade from Windows Vista, you must upgrade to a like edition. For example, Vista Home to Win7 Home or Ultimate to Ultimate.

Upgrading from one operating system to another is no longer as simple as inserting a diskette and pressing the Enter key. Questions arise about the right hardware, about compatibility of existing applications and data files with the new operating system. This article helps you think through the process of upgrading to Win7.

Windows Easy Transfer migrates your application settings and data, other options allow complete migration of both applications and data as a single operation. Windows Easy

Transfer, which is available for free from Microsoft's website, allows you to migrate both application settings and data from your XP system to a Windows 7 system. It even allows you to create a disk repository with this information. This is an acceptable method, but by no means foolproof.

Windows Easy Transfer lets you identify the programs and related data that you want to transfer and accomplish most of this migration work in one set of actions. The easiest workaround in transferring application data from Windows XP to a Win7 environment is to use Windows Easy Transfer on the Windows 7 DVD to transfer XP documents and settings to a backup location; e.g., flash drive or another hard disk, and then restore from this backup.

This would be a very good time to re-think your data storage location(s). Generally, Word will store your DOC files and other data created by Office under the Documents and Settings folders. Other programs will have a default location for the data you create. You might think about creating a partition just for the files that you generate. If it would be helpful, subdivide the partition by using folders for each type of file. In this method, you simply back up the entire partition and you have your backup accomplished.

Following are some points you should keep in mind:

- 1 You can use Windows Easy Transfer to move both programs and all their associated data as a

(see *Win7 is Here* on page 9)

(Win7 is Here—cont'd from page 8)

package, but before you get to that stage, make sure that the move will transfer everything you want moved.

- 2 If you're using the move as an opportunity to upgrade from one version of an application to another (for example, moving from one version of Microsoft Office to another version), you should do two things:
 - Verify that the new application is compatible with the new operating system (some applications that worked with Windows XP or Windows Vista may not work under Win7).
 - Verify that the new version of the application will be able to use the data files from the older version. A good way to prevent problems like this is to use the same shared folders to store data on the old system and the new system.

Migration versus Reinstallation

I recommend that you migrate a software package intact. At times that may not be an option since some software packages register a unique ID based on both the license key and the CPU. If you migrate from one physical system to another, or significantly change the hardware configuration, the ID may change, as will the unique ID used by that software package. In this instance, you are forced to reinstall the software. This is one reason you cannot simply move your existing hard drive from one system to another.

In a new system with a different motherboard, you would need to reinstall programs.

There is no substitute for prior planning. There is no substitute for prior planning. (Oh! Did I say that before? Hummm.) I've listed four sources of information that I'd strongly recommend you download, print, read and make a few notes. I know, I know, we all thought we were through with homework in the

12th grade. Turns out life is just one big homework assignment!

Microsoft Win7 Information—tinyurl.com/nzo6a5.

Virtual PC 2007—information about a virtual drive/PC—tinyurl.com/2md2en.

Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor—advice on software/hardware compatibility—tinyurl.com/pkekwh.

Migrate to Windows 7—Softpedia Information—tinyurl.com/dz9dj5.

Windows 7 RC1 expires July 1, 2010—you should have updated long before that date. Notice I said “updated” since you cannot upgrade RC1 to any Windows 7 version.

Don't rush it. You have time to do it right. And I think you will like Windows 7.

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Tech Talk: The Internet Cookbook

by Lizz Russell

If you love great food and variety in what you eat, why don't you try out the internet for your cookbook.

There are several ways to go hunting for recipes.

You could make a list of things that are in your refrigerator, freezer and cupboards, and then do an ingredient list search using your favorite search engine.

For example, if you had yellow squash, onions and sour cream in your refrigerator, you could type in SQUASH ONION SOUR CREAM along with the word DELICIOUS or FABULOUS or FAVORITE. Always include the word RECIPE, for otherwise you will also get restaurants in your list.

A simple search like this will often bring up hundreds of thousands of recipes. And, if you're in a hurry, you could add the word QUICK or FAST to your search. You can put these words in any order, too.

Then start looking through the recipes until you find just what you'd like to try. Quite often, the recipes have lots of people's comments with them, including suggestions on what extras make the dish even better.

Another way to go hunting for recipes is by typing in phrases such as BEST THING I EVER ATE RECIPE, MOST DELICIOUS MEAL I EVER HAD RECIPE, or BEST TASTING DISH RECIPE. There are always so many

tasty and tempting things that come up. The variety is mind-boggling.

