



MUG Monitor

Macon Users Group—Serving Southwestern North Carolina and Northeastern Georgia

Volume 17, Issue 4

www.maconusersgroup.org

May 2010

Next Meeting:

Grannie, Get Your Gun!

**Presented by
Lizz Russell**

**Macon Community
Facilities Building
May 11th, 7 PM**

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Tech Talk

by Lizz Russell

The computer-related inventions that people come up with are simply and endlessly amazing.

This month, researchers at North Carolina State University came up with a way of storing one billion pages of information on a one-square-inch chip. One billion pages!!! Wow, wow, and wow!!! That's an entire library in one square inch. They did this with crystal nanodots. These nanodots are extremely reliable, too. (Read more at tinyurl.com/2788j4g)

I also have amazing and encouraging news about a breakthrough in high speed internet. The folks from Bell Labs (Alcatel/Lucent) just figured out a way to get fiber optic transmission speed out of regular old copper phone wires—the wires that are already running to just about everyone's home. This is a major accomplishment! (Read more: tinyurl.com/3abgvj6.)

Last year, there was around 1 trillion dollars in reported internet-related theft, and that amount is continuously increasing. Organized crime is working the web, and their reach has become incredibly long.

There are very real victims of internet crimes right here in Macon County, and senior citizens are a favorite target, even though anyone is vulnerable.

The victims of these crimes are not stupid people, but they got scammed anyhow. The cons are so slick—so creepy—so clever, and you don't even have to own a computer to become a victim of computer-related crime.

In response, I have put together a presentation entitled, "Grannie, Get Your Gun!"

I do not want to watch anyone else having money and possessions stolen as a result of the criminals on the internet. I no longer want to see the crooks take what people have worked for their whole lives.

The deceptions are without boundaries. They will come to your door and tell you they are law enforcement or government officials. There are even people out there proposing marriage over the internet in order to steal.

Topics will include Identity Theft, Money Order scams, people who show up at your door after you have been profiled as a good target, Nigerian 941 scams, relationship scams, social networking scams, and much more, including online banking and stock market scams.

Please come—the money you save may be your own.

Lizz Russell offers On-Site Computer Services in Macon County, NC. Call (828) 342-0782, or visit her website, www.lizzzweb.com.

Grannie. Get Your Gun!

Protecting Yourself from Scams

**Presented by
Lizz Russell**

7 PM, May 11th

**Macon Users Group
Franklin, NC**

Please see the printed edition
for contact information

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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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**Password Protect
Your Account**

**by Kathy Frey, Webmaster, Computer Club
of Green Valley, AZ. gvcc.apcug.org**

If you password protect your account for your Windows operating system, then you should create a password reset disk. It takes very little time and is easy to do. In Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7, these first steps are the same.

1. Click Start
2. Click Control Panel
3. Click User Accounts

After you have the User Accounts window open, select the account for which you want to make the password reset disk. (Make a reset disk for each account.)

- In Windows XP, on the left under *Related Tasks*, click on *Prevent a forgotten password* to start the Forgotten Password Wizard, and then click *Next*. Follow the wizard. You can use either a floppy disk or a USB drive for the reset disk.
- In Windows Vista, on the left click on *Create a password reset disk*, then follow the wizard. The Password Reset Disk is essentially a small file that can be used to reset your password, even if you have changed your password since creating the reset disk.
- In Windows 7, click on *Create a password reset disk*. If no media is installed, you will get a message that indicates you need a removable media, such as a floppy disk or a flash drive. Otherwise the password reset wizard comes up, and you again will need to follow the screens.

After creating your reset disks, store them in a very safe place, since the information can be easily used by anyone to reset the password and gain access to your account.

There are other ways to change the passwords in all three operating systems, but the above is an easy and quick way to have that extra safety net in hand.

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Treasurer's Report

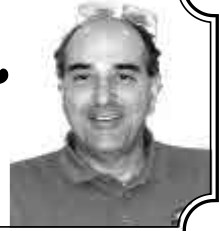
Lee Alexander

Balance forward (12/31/2009).....	1040.20
Income.....	22.00
Expense.....	(601.95)
Balance.....	\$460.25

Lou's Views!

The Supreme Court to go "Postal"

by Louis Vitale (aka 44RAILGUY)



The Supreme Court has been in the news recently when it struck down a law which banned "Animal Cruelty" videos. Most people were upset that the court was allowing these disgusting and very disturbing kinds of videos. Watching cats being crushed with high heels is obviously the pastime of very sick people. The actual video in the court case dealt with dog fighting and was very graphic. It did not matter that this video was a documentary whose point was the prevention of the very cruelty it depicted. It was disgusting and it should be stopped.

