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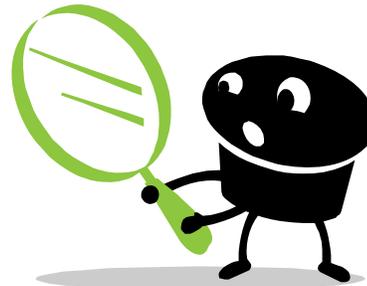
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Searching — Or Better Still, Finding

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June 2011 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor
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Now where did I store that list of DVDs? I could have named it “DVD List” or “Movie List” or “DVD Inventory”, but I’m not sure. This is the situation I used to find myself in quite frequently when I have a hardcopy of something that I hadn’t used in awhile and want to change, but don’t remember where I stored the file on the computer. This problem can be solved in a few ways. An obvious one is to include, somewhere on the hardcopy, the name of the file and where it is located, like *D:/MyInfo/HomeInfo/Inventory/DVDList.xls*. Now if you have a hardcopy you can always find the file on the D: drive. But this solution doesn’t help if you have discarded or lost the hardcopy. So, thank goodness for Search Utilities.

Windows XP had a simple search utility that could be found by clicking the Start button and then selecting “Search” in the list on the right side of the menu. Once there, you could select “All files and folders”, where you could input “All or part of the file name:”, then select the Drive(s) you wanted searched, and finally

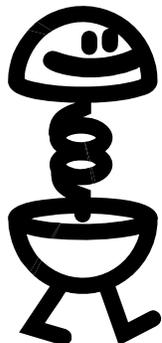


select “Search”. As files and folders matched the search criteria, they are displayed on the right side of the window for review. If something is familiar, you can double-click it and inspect it further. More often than not, this process finds whatever was forgotten, lost or misplaced.

That was how it was. Now that I have upgraded to Windows 7, when I select the Start Circle (or Start Orb), immediately right above the Circle, I get a search box that suggests “Search programs and files”. When I input a word, like “list”, I immediately get results. So far, I have never gotten any results that I can use. (This may be because I have not set up “Indexing” correctly, or maybe I’m missing something.) So, although I am very pleased with Windows 7, I have not been able to find lost files as easily as I could with XP. (No, this is not, at all, a reason to stay with XP.)

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Discovering Windows 7 – Part 21

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How closely have you looked at the Windows Start Menu? As you know the Start Menu is the primary method Windows uses for starting programs, finding files and running utilities. Most people, however, aren't aware of how much you can change its appearance and functions to customize it match your needs and whims.

To change the Start Menu, begin by right-clicking on the Windows Start button and then left click on Properties. When the "Taskbar and Start Menu Properties" window opens see Figure 1), click on the "Start Menu" tab. As usual, Microsoft provides help near the bottom of the screen. Just click on "How do I change the way the Start menu looks?" Note the button next to "Power button action." Unlike previous versions of Windows, when you select the "Shut Down" button, Windows will let you actually turn off your computer without the need to click on additional buttons. By clicking on this menu option you can change the default Power Button action to Restart, Hibernate, Sleep, Switch User, Logoff or Lock. Continuing down the menu window, under the "Privacy" heading, you can also change options for displaying recently opened programs on the Start menu and the Taskbar.

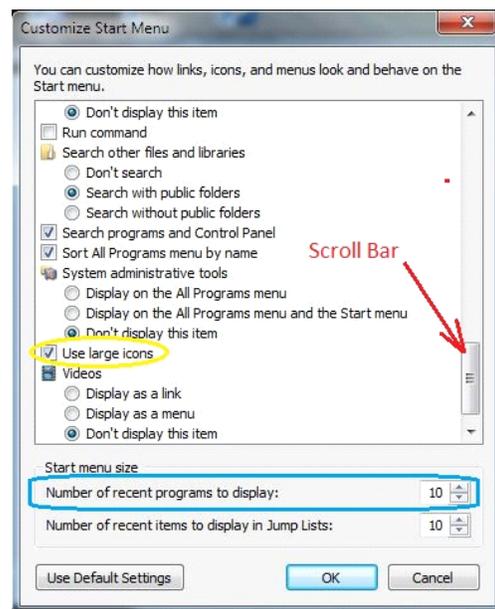
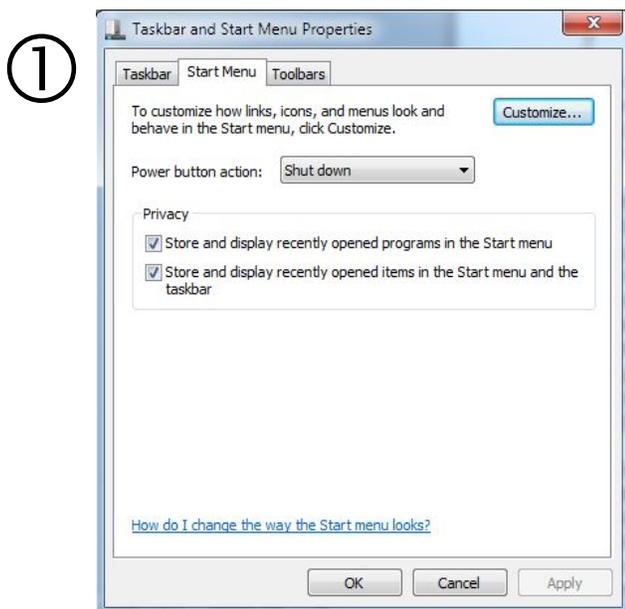
Below "Power button action" we see a heading labeled "Privacy." Here we have an option to store and display recently opened programs on the Start menu as well as an option to store and display recently opened "items." In this case, items refers to picture and various types of document files that you opened by programs listed in the Start menu.