If you are on a special diet, you can always add words such as LOW FAT, NO SALT, DIABETIC, or whatever, too.

Further, let's say you want to try something new like making your own noodles. For that, I highly recommend going to YouTube.com and doing a search for HOW TO MAKE NOODLES. So many people have made so many fabulous videos. You will more than likely find an instructional video on just about any dish you can imagine.

Try it. You'll be amazed. Bon appetit!

Making Windows More Legible

by Gary Bentley, Editor, *Throughput*.
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Have you noticed that each time you purchase a new computer with a higher resolution screen, you find everything on the screen looks smaller than it did on the lower resolution monitor screen (if the diagonal size of your monitor was increased you might offset this phenomenon somewhat, but still be surprised that things looked about the same size in that case)?

This is because the Windows operating system assumes that the actual number of pixels per actual inch lighting up on your monitor screen is 96—i.e., 96 DPI (“dots” per physical inch) is assumed by the operating system.

Why would this assumption make things (icons, pictures, text, etc.) look smaller on a monitor that had higher native resolution (native resolution meaning the actual number of pixels lighting up per actual physical inch on your screen)?

Let us look at a real-world example. My Dell Latitude D620 has a 14-inch diagonal LCD screen with 1440 (horizontal) by 900 (vertical) pixels (native resolution, i.e., actual LCD pixels). How many DPI, i.e., pixels per inch is my screen? Well, recalling the Scarecrow’s recitation in the Wizard Of Oz when he received his “brain diploma” (or what he should have said, since he actually misstated the Pythagorean theorem—we can only assume that the Wizard did not want to damage Scarecrow’s self-esteem by correcting him), we know that the 14-inch diagonal on my screen is the hypotenuse of a right triangle, the sides of which are 1440 and 900 pixels. So we can take the square root of the sum of the squares of those two sides and that will give us the number of pixels along the 14-inch diagonal. The square

root of 1440 squared plus 900 squared is, using Wolfram|Alpha (www.wolframalpha.com/examples/Math.html, use the basic arithmetic box there), 1698. Note that Wolfram uses standard means of entering mathematical operators. You might have to look those up and make adjustments, e.g., I asked for the square root by telling Wolfram to take the parenthetical operations to the 0.5 power since I knew how to enter the exponentiation operator (“^”), but not a square root sign (a radical sign).

So we have 1698 pixels along my 14-inch screen diagonal, or 1698 pixels/14 inches = 121 pixels per inch (121 DPI). How wide is one pixel? 1 inch/121 pixels = 0.008264 inch per pixel. Why would this make things smaller on my Windows desktop? Well, Windows assumes 96 pixels make an inch, so an inch on my screen is now 96×0.008264 or 0.79 inch. So everything on my Windows desktop is only 80% of the size it would be if there were actually 96 pixels per inch on my screen. I can verify that my calculations are correct by setting Microsoft Word to display an 8.5 × 11 inch standard document at 100% size. When I measure the width of that document on my screen I obtain 6 13/16 inches or 6.8125 inches. $6.8125/8.5 = 0.80$, i.e., the 8.5-inch-wide document is displayed at 80% of its actual size as we calculated would occur.

This means that text fonts are 80% of their intended size on my screen also. Fonts are defined in terms of points. A point is defined as 1/72 inch, i.e., 72 points per inch. Windows assumes there are 96 pixels per inch, so a Windows logical point is $96/72 = 1.333$ device independent pixels. A 10-point font

should be around 10×1.333 pixels or 13 pixels vertical (leaving aside details of leading, etc.). That would be $13/96 = 0.13$ inches high roughly on a 96 DPI monitor. On my 121 DPI monitor that 10-point font would only be $13/121 = 0.10$ inch high approximately, again about 80% smaller.

A Microsoft study indicates about 55% of people reduce the resolution of their monitors (configure Windows screen resolution in Display Properties for a lower value), presumably to make the text and other items on their computer screen larger. For example, if I changed my laptop screen resolution to 800 × 600, there would be fewer Windows pixels to cover the same area, so the “pixels” would be larger, making everything constructed with those fat pixels larger too. Fat pixels make fuzzy or pixilated images, though they are larger images. This is rather like purchasing a \$474 Canon EOS Rebel with 10 Megapixel resolution and then setting it to take 640 × 480 photos (when you have paid for a camera that can take 3648 × 2736 pixel photos roughly).