People of good will with the best of intentions pressured lawmakers to outlaw this animal pornography. The problem was and is that once such a law is on the books, its enforcement is not always in the hands of people of good will with the best of intentions; it becomes a weapon. Because the law was written so broadly, it could be used to ban any hunting video or any depiction of any animal in distress. It became the job of the local prosecutor to decide what we could and could not view. Since this is a political office and he (or she) must run for election, essentially the "voters" now decide who goes to jail. It was a badly written law.

But there was an even greater issue at stake, our first amendment right to free speech. In the USA, we have a right to see and view what we wish. Any proscription of that right must be very narrowly drawn. This is why we have a court system as an equal branch of government. Its job is to protect that right even from people with the best of intentions.

Now there is another case scheduled to be heard by the Supremes. It involves a video game, and it arose out of a California law banning the sale to minors of violent video games. "The California law slaps anyone who sells or rents a 'violent video game' to a minor with a \$1,000 fine. That was defined as a game in which the player has the option of 'killing, maiming, dismembering, or sexually assaulting an image of a human being' in offensive ways. Parents or guardians are still permitted to buy those games for minors.

"Although California's law doesn't target a specific game by name, government lawyers did single out *Post 2*, which allows players to go on murderous rampages, by name. And the Federal Trade Commission has previously targeted the makers of *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* for having sexually-explicit content."

As in the animal cruelty case, this law could ban any action game,

even ones used by the US Army as recruiting tools. It again depends on the interpretation of the local officials as to what is "killing...in an offensive way." So what is a non-offensive killing, an enemy in WWII or a drug dealer in LA? This is a ridiculous question and it will lead to ridiculous answers.

All the previous Supreme Court rulings on obscenity that have been limitations on free speech have always been in the context of sexual speech. This kind of law would "effect a sea change in the permissible regulation of all media—including books, movies, and television programs—that contain violent content and are accessible to minors."

If this law is allowed to stand, then we will be well on our way to a "nanny state" where politicians will have the right to determine what we can see and hear. Then going "Postal" will be the least of our problems.

Change—It Happens to All of Us

This will be the last printed copy of the *MUG Monitor*. From now on, the *MUG Monitor* will be available at maconusersgroup.org instead of being mailed. It can be opened with Adobe Acrobat Reader (or another PDF reader).

For the balance of 2010, our meetings will be every other month. After our May meeting, the next meeting will be on July 13th, and then a meeting in September, and one in November. No dues will be collected for the upcoming year. A decision will be made in the Fall of 2010 by

the MUG Board of Directors as to the club's activities in 2011.

There have been significant changes in the computer industry and in the way we use computers since our club was formed over 20 years ago. Those changes have made it increasing difficult to fulfill the purpose of our user group. I will have more to say about this in a later edition of *MUG Monitor*. For now, be assured that the officers and directors of MUG will provide you with the kind help and support you have come to expect from this club.

The Deals Guy

by Bob Click,
Greater Orlando Computer Users Group



We attended the 2010 FACUG Spring Conference cruise and it was well attended with about 250 registrants and a total of 350 attendees (considering the non-member spouses). I was not enthused about the ship and its food, but most liked it. This conference had the most sessions I've ever seen, and with very talented presenters. There were also some APCUG people doing breakout sessions. You made a tough decision almost every hour with four great sessions to choose from, especially when we wanted to spend time shopping at Nassau, Bahamas. There was a photo-shoot session done ashore by Bill Campbell, a professional photographer who has traveled worldwide and written books. Bill did other photo-related sessions. We didn't stop at Great Stirrup Cay (Norwegian's private island) because of windy conditions; they just made a very slow trip continuing on back to Miami.

Shopping in Nassau I found a polo shirt with a pocket (hard to find these days) that had "Nassau" on it, and we bought a few other souvenir items. We also visited the Gucci store for the experience. A beautiful women's purse was on sale for "only" \$3,500, marked down from \$5,000, but darn, I had accidentally left my plastic in our cabin safe. I was disappointed not to get it for her! Maybe it will still be on sale if we visit Nassau again (and we win the lottery).

I was surprised that Microsoft was not a sponsor. Only Corel joined us on the cruise, but *Smart Computing* sent lots of magazines. There were 33 breakout sessions during the Saturday and Sunday conference hours. The presentation "Technology of the Space Program"

by Jeff Fishkin (works for NASA) was extremely interesting and informative. Carey Holzman's keynote talk about computer security was outstanding and informative. Carey hosts a radio show about computers.