Near the top of the Start menu is a "Customize" button. If you click on it, you will see the "Customize Start Menu" (Figure 2). This menu contains a lot of information. You'll see options relating to the Control Panel, Printers, Downloads, Menus and many others.

Pull down the scroll bar on the right side of the menu until you see "Use large icons" (marked in yellow). Try checking and unchecking the box next to it to see how it changes the appearance of your Start Menu.

Notice that you can also change the number of recent run programs (circled in blue) that are listed in

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Safe Mode

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Windows Safe Mode available in Win 95, 98, ME, 2000, XP, Vista, Win 7 allows you oftentimes to boot up Windows when you can not normally run Windows at all.

For example, if you can't run Windows at all, upon boot up, press F8 to get Windows to boot in the Safe Mode. In Safe Mode just the essential programs and files are loaded; this allows you to remove some spyware, adware, and viruses that cannot be removed in Normal Mode.

For example one of our office networked computers last week picked up a virus type program that would not allow XP to run at all! Every time an .EXE file needed to run, nothing would happen. Click on any icon to run, nothing would happen. The system was completely dysfunctional in the Normal Mode. Nothing would run at all!

Not wasting time in Google, or the listed "miracle ways" of solving this "sneak attack" by all the "virus

(Continued from page 2)

the left pane of the Start Menu. Depending upon the size of your computer's display, you can list up to 30 programs.

As the list of programs in the Start Menu gets longer it may get more difficult to find the program you want. Click on the box next to "Sort All Programs menu by name" to make it easier to find what you are looking for.

Note, if you get too carried away experimenting with these options and make a mess of things, there is a button at the bottom of the menu to return everything to Microsoft's default settings. <S>

experts" and their companies which are often really tiresome to read in all their verbosity. I just booted up by pressing F8, went into the XP Safe Mode. In the Safe Mode the anticipated programs ran fine, and at that point, I ran my Malware Bytes program which did not respond or run in the Normal Mode, but in this Safe Mode, Malware Bytes ran fine and picked up the Hijack.exe virus and quarantined it! I then rebooted the computer normally and everything ran fine again! (Not sure of the System Restore points in this instance, I elected not to use System Restore to save current essential data, and only ran the current Malware Bytes).

No special programs to download, no special techniques to use, no mystifying and complicated definitions to comprehend. Just use your computer and programs in Safe Mode. Pragmatically it is that simple!

In another instance I had an old Sony VIAO laptop that would boot up, and you would see the Desktop, and the whole screen would be frozen making the laptop really unusable. In this instance, I booted up in Safe Mode as I explained above, and removed a corrupt startup program that was in the Start Up folder. And now the whole laptop runs like new!

Problems, let's not over-complicate, or get excited, or look at the long faluten' explanations that most people love to hear from the mouths of virus experts. Just PRESS F8 and get into the Safe Mode! Use this simple procedure in a simple way, and your computing life will be much easier!!



Crime and Conflict Over the Internet

By Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA

October 2011 issue, Drive Light www.uchug.org president (at) uchug.org

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Recently my family and I were in Las Vegas and while we were there, another hacking incident hit the news. Zappos.com, an online shoe and clothing retailer, announced that they had been the victim of a cyber-attack. Being based in nearby Henderson, the reports on this company that I was previously unaware of (you can imagine how much online shoe buying I do) dominated the Las Vegas local news. Customer address, phone and email information had been stolen, but fortunately credit card info and account passwords remained secure.

This was just one more incident in an increasing trend of crime and conflict conducted over the Internet.

Reports of hacked computers and stolen commercial data have become commonplace. The Internet appears to be a prime medium for crime, with organized crime elements taking advantage of the easy access and anonymity. I've so far avoided being part of one of these data thefts from a major company that I've entrusted with some of my personal information, but it is probably just a matter of time until I'm a victim too. I'm also under siege on a smaller scale, receiving several scam emails every day. Most are such obvious scams that I almost have to laugh. Is the head of the FBI or Secretary of State Hillary Clinton really going to email me about claiming foreign funds I previously knew nothing about? I have seen some pretty realistic emails from banks (mostly ones I don't do business with, but a few that I do), advising me to click on a link to avoid a loss of account access. A little restraint and outside research show even the most polished of these to be fakes intended to trick you out of personal information or plant malware on your computer.