A better way to increase the size of text and other items on your screen is to use Windows DPI scaling. You can tell the operating system that you want an inch on your screen to be made up of more than 96 dots/pixels (if you don’t have a monitor with more than 96 actual dots per inch this would not work as well, since the operating system would have to “fake” the additional pixel density using mathematical algorithms). In Windows XP you can right click on the Desktop, select Properties, then Settings, then Advanced, then DPI setting. Choose more dots per

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(What's in Win7—cont'd from page 5)
alization, and text prediction in new languages has been enhanced. Support for handwritten math expressions, and personalized custom dictionaries for handwriting recognition have been added.

User Access Control (UAC) functionality improvements are some of the biggest from a user's perspective. Basically Microsoft has changed the UAC to have a slider bar the administrator can access, from four levels of security. By doing this, the number of tasks the average user can perform, that do not prompt for administrator approval, have been increased. This has dramatically reduced those unwanted pop-up messages that ask you if you really want to do this.

Other items that have been improved include:

- Common tasks are easier and faster. For example, with the built-in Windows Search, finding documents is much quicker.

(Legible—continued from page 10)
inch, say 120 DPI. Go higher if needed. Evaluate the effect in normal use of your system.

In Windows Vista, Open Personalization by clicking the Start button, clicking Control Panel, clicking Appearance and Personalization, and then clicking Personalization. In the left pane, click Adjust font size (DPI). If you are prompted for an administrator password or confirmation, type the password or provide confirmation. In the DPI Scaling dialog box, increase the size of text and other items on the screen by clicking Larger scale (120 DPI)—make text more readable, and then click OK. You can use higher DPI settings to obtain still larger fonts and objects.

If we chose to scale up to 120 DPI on my laptop, then an inch would be 120 dots/pixels and a Windows inch on my screen would indeed be an

- Less power consumption through better sleep/hibernate support. This provides longer battery time for laptops.
- Improved built-in CD Burning and DVD creation. This includes the ability to burn ISO images.
- For those who are gamers, there is better 3D hardware accelerated graphics support through an updated DirectX.

A Windows backup program has been added that will do a complete image of a drive. This will allow for easy recovery should a computer have a complete hard drive failure.

The Problem Screen Recorder is a new feature in Windows 7. This allows you to capture and record the steps you are taking to produce a problem. Then you can email this file to a tech to explain the problem. It can also be used to generate a file with step-by-step pictures that can be edited so you can make a tutorial on how to use a program.

inch, restoring the size of items on my screen to that of a typical 96 DPI monitor. I should note that Internet Explorer 7 and 8 both have a zoom feature which will enlarge text and other items on a web page. This is a separate issue in some respects.

How big would that 10-point font be if you used a 64.5-inch diagonal HDTV with 1920 × 1080 native resolution with PC VGA input for your computer monitor? Calculate screen DPI: 34 DPI (calculate the number of pixels in the 64.5 inch diagonal for 1920 × 1080 pixel right triangle as we did above; divide that number of pixels by 64.5 inches). Simply looking at the ratio, the HDTV pixels would be 96/34 or 2.82 times larger than a 96 DPI monitor. So, a 10-point font might be around 0.13 inch × 2.82 = 0.36 inches high—over a third of an inch. And if you scaled up your Windows DPI setting to 200 DPI, you might get that 10-point font up to 0.8 inches high (over three quarters of

Overall, the new Windows system runs significantly quicker than Vista. It is also better equipped, with improved features and security functions.

Windows 7 is less demanding in terms of hardware than its predecessor, and has better support for hardware drivers than Vista was when it was released.

Overall I see many benefits to upgrading to the new version of Windows.

Yes, there is nothing outstanding that requires a user of Vista or XP to jump on the bandwagon and do the upgrade, but for those who are fed up with the problems Vista presents, and those who are worried that XP has been dropped from Microsoft's supported OS list, i.e. no more updates, Windows 7 seems to be a good choice.

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an inch high) on that 64.5 inch \$4,000 dollar HDTV computer monitor.

I have barely scratched the surface on this topic, but I hope I have said enough to give you some ideas about making things more visible on your computer screen without throwing away the high resolution of your monitor.

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