The ship's navigator gave a great talk and we learned about an unexpected weather problem the night before that most were not aware of. It seems a sudden storm came up and the ship quickly listed about six degrees before they could correct it, which is not a serious danger, but some bottles slid off the shelves in the liquor store. Good thing we were unaware or some of us might have been there with straws helping clean up the liquor store floor. He said they quickly used pumps to move water or fuel to the proper ballast tanks to correct the listing situation. Ten lucky people got a tour of the navigation room. Everyone enjoyed a Welcome Cocktail Party on Friday evening and a Farewell Cocktail Party Sunday evening, with door prizes. I had great conversations with people that I only see at that event. Some pictures are posted at www.facug.org.

I heard varying opinions about this event, but most sounded positive, even when they were originally against it. The pluses were no traveling from a hotel for events, vendors didn't need to buy attendees meals, and everything that went on was only a few steps away from your room. No sessions after 7PM meant you could take in shows, live music in the lounges, late night buffet parties, or other ship events. I saw the best musical show I have ever seen on any ship we've been on. I enjoyed the comedian the next night. The Cruise Director announced at the musical

show that 51 different countries were represented on that cruise, the most that ship ever had. Whenever my wife and I went to the buffet for a snack, we saw a few people with FACUG badges having snacks together and often meeting for the first time. All of us wearing badges were often asked what it was about, so we got a chance to promote user groups.

Next year's conference is already planned, but is in jeopardy because of very slow registrations, in spite of a positive survey taken after our return. I think it's too early in the year to start the registration, but maybe the cruise line will relent and give us more time to get the 100 registrations needed. It's a day longer and on a better ship. There will be no sessions next year during certain hours in Cozumel, Mexico.

Another users group gives up

I received a message from Dick Hiatt recently telling me that their San Diego Personal Computer User Group was disbanding. They have published the DealsGuy column for years and Dick has been the editor for years. Their membership was at an all time low and so was their meeting attendance. I didn't ask when I called him, but I assume that, like most groups, the officers have all held their jobs for years. Their final meeting will be sort of a party without smiles, but most of the active members are likely to affiliate with other computer related groups in the area. In their good times, they had about 200 members. With all of the help for computer users, and the great camaraderie, it's hard to think that user groups are becoming an endangered species.

(see ***Deals Guy*** on page 5)

(Deals Guy—continued from page 4)

Diskeeper Introduces An Update

Most of you are familiar with the Diskeeper and Undelete products (www.diskeeper.com) and their great performance capability. Diskeeper Corporation has introduced an update. Diskeeper features a breakthrough technology called IntelliWrite that prevents the vast majority (up to 95%) of fragmentation from ever occurring. InvisiTasking technology is an important breakthrough that allows processes running in the background to run invisibly with zero conflicts. They say the Titan Defragging technology is about the strongest ever built, and the Terabyte Volume Engine technology rapidly defrags multi-terabyte volumes. (DealsGuy comment: check tinyurl.com/34b6twb to better understand that statement.)

They say that Boot-Time defragmentation defrags and consolidates directories to improve application speed, eliminating slows, hangs, and crashes. Defragmentation during boot-time handles those files that cannot be moved while the system is active. All Diskeeper 2010 editions are fully compatible with Windows 7 (Home Edition is not compatible with Windows 7 Enterprise). Registered users receive full 90-day telephone tech support and special upgrade pricing. I found that Diskeeper works fast and efficiently. There's more, but I don't have room for every feature here.

Undelete 2009 is not updated, but is a fascinating product. It protects files that the Windows recycle bin and backup systems miss: The following is from their website, but I'm not sure if it all pertains to the Home version as well.

“Undelete 2009 with InvisiTasking to the Rescue

“Undelete replaces the Windows recycle bin with a catch-all Recovery Bin™ that intercepts all deleted files, no matter how they were deleted. Lost file? No problem! Use the Recovery Bin's Windows Explorer-

like interface to navigate to the file, or take advantage of Undelete's powerful search capabilities. Right-click the file, select Recover, and the file is back. The Microsoft Office Version Protection functionality can even restore your earlier, saved over versions of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) files.

“Undelete includes Emergency Undelete, which can recover files deleted before Undelete was installed; provided they haven't been overwritten on your hard drive, and Secure-Delete 2.0, an electronic shredder to completely erase confidential files.