The worst of these online scams try to use your own friends and family to trick you into lowering your guard. I recently received an unsolicited email from my sister, which was also addressed to a number of other family members. It contained only a vague greeting and a link. I recognized it as a scam, but my wife did not.

Fortunately, it appears the link only led to a Viagra-peddling website, as repeated cleanings of her computer turned up no malware. It appears that someone gained access to my sister's email account and used it to send this message to everyone in her email address book. After receiving this sham email herself at work, she changed her email account password and sent a warning out to all her contacts. That showed good web etiquette. I receive similar emails periodically from a friend's account, but he never responds to my warnings about his email account being hijacked. If you lose control of an email account in this way, at least let the provider know so the account can be closed. If you simply abandon the compromised account, you'll likely leave a zombie account out there to continue pestering your friends.

In addition to the criminal element, the political conflicts of our world are starting to creep into the Internet.

While electronic personal communications can play a positive role in exposing repression around the world, and can be a tool for change towards more open and free political systems, the access to information can also be a weapon. Enemies of our country and way of life hack our government and commercial web sites to steal information and deny legitimate access. Our businesses and institutions may be under attack through the Internet by factions related to or agents of China, Russia or our middle-eastern adversaries. Our own government has formed cyber warfare elements and acknowledges that future battles may include skirmishes in cyberspace. It is speculated that the Stuxnet worm, which appears to have targeted uranium processing facilities in Iran, may have been the product of U.S. or Israeli intelligence agencies. Palestinian hackers steal and release account information from banks and institutions in Israel, leading some in Israel to do the same with information on Palestinians.

Where will all this lead? I'd hate to see the "Information Superhighway" that was supposed to be our free and open Internet turned into the electronic equivalent of the highways in "Mad Max", where danger lurks everywhere and lawlessness abounds.

And speaking of laws on the Internet, we have recently witnessed online protests over U.S. Internet piracy legislation. A number of prominent web sites, including Google and Wikipedia, conducted partial shut-downs or redirections to protest pending legislation and solicit support from their users. The Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and Protect IP Act (PIPA) are bills under consideration by the U.S. Congress to protect intellectual property. Opponents claim the proposed legislation would harm free speech and reduce technical innovation on the web. I acknowledge online piracy is a problem, but also don't want a solution at the expense of an open Internet. Hopefully our own government won't soon be in the censoring business. We all have an interest in how this issue is resolved.

With all this conflict on and over the web, it makes me wonder if I'm taking all the reasonable measures I can to protect myself and my assets as I use the Internet. It is sometimes difficult to determine where "reasonable" fits in between "it won't happen to me" and a bunker mentality. As I've moved my finances and shopping online, I've realized I've become more dependent on the Internet. By conducting all my banking activities, including bill payment and monitoring of accounts, on the web, I hope I've not made myself more vulnerable in the process. Am I safer not having bank statements mailed to me, or am I now more open to theft by hacking or scams? How would I access my money in a web-only bank account if the Internet should for some reason go down? It is great to be able to surf where I want, but does that surfing potentially expose me to malware that could capture my account information when I bank with the same computer? Is it paranoid to consider using a separate computer for banking and another for other web access?

It is exciting to think that the whole world can be accessed through that little RJ-45 Ethernet jack on your cable or DSL modem. It should also be sobering to consider that the whole world could be there in that connection.

Tablets of Clay

The crooks are not only after us on the Internet, but also in our electronics stores. Over this last Christmas, a number of iPad purchasers got the wrong kind of tablet. In Canada, a number of customers that purchased iPads at reputable stores like Best Buy and Walmart later found the box contained not a tablet PC but a slab of modeling clay. In perhaps more than a dozen reported cases, it appears crooks purchased iPads at these stores with cash, replaced the items in the box with the same weight in clay and expertly resealed the boxes. The boxes were returned to the stores for refunds, and since they appeared to be unopened, they were replaced on the shelves to be purchased by unsuspecting customers. The first customer discovering this switch was thought to be a scammer by the store, but after additional cases were discovered, he was reimbursed and given an iPad.



Copyrights, Internet Create A Difficult Conflict

By Toby Scott, Technical Advisor, Channel Islands PCUG, CA

February 2012 issue, The Outer Edge www.cipcug.org [tscott \(at\) scotts.net](mailto:tscott@scotts.net)

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Now that the Stop Online Piracy Act and Protect IP Act (SOPA/PIPA) have been defeated, it is time to look at the dynamics of the conflict between copyright holders and Internet hosts.

If a publisher creates a book, you can do pretty much whatever you want to with it. You cannot, however, photocopy it and then sell the copies. This isn't much of a restriction as it is time consuming and expensive in paper and ink to make the copies and in almost all cases it is far easier to just buy another copy from the copyright holder. This has long been a precept of U.S. law.

Things changed with the advent of the Internet. Now, you can copy nearly anything and distribute it for nothing.

Copyright holders are justifiably irked that the sale of one copy of a work can result in the work being distributed to hundreds, thousands or even millions. What makes it even Worse is that in most cases the people making the clones are kids. They have no money, criminal prosecution makes the copyright holders look like ogres and the public thinks the copyright holders are just a bunch of greedy slobs who want to deprive the public of what is rightfully theirs.

So, the copyright holders are attempting to force those who have deep pockets and control some layer of the Internet into being their enforcement arm. This flies in the face of current legal precedents originating with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The DMCA essentially provides a safe harbor for online service providers as long as they don't deliberately shelter copyrighted information.

SOPA/PITA was essentially an attempt to repeal the safe harbor provisions of the DMCA. Doing so would have made life much easier for the copyright holders. They could go after companies with deep pockets and force them to take steps to remove copyrighted material — or even prevent it from being uploaded in the first place.

The problem with this solution, at least as far as the online service providers are concerned, is that they would become (at least theoretically) liable for the publication of copyrighted material. Can you imagine Facebook trying to vet every post of every user before the rest of the public could see it? Could Google possibly know whether the content it indexes is copyrighted by the owner of the site? I host about 100 websites on my server. In most cases, I have no idea what my customers put up on their sites. Had SOPA/PIPA passed, we would have had to go out of the webhosting business. We don't have the resources to examine the content, nor the deep pockets necessary to fight if someone protests. And you can't just remove the material as soon as someone claims to be the owners and threaten you with legal action if you don't remove it. People have already started making the accusation that their work has been pirated simply to shut up viewpoints they disagree with.

It is ironic that just about the time SOPA/PIPA died, the Justice Department closed down Megaupload, one of the largest file download sites. Megaupload allowed users to create accounts, upload files and share with friends. Certainly, lots of the material on the site was copyrighted by others, but a considerable amount was also family pictures, company material for sharing with employees and other perfectly legal material.

As it stands, no one who uploaded can access their data, so someone who thought the data was safe "in the cloud" is without it now. It is possible some may be able to retrieve their data, but appears unlikely at this point.

The key here is that a lot of data at Megaupload was perfectly legal.

Undoubtedly the majority of it was stolen copyrighted material. Not only is the founder in jail, but several employees are as well. It will be interesting to read the details of the criminal trial, assuming it happens in the U.S.

The fact that authorities were able to coordinate an international investigation has some believing that SOPA/PITA were unnecessary. Others claim that given that Megaupload was making hundreds of millions of dollars, mainly from people distributing copyrighted material, it is evidence that more needs to be done.

It is one thing to go after Megaupload, where it is certain that the bulk of the income comes from illegal activities, but it is vastly different for Facebook, where clearly the vast majority of the material is not copyrighted. How far should online service providers go to prevent copyrighted material from being distributed through their servers?

Perhaps more chilling is the thought that should the U.S. force online service providers to create software to screen content, foreign governments could then require them to screen content offensive to the government. Governments already require that they have a backdoor so they can listen to cell phone conversations, and they restrict search engines from indexing certain sites, so coercing online service providers to toe the line could be child's play. Software that screened for copyright would be more than powerful enough to screen for material critical of a government. That is, of course, if such software could be written in the first place. It's not clear that it could be.

At some point, the whole concept of copyright and fair use will have to be revisited to take into account the technological advances that are rapidly outdated laws that were created 150 years ago. That's going to be exceedingly difficult. And it can't happen until all sides have a reasonable understanding of the issues the other sides face.



Staying Technology Young

By Darry D Eggleston

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<http://DarryD.com>

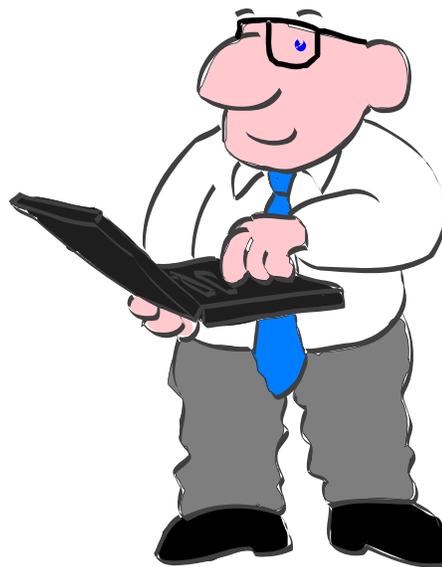
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The challenges for me are increasing as I strive to remain technologically young. What used to take years to change now occurs in a matter of months. So many new products are appearing in such rapid order that, unless one reads, observes, and communicates with like-minded friends, one ends up talking about the "good old days" of technology way back in 2009.

Someone referred to technology's growth in "dog years" and I suspect she might be right. Technology now leaps in one year where we would expect it to take seven years in the past.