“Innovative Set It and Forget It™ features and technology (InvisiTasking) guarantee that new Undelete 2009 will safeguard your computer silently and automatically.” There's more, but I don't have room. Here are some special offers for a limited time:

Diskeeper 2010 Home 2-pack \$49.95 (Save \$30), tinyurl.com/2bzxens.

Diskeeper 2010 Professional 2-pack \$99.95 (Save \$20), tinyurl.com/27m86jw.

Diskeeper 2010 Pro Premier 2-pack \$169.95 (Save \$30), tinyurl.com/2czu84m.

Undelete 2009 Home and Diskeeper 2010 Home bundle \$49.95 (Save \$20), tinyurl.com/2gyl3ps.

How About A Smart Uninstaller!

A guy was telling me about his favorite uninstall software called Zsoft Uninstaller. I don't think it's an exclusive feature, but it has a way to keep track of any changes on your hard drive when you install a new program. If you don't like the new program, Zsoft can completely remove it even if there is no uninstall tool included. Prior to installing a new program, Zsoft will make some type of hard drive image to use as a reference if it has to uninstall that software. I have not tried Zsoft, but it sounds like it has a good concept and it's free; however, as with most freeware, they accept donations if you

like it. Check it out at www.zsoft.dk/index/software.

PGA Tradeshow

We've been working a few trade shows and I always find them interesting. I work an assigned post these days, usually on a loading dock, and can't look things over unless we go in early, which I rarely do. However, occasionally during the show setup days, I get to visit with a few exhibitors, whose booth is located near my dock, as they go outside for a smoke. Other times, I only get to see the setup contractors who are assembling booths.

The PGA (Pro Golfer Association) show in January was smaller this year, yet well attended. Attendance was about 30,000. There was a booth near my post that sells a unique device that calculates data to improve a golfer's swing. They call it the Game Changer, or the GC2. It doesn't look like much because it's a small electronic device. It's a bit large for your jacket pocket, but fits easily in your golf bag. The device opens up and you place it on the turf off to the side of your golf tee so it can photograph your swing. It has two cameras in it a few inches apart and when you make your drive, both cameras snap a picture, and then almost instantly, the device calculates all kinds of data pertaining to your drive, consisting of your launch angles, speed, spin and much more.

When I watched the guy in the booth drive the ball up against a curtain, I saw the flash of the cameras, and in a few seconds, an entire screen of data was quickly displayed including a heavy line designating exactly where the drive would travel and land. They had it connected to a 42" plasma TV in the booth to display the data, but it could be hooked up to a variety of handheld smart-devices via Bluetooth. It has a USB output enabling the data to be used by various customized applications. The GC2 also has speakers to announce the data if you prefer.

(Deals Guy—continued from page 5)

If this gadget fascinates you, check their website at www.foresightsports.com for more information and a picture of the GC2. If you are an enthusiastic golfer and feel this item might help you, why not pop for the six grand and buy it for yourself for Christmas, birthday, Father's Day, or any other occasion that you can think of. After all, don't you deserve it? Some guys might buy their wife one for Christmas, and then borrow it.

I saw another interesting item, although much less expensive, for improving your swing. It's a specially designed club that helps to find out what's wrong with your swing, and can be used either inside or outside. I watched guys take a nice swing and the ball simply flipped up in the air and dropped behind them because they didn't swing right. Others did better. I didn't understand what was going on, but you can visit www.slingergolf.com. Priced at \$89.95, this must be for the blue-collar golfers.

I also saw a guy walking along with a three-wheeled electric golf caddy trailing behind him and when he stopped, the caddy stopped, then when he went on, it followed. He said it was a prototype. I loved that one, but show management showed up and told him to please keep the machine in his booth, so I didn't see him again. I'm sorry I didn't get any information from the guy. There were many booths with electrically operated golf-bag carts so it was easy to miss.

Bat-Caddy had an electric golf caddy selling for \$590 and was manually controlled. They also had a model you could run with a remote for \$995. Their website is www.batcaddy.com. When finishing this column, I noticed they had special deals on their website that ended April 30, 2010, but why not check for deals when you read this just in case they have another deal. Would an electric caddy mean "going green?"

Ready For A Different Way To Hold A Conference?