One need only look at cellphones, cameras, and notebook computers to see that devices are shrinking while their capabilities are exponentially increasing.

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Understanding System Restore

By Vinny La Bash, Regular Contributing Columnist, Sarasota PCUG, Inc., FL
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Windows 7 has a new and improved version of System Restore that is far superior to the lame utility that came with XP. Setting a restore point was often painfully slow, and it rarely worked as it should have. Windows 7 System Restore easily helps you bring back your computer's system files to an earlier point in time. It's a way to undo system changes to your computer without affecting your personal files, such as e-mail, documents, or photos.

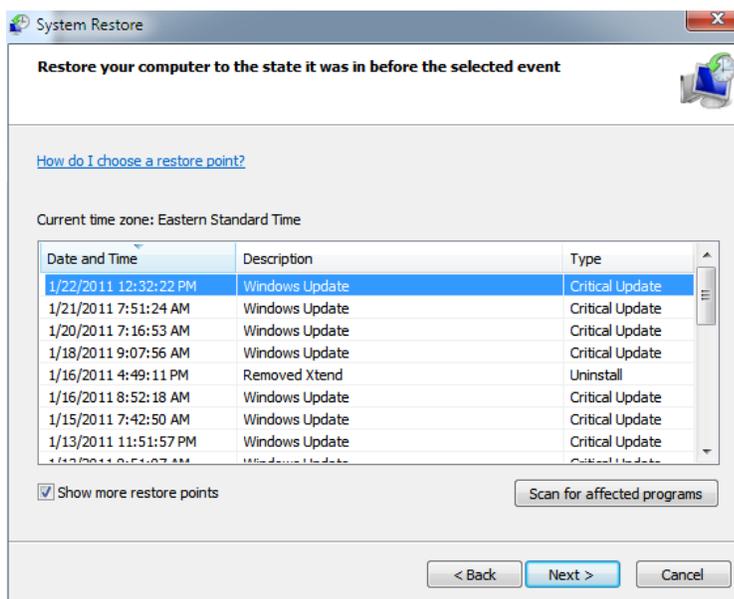
Sometimes, the installation of a program or a driver can cause an unexpected change to your computer or cause Windows to behave unpredictably. Usually, uninstalling the program or driver corrects the problem. If uninstalling does not fix the problem, you can try restoring your computer's system to an earlier date when everything worked correctly.

System Restore uses a feature called System Protection to regularly create and save restore points on your computer. These restore points contain information about registry settings and other system information that Windows uses. You can also create restore points manually.

System Restore is not intended for backing up personal files, so it cannot help you recover a photograph or video that has been deleted or damaged. You should regularly back up your personal files and important data using a backup program. Windows 7 has an excellent built-in backup utility.

Windows 7 uses the Shadow Copy feature, introduced in Vista. It's vastly superior to the process in XP and earlier versions of Windows. The old way used a simple file filter and copied files around the system which was clumsy compared to the Shadow Copy method. Today, Windows creates a snapshot of your drive which can later be used to restore your system should catastrophe occur.

Additional capabilities of Shadow copy include taking snapshots of files even when currently in use. Microsoft has incorporated this feature into Previous Versions which allows restoring a previous version of an application. Unfortunately, this power is available only in Windows Professional or Ultimate.



The easiest way to bring up System Restore is to type System in the Start menu search box and select it from the resulting list. Another way is to select the Recovery option from Control Panel, or you can simply type **rstrui** in the search box.

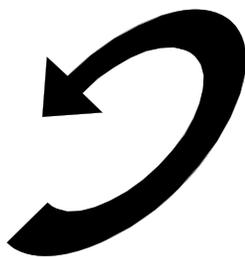
Whatever method you choose will bring up the System Restore dialog box that gives you some helpful information. Select the Next button to get a list of restore points. Most of the time you will be using the most recent restore point to get your system working again.

Focus your attention on the Description list. This can give you an important indication of what went wrong. Did your problem begin after installing a Critical Update, a backup operation, or a new freeware program that you couldn't resist?

When you apply System Restore the system creates another restore point so you can undo the change if your problem isn't fixed. You can't undo System Restore however, if you use it in safe mode. But you can run System Restore again and select a different restore point.

Restore points are saved until the disk space Windows allocates to the utility is used up. Then the oldest restore points are deleted as new ones are needed. The easiest way to delete all previous restore points is to turn System Restore off, and then turn it back on again. Don't worry about running out of space.

Many computer problems can be traced to sloppy programs written by people who don't know enough about proper programming techniques to get their utilities published by reliable vendors. It's surprising how many problems are generated by faulty uninstall tools. There are many sound freeware offerings out in cyberspace, but don't use them unless they come tested and approved by a trusted source like Smart Computing.



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Just yesterday, a conversation between two neighbors awoke me to this fact again. Both are my age in the 60-to-1,000-year-old range. One neighbor extolled finding a new restaurant quickly because of his car's trusty dashboard-mounted global positioning device (GPS).

The other, without hesitating, replied, "Oh, I got rid of my old GPS six months ago," as he pulled out his cellphone. "Mine's in here." Proudly, he showed us his Nokia N8: "Unlocked GSM touchscreen phone featuring GPS with voice navigation and a 12 megapixel camera."

Even my research for this simple article relied on technology that I wish was available when I was younger:

1. I Googled to learn more about Dave's cellphone. (Nokia's website boasts that N8 phones can connect to social networks, web TV programs and Ovi Store apps. It has Carl Zeiss optics, Xenon flash, HD-quality video recording, film editing software, and Dolby Surround Sound.)
2. I used FastStone Capture to take a screenshot of the Nokia description, pasted it into OmniPage which scanned the image and converted it into plain text, which I copied and pasted it into WordPerfect.

You can either ride the waves of innovation rushing to the shores of your existence or you can be swept out into the sea of ignorance. You can stay technological-ly young or die in place at a pace that's more fitting for an old folk's home.



Corel VideoStudio Pro X4

Software Review by Sharon Rump, Member, Sarasota PCUG, Florida

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Having a new video camera is really exciting. Having new software to work with the video files is also exciting as well as frustrating. So much to learn! I

know what the program is capable of doing because I have read all of the information on the internet prior to the release of VideoStudio Pro X4 and was excited to start the process of loading and learning.

When I opened the box I was pleasantly surprised to see a User Guide. There are so few programs that come with only online manuals. I really like when I have a manual that I can page through as I go and use as a ready reference. Although the Guide is small, it is packed full of content which starts with explaining the complete interface of the program and pointing out where everything is and what it does. Then it moves on to actually creating your first video and how easy it can be.

One of the neat things that are a feature of this program is the Instant Templates section that has some video templates you can import into the timeline and then substitute your own content and it is already to view with the preset features including transitions, audio and editable text. When you do make your own video from scratch and use all of the different transitions and other effects available, you can also save that work as a template that you can later import and have all the work that you did on your project available to just add new content and save a lot of the work that you did on the original effort.

There is a Corel Guide button on the top right that opens a window with lots of helpful information. There are tutorials available that show how to use the various tools available under a "Learn" tab. The "Do More" section allows you to download new styles, fonts, music and templates. Some of the content that is available is a free download and some are offerings by

other companies that work well with Corel VideoStudio Pro. You can also check for updates in this area to make sure that you always have the most current version of the program.

The interface of the program is completely customizable and you can resize the various areas of the workspace to suit your needs. The preview window is on the upper left as in other programs that I have used. Next to that is an area that lists folders that you have created with the video and picture information so that you can keep everything organized. The files aren't actually moved to these folders, just information as to the path to the actual content. I find this so much better than having everything all bunched together from various projects that you have worked on.

There are many new features in this version of Corel VideoStudio Pro including "stop motion animation", "time lapse photography", the ability to create high definition projects and even 3D movies which you can view with the included glasses that come in the box of the version that I have. I have not had an opportunity to try that out yet but think it sounds like a lot of fun.

After you have your project completed using all of the help and guides available, you are ready to share it with others. There are lots of ways to create your project including CD, DVD and Blu-Ray. You can also create a file that can be uploaded to sites such as YouTube, Facebook or Flickr. There are a lot of menu templates that will make moving through your show easy and fun. I felt that the rendering time was much faster than other programs that I have used and soon I was able to burn my finished project and share with others.

Corel is one of the few large companies that continue to support user groups like ours. I was fortunate to see a presentation of the previous version of this software at the FACUG conference earlier this year and the presenter did such a good job it made us want to run

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The Seventh Son of Windows: Windows Live Photo Gallery

By Lee Reynolds, Member, Boca Raton Computer Society, FL

October 2011 issue, Boca Bits www.brsc.org leetutor (at) exploringwindows.com

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Introduction

For Windows 7, Microsoft has stopped furnishing the Windows Photo Gallery that was built into Windows Vista, and instead made a version of the program available from the Windows Live site. Windows Live Photo Gallery can also be installed in Windows Vista and Windows XP. By removing this component from the operating system, it is to be hoped that Microsoft will be able to provide updates and improvements in a much more timely manner.

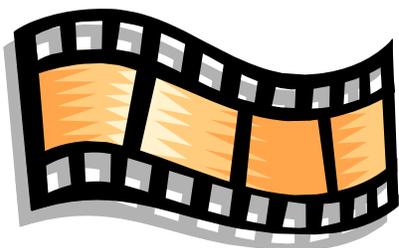
Download

You can download the latest version of Windows Live Photo Gallery from here: <http://www.windowslive.com/Desktop/PhotoGaller>

(Continued from page 10)

out immediately and get a copy. Corel provides a large variety of software at very reasonable prices. The street price for this software is \$99 and well worth the price. I know it will be my choice for creating lots of fun and interesting videos to share with family and friends.