The FACUG 2011 Spring Conference Cruise is shaping up gradually, but surely. The deadline has been extended to June 30, 2010 so it's not too late to sign up. People are slow to register, but the last I heard, 180 were signed on. There are no special restrictions for who can sign up, but one person from each cabin must register for the conference and be a user group member. You can check it out on the FACUG website, www.facug.org. Looking at the 2011 FACUG cruise, you can't go wrong with such great people leading the sessions. Looks like all fees and taxes are included in the prices, but look it over for other incentives. I believe no cruise will be planned for 2012 because not everybody wants it done on a cruise ship and it is a problem for an individual attendee.

I Tried To Refurbish My Computer With A Software Product

My computer is not acting very normal so I decided to try Reimage Repair to see what it could do. I read Ira Wilsker's favorable review of Reimage, and it's also listed on the Windows Secrets Newsletter, which I respect, so I downloaded it when they offered a discount to see if it would improve my computer's performance. My experience hasn't worked well as yet. I had to try four times before it would finish, and it never did actually finish as it should have. Only one of my problems was helped so far. I sent them a message asking for suggestions via email and they responded that I should try the repair with the machine in "Safe Mode." I tried to do that, but while in safe mode I am unable to connect to the internet, and it won't work that way. I sent another message stating my problem and they are suggesting a remote control session. I need to set up a time to do that so I am in the process of arranging it.

Take A Look At Specials From Your Favorite Vendor

I sometimes get an announcement from Corel, but the discount usually

expires before you editors could get it published for your members since I write this column two months in advance. However, here is an announcement for some full products and upgrades that I just received, and I have no idea what the deadline is. Hopefully you can beat it if there's something you need.

For CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X5: The full version price seems is \$49.90, but the upgrade price is \$19.90 less than the regular price.

For Corel DESIGNER Technical Suite X4: The full version price is \$100 below the regular price and the upgrade price is the same as the regular price.

For WordPerfect Office X5 Standard: The full version and upgrade prices are \$25 below the regular price.

For WordPerfect Office X5 Professional: The full version price is \$25 less than the regular price and the upgrade version is \$21 below the regular price.

For Photo & Video Bundle: The price is \$6.50 below the regular price, but there seems to be differences in the bundle contents e.g. X2 in yours vs. X3 in the regular version.

Corel has always been a favorite with user groups. Here are some URLs to check for better information and additional products. Hopefully you can find all the information you need to make a decision: tinyurl.com/2ctdybs, tinyurl.com/23tyysw and www.corel.com. Check for additional information and comparisons. There are differences in the pages, so do your homework. To order by phone, call (877) 502-6735 and use promo code 4212 (Mon-Fri, 9am to 7pm EST).

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.

iPad Shoppers Beware!

by Gregory West, Member of Computers Operators of Marysville and Port Huron (C.O.M.P.), Michigan, www.bwcomp.org

If you are bent on getting an iPad, don't read any further. However, if you are trying to decide between buying a laptop and an iPad, this article is for you.

I like my laptop because I can load any software, and connect any device, such as a digital camera, memory stick and backup drives, by USB connections. I like the idea of being able to load free software from any company or source and not be restricted to one company, such as Apple.

"Your computer should be yours to control," said Peter Brown, the Free Software Foundation's executive director. "By imposing such restrictions on users, Steve Jobs (APPLE CEO) is building a legacy that endangers our freedom for his profits (The Microsoft Blog)."

For me, choosing a laptop is simple: Macbook. I run Windows XP and Windows 7 on my Mac laptop without a glitch. Of course there are many other laptops, notebooks and netbooks that work great, too, and all of them give you the opportunity to install third party applications, many at no cost.

The iPad has landed in North America and is creating huge hype. Rightfully so! It is a wonderful device, allowing for various functions. According to Wikipedia, the iPad "is part of a device category between a smartphone and a laptop computer." This may be true, but it is not close to my Macbook laptop, not by a long shot.

For starters, the hard drive is only 16 to 64 gigabytes (GB) of flash memory (a technology that is primarily used in camera memory

cards). My laptop is 250 GB, with a one-terabyte hard drive connected by USB. I now have a grand total of 1274 GB of hard drive space. Very different from 16 to 64 GB on the iPad.

The iPad's 9.7-inch screen has a low-end resolution of 1024x768. What this tech talk means is that the iPad will not support HDMI video, which many have come to love. With high definition all the rage... why go back to a lesser screen resolution? This does not make sense.

Other features lacking in the iPad are: no camera, no webcam, no multitasking, no drag-and-drop file management, no USB port, no SD slot, no Flash, no HDMI out, no 1080p playback, and no native widescreen. Are



we going backwards here? In 2005 it was "the Year of High Definition Video," according to cnet.com. How come the iPad lacks these features?