[NCTCUG Ed. Note April 2012: current version is VideoStudio Pro X5, \$79.99 for download version or a bit more for shipping box version, at www.corel.com; 30-day trial available.]



About Windows Live Photo Gallery

With Windows Live Photo Gallery, you can manage all your photos, search for them, import them from a camera or other removable media, order prints online, and publish them (upload to Windows Live Spaces, Flickr).

When you import photos, they are automatically grouped by date and time. You can edit them to fix redeye, crop out unwanted sections, correct colors, and adjust the lighting, sharpness, etc. Any edit you make to your photos can be reverted later at any time.

You can stitch several photos together to offer a "panoramic" view. You can also apply a treatment to color photos to convert them to black and white and shades of grey.

The list of capabilities of the program goes on and on.

For example, you can send photos by e-mail, burn them to a CD, and print them.

You can add tags, ratings, and captions. Since Live Photo Gallery has the ability to automatically recognize faces, you can tag them with the names of the people in the photos and therefore be able to search by the people in your photos.

You can resize, rotate, delete and rename the photos.

There is QuickTime movie support if you have QuickTime 7 or later installed.



Convert Books for eReaders

By Len Nasman, Editor, Bristol Village Computer Club, Ohio
January 2012 issue, BVCC Newsletter www.bvcc.org [bvclub \(at\) bvres.org](mailto:bvclub@bvcc.org)

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It was not exactly a Christmas present, but I now have a new Kindle Fire. We had accumulated a bunch of reward points on our PNC Bank account, and I discovered that unused points were expiring every month. Looking through the rewards catalog, I discovered that I had enough points for a Kindle Fire. So, since the price was right, I ordered one.

It seems that if you are more than 21 years old, how to use these new-fangled things is not instantly obvious.

The Kindle Fire seems to assume that you already know how to use it, so no instruction Manual was included. Of course there is a manual available on the Kindle, but until you know how to use the Kindle, you cannot read the manual.

Anyway, I eventually got to the point where I was ready to look for free books on the Internet and add them to the Kindle.

Free Books from Project Gutenberg

My first step was to go to the Project Gutenberg web site to look for free books.



The good news about Project Gutenberg is that they now have file format options for ereaders, including Kindle.

Once a book file has been downloaded to a folder in the computer's hard drive, the question is how to copy into the ereader.



Using Calibre to Move Books

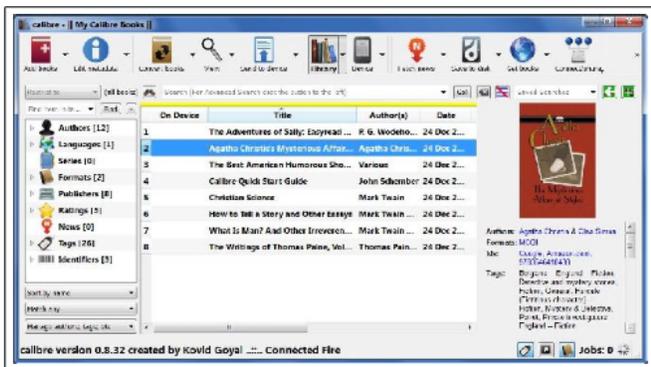


Fortunately, I discovered a free program called Calibre <http://calibre-ebook.com> that makes it almost easy to convert books and send them to different ereaders like Kindle, Nook, Android and others.

Before you start using Calibre, you need to create (using Windows Explorer) an empty folder for storing the book files you will be using with Calibre.



After your empty Calibre book folder has been created (using Windows Explorer), the Calibre installation process will ask you what eBook reader you have and what folder you will use for your Calibre book list.



The upper left corner of the Calibre window has a tool for adding books. If you downloaded books from Project Gutenberg, you locate the files and add them to your Calibre list.

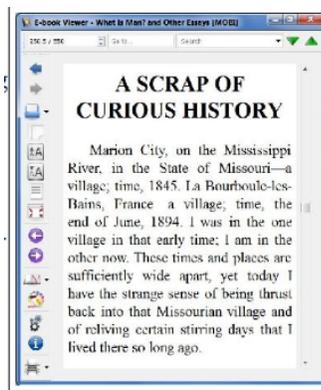
Calibre provides an option for downloading cover art and information for the books on your list. Calibre refers to this as ‘metadata.’

First select a book and then click on the Edit Metadata tool. There is a button in the Edit Metadata window for downloading data. When this is selected, Calibre searches the Internet for info about your book. When it finds book info in more than one location, it shows a



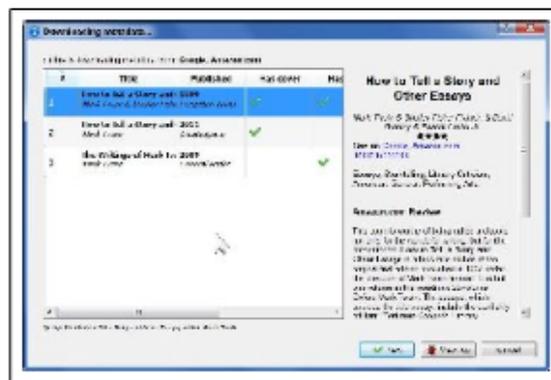
selection list for you to pick from. You will also have the option to choose a book cover that will be displayed in your Calibre list and, in my case, eventually on the Kindle Fire list.