Many are saying the iPad has its neat functions and is aesthetically appealing. Just make sure you are getting the exact features you require in any tech device.

Do your homework on this one.

Gregory West is a Mac Instructor for Lambton College in Ontario, Canada. He is also Webmaster at Central United Church, the home of the new COMMUNITY Computer Room at: central-united-church.org/news. This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author at prospector16@gmail.com.



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Broadsides

by Ron Broadhurst, Member of the Space Coast PC Users Group, Inc., Florida,
www.scpcug.com, February 2010, The Space Coast PC Journal

Dear friends: These ideas are compiled from years of accumulations from various magazines, books, online sites and my own personal experience. I claim neither originality nor ownership to any of its contents. My only intent is to share the various tips, tricks & hints in hopes of helping & maybe enhancing your computing experiences. They are all intended for anyone who uses a PC. It is for beginners as well as advanced users. Enjoy and use as you will.

Defragmentation Explained

Fragmentation is caused by creating and deleting files and folders, installing new software, and downloading files from the Internet. Computers do not necessarily save an entire file or folder in a single space on a disk; they're saved in the first available space. After a large portion of a disk has been used, most of the subsequent files and folders are saved in pieces across the volume.

When you delete files or folders, the empty spaces left behind are filled in randomly as you store new ones. This is how fragmentation occurs. The more fragmented the volume is, the slower the computer's file input and output performance will be, and there will be significant degradation in performance.

Defragmentation is the process of rewriting non-contiguous parts of a file to contiguous sectors on a disk for the purpose of increasing data access and retrieval speeds. Because FAT and NTFS disks can deteriorate and become badly fragmented over time, defragmentation is vital for optimal system performance.

In June 1999, ABR Corporation of Irvine, California, performed a fragmentation analysis and found that out

of 100 corporate offices that were not using a defragmenter, 50 percent of the respondents had server files with 2,000 to 10,000 fragments. In all cases, the results were the same: Servers and workstations experienced a significant degradation in performance.

Can't Use The XP Theme

The most probable reason for this is that the Themes service isn't running. If it's not running, XP reverts to the classic style. Do this:

- 1 Click Start | Run and type *services.msc* to open the Services console.
- 2 In the right pane, find the Themes service and Click the *Start Service* button.

If that doesn't work, try this: right click My Computer | Properties. In the *System Properties* dialog box, click the *Advanced* tab. Under *Performance*, click *Settings*.

Click the *Visual Effects* tab. Select "Use Visual Styles on Windows and Buttons" in the *Custom* box.

How to Set XP to Display the Shutdown Menu When You Press the Power Button

By default, when you press your computer's power button, the system shuts down. That can be a problem if it sometimes gets pressed accidentally. You can configure XP to instead display the shutdown menu, giving you the option to choose whether to shut down, restart, etc. Here's how:

- 1 Right click an empty spot on the desktop
- 2 Select *Properties*
- 3 In the display properties dialog box, click the *Screen Saver* tab

- 4 Near the bottom of the dialog box, click the *Power* button
- 5 In the *Power Options Properties* dialog box, click the *Advanced* tab
- 6 At the bottom of the page, under "When I press the power button on my computer," select "Ask me what to do."

Fix Virtual Memory

You receive the following error message: Your system is low on virtual memory. To ensure that Windows runs properly, increase the size of your virtual memory paging file.

- 1 Click *Start*, right-click *My Computer*, and then click *Properties*.
- 2 In the *System Properties* dialog box, click the *Advanced* tab.
- 3 In the *Performance* pane, click *Settings*.
- 4 In the *Performance Options* dialog box, click the *Advanced* tab.
- 5 In the *Virtual memory* pane, click *Change*.
- 6 Change the *Initial size* value and the *Maximum size* value to a higher value, click *Set*, and then click *OK*.

Click *OK* to close the *Performance Options* dialog box, and then click *OK* to close the *System Properties* dialog box

How To Remove XP Service Pack 3

There are a couple of ways to do it. The easiest is to use the Add/Remove Programs item in

(see *Broadsides* on page 9)

Convert a PDF File to a Text File

by Sr. Dorothy Robinson, Newsletter Editor, The OMUG News,
Olympia Microcomputer User Group, Washington, oly mug.org

Have you been wishing you had a piece of software that would convert PDF files to text files that you can edit? And maybe also didn't cost an arm and a leg?

BCL Technologies has such software called easyConverter Desktop that costs about \$20. That sounds like a good buy to me. But it only works with Windows (2000, XP, Vista and Win 7). So that leaves a lot of people, namely Linux users, out in the cold.

The good news is that BCL also has a free, online utility that does the same thing. And your operating system doesn't come into it. Open your browser and go to

(BroadSides —continued from page 8)

Control Panel, but if that doesn't work, try this:

- 1 Click Start | Run
- 2 Type C:\windows\
\$NtServicePackUninstall\$\
spuninst.exe
- 3 Click OK
- 4 This should start the Service Pack 3 Removal Wizard, which walks you through the steps of uninstalling the SP.

If these methods don't work, first restart the computer and then use System Restore to roll back to a restore point that was prior to the time you installed the service pack (this will also undo any other changes that you've made since that time).

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pdfonline.com/pdf2word/ and take a look.

On the left side, under a header that says *Convert PDF to Word for Free*, you'll see a place to browse your computer and select a file. Note that there is no need to provide your email address, since you'll just download the file directly.

Find your file and double-click it (or click once then click Open), then click the Upload and Convert button. Press it *only once*, and wait; larger files may take a while to upload. The conversion is pretty fast, under a minute for the one or two page files I tried. There is a 2 MB limit on uploads, so really big files won't work.

This part is where, if you wanted to do a lot of files, or large ones, it would be great to have an application on your computer to do it—thus eliminating the time to upload.

The next step is downloading the text file. I'm not sure why the instructions say to Right Click on the link to download the file, because for me, at least, it didn't work. I **Left** Clicked instead, and the download dialog opened.

You'll see that the file is a rich text file (.RTF or .rtf) which can easily be opened by Word, OpenOffice Writer, Abiword, or other word processors or text editors and be available for editing. When you save it you can save it as a .doc if you like.

The dialog asks, *What should (your browser) do with this file?* The first choice is to open the file with the default application (mine showed

OpenOffice) or you can choose another from a drop-down list. The second choice is to save the file, and if you choose *Save the file*, your download manager will save it to the default location—or you might get a *Save as* dialog and choose where to save it. One caution: opening the file directly rather than downloading it got me a Read-Only file, which of course I couldn't edit. So for editing purposes, save the file before opening.

Make your choice by clicking a radio button, then click OK. You now have a text file you can edit. And the quality is very nice, too—for **mostly text** documents. I tried a PDF file that I had originally created in OpenOffice Writer which contained a calendar in a table. The results were not pretty! And for a postal PDF which was a requisition form using tables, the results were somewhat better but still unusable since the tables overlapped, hiding some of the text.

On the other hand, I made a list of data (several rows and columns) in an OpenOffice spreadsheet, exported it to PDF, then uploaded it and converted it. When I downloaded this file, it was perfect—and perfectly editable.

For me, using Ubuntu Linux, this free, online version is a good thing. Windows users have a choice of the web version or the computer application. And pdf2word gives the best results I've seen for this kind of web application.

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Eliminating Obsolete Windows Device Drivers

by Vinny La Bash, Regular Contributor,
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Device drivers are programs that are designed to control (drive) specific types of hardware (devices) that are attached to your computer. These devices can be attached through wires, or by wireless connections. No matter how the device is attached, you need a program to tell it how to interact with the computer. An operating system, such as Windows, comes with myriads of device drivers built into it, so when you bring your new computer home, attach your printers, external drives, etc., most of them work fine.

The caveat is that drivers are hardware dependent and operating system specific, so your external CD-ROM, which worked flawlessly under Vista, may not work with Windows 7 until you install an updated device driver designed for the new OS.

Every operating system directs device drivers to communicate with their devices through the computer bus or a communications subsystem. It is a process which is largely invisible to those trying to get work done on the computer, much like the internal workings of an automobile are largely invisible to a driver trying to get from home to the grocery store.

The invisibility of device drivers is a good thing when everything is working smoothly, but it tends to hinder troubleshooting when trying to track down the cause of a problem. When you upgrade or change hardware, Windows doesn't usually delete the old device drivers. Sometimes these obsolete programs can cause hardware conflicts. Seemingly unrelated quirky behavior on the part of the computer can often be traced to a no-longer-used device driver.

Resolving device driver problems in Windows can be difficult. In this article we're going to focus on finding outdated device drivers and eliminating them from your system.

Manually searching for device drivers on a Windows system can be frustrating, time-consuming, and mostly a waste of effort. Conveniently for us, Microsoft has provided a way to locate unused device drivers and remove them.

The directions herein are designed specifically for Windows 7, but the general process will work for Vista and XP. There are slight variations in the process with each of the operating systems; just be careful when reading each screen. Let's get on with it.

The Device Manager as it comes from Microsoft is not set up to display device drivers that are no longer being used. The Device Manager has to be configured to show obsolete drivers so we can remove them. You need to add something called a special Windows Environment Variable. This is a text string that contains a path, file name or drive. Programmers refer to this as a system property. We don't really care what they call it as long as it works.

- 1 From the **Start Menu**, right-click on **Computer**.
- 2 Select **Properties** at the bottom of the list.
- 3 From the **System** window, select **Advanced** system settings.
- 4 From the **System Properties** dialog box, select the **Environment Variables** button. (See illustration)

5 The **Environment Variables** dialog box contains two panels, **User variables** and **System variables**.

6 Click the **New...** button.

7 In the **New System Variable** dialog box, type `devmgr_show_nonpresent_devices`

8 Type 1 in the **Variable Value** text box.

9 Close all the dialog boxes.

In most cases, there is no need to restart the system. Let's test the results of our labor.

- 1 Access the **Start Menu**.
- 2 Right-click **Computer**.
- 3 Select **Manage**.
- 4 When the **Computer Management** window appears, select **Device Manager**.
- 5 Open the **View** menu and select **Show Hidden Devices**.

From now on, whenever you open a branch within the Device Manager tree structure and device icons are "grayed out" or appear faded, these are the unused drivers. You can safely delete them. Whenever you add, remove or change your hardware configuration, always check for leftover drivers and avoid problems.

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WUBI? What the Heck is a WUBI?

by Jim McKnight, Director, Los Angeles Computer Society, CA, www.lacspc.org

The Windows-based Ubuntu Installer (WUBI) is a program that allows you to install and remove Ubuntu-Linux from within Microsoft Windows (98, 2000, XP, Vista, or Windows 7).

WUBI automatically creates a dual-boot option that lets a Microsoft Windows user try Ubuntu without risking any data loss due to disk formatting or partitioning. Normally, installing Ubuntu or any version of Linux on a system that is also running Windows is intimidating and very risky. Total failure to boot Windows is a common result.

WUBI to the rescue: The WUBI installer is now included on every Ubuntu Live CD and easily installs Ubuntu *inside* of Windows (all versions), and in the same partition (drive letter) as Windows, if you like. The install process is like any other program installed in Windows. Installing this way is soooooo easy. Also, when you want to remove Ubuntu, you just go to Add/Remove Programs and remove it like any other program running under Windows.

Dual-boot: After the installation, a new (dual) boot option screen appears right after power up, allowing you to select whether you want to run either Windows stand-alone or Ubuntu standalone.

Wow, what a great way to play with Linux/Ubuntu without the hassle of partitioning the hard drive and dealing with those messy dual-boot managers like GRUB or

GAG. Yuck (Yes, those are real acronyms. Not the Yuck. It just means yuck).

To start the process, you need an Ubuntu Live (Install) CD that you or a friend has downloaded and burned. You can also go to the Ubuntu website and have them mail you a free CD (10 weeks).

To install Ubuntu using WUBI, just insert the "Ubuntu Install CD" while Windows is running. Do not boot the CD. The CD should start. If not, go to My Computer, open the CD and click on wubi.exe. When you see the opening window, simply select "Install Inside Windows." After that, you answer a few questions about what drive letter, and how much drive space you want to allow for Ubuntu. That's it!

I have tried this under XP and Windows 7 and it is flawless.

Notes:

- Hibernation is not supported when installing Ubuntu via WUBI (for either Windows or Ubuntu).
- Follow these links for detailed WUBI operating instructions: wiki.ubuntu.com/WubiGuide and help.ubuntu.com/community/Wubi.
- Ubuntu 32-bit can run under Windows 32-bit or Windows 64-bit.

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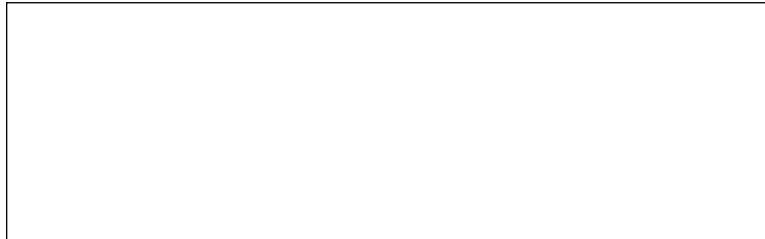
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