You also can read a book on your computer. Double clicking on a book in the Calibre list will open an eBook viewer right on your computer screen. (This is an option for those who travel with a laptop computer and want to use their laptop as an ereader.)



After the Calibre book list is in place, it is time to send the books to the ereader. In the case of the Kindle Fire, a USB to mini connector computer cable was not supplied. Rather than buying this from Amazon, I got one on eBay and for a couple of dollars (including shipping).

When the Kindle Fire is connected to the computer, it appears in Windows Explorer just like another disk drive. However, Windows Explorer is not used to move books to the Kindle. This is done directly from Calibre. Calibre talks directly to the ereader through the USB cable. There is a tool in Calibre that will show your ereader book list.



If you download a book from Project Gutenberg in the Kindle format, you are ready to go. If not, Calibre provides an option to convert book files to the MOBI file format that Kindle uses.

When you are ready to send books to the ereader, select the Calibre Send to Device tool. That’s it.

Happy reading.

(Continued from page 1)

If you Google “Free Search Utilities”, you will find many possibilities. But, just as I was about to start looking for a search utility, I read a brief review, in Smart Computing (Dec. 2010), of “Ultra File Search”, a free search utility. The review made it sound like it would do the things the XP Search feature did. I downloaded it to a “test Windows7” machine and after using it a while, I was convinced it could do the type of basic file and folder search that I was missing.

Ultra File Search can be found at <http://www.ultrafilesearch.com>
The developers describe it as follows:

Ultra File Search is a Search Utility which is able to find quickly Files, Folders and Text on your Local, Network, DVD, CD-ROM, USB Hard or Flash Drives. Ultra File Search allows you to specify several File Masks and multiple Drives and/or Folders at the same time; it is able to sort out files and folders according to their properties (e. g. Modified Date) and find files which contain one or more specific words or sentences.

This Utility does not use background indexing, does not waste system resources and does not use extra

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Washington Area Computer User Group

WACUG Meetings will be held on April 21 & May 19 from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. WACUG will hold joint meetings with OPCUG [www.olligmu.org/~opcug/] Meetings will be held at the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** [www.olligmu.edu/] at George Mason University, 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax, VA, known as the Tallwood Campus.

Topics

April 21st: Computer Spring Cleaning; Tablets - Diving In

May 19th: What Makes the Web Work?

June 16th: The Library: Edifice & Interface

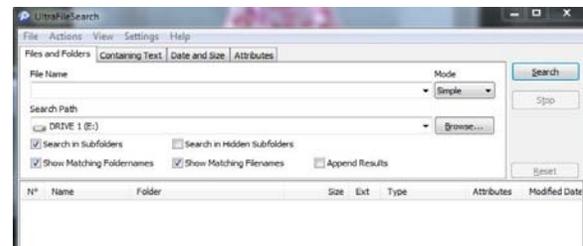
You do not need to be a member to attend. For more information on WAC meetings and events, call the WAC AnswerLine (voice) at (703) 370-7649. Also see WAC’s Web Site at

<http://www.wacug.org/>

space on the disk. Ultra File Search does NOT contain any Spyware, Adware or Viruses and is Free for Personal use.

(Note the comment about not using “background indexing”. Maybe that is the source of my not finding things when I use the Windows 7 Search. I’ll have to pursue those thoughts.)

From the description, it sounds like Ultra File Search attempts to replicate the features of the Windows XP Search feature. Ultra File Search has a start-up window that looks much like the Windows XP “Search Results” screen, but it uses tabs to present its features.



Upon starting Ultra File Search, the Files and Folders tab is shown. This is similar to the “All files and folders” selection in Windows XP. Just input a file name and browse for the drive you want to search and then click the Search button. Search results show up in the bottom of the window. The three remaining tabs on the opening screen of Ultra File Search offer different ways of attempting a search. “Containing text” provides the ability to search for a file that contains a specific text sequence. Think of it as looking for particular words or phrases in a text (.doc, .docx, .rtf, .txt) document.

There are a few options like “Match All” and “Case Sensitive” that may help with the search. Additionally, you can eliminate System, Hidden, Image, and Media files to speed up your search.

(Continued on page 16)

Washington Area User Group Partners

Working Together For Our Members

NCTCUG.ORG WACUG.ORG OPCUG.ORG

Club News: Meeting Relocations. Merger with WACUG

Carlin Hall Meetings

Watch your email and the web site, as details regarding renovations at Carlin hall are evolving. At this point, we believe that meetings will be displaced for the months of June, July and August for the replacement of windows, doors and siding. The construction may reveal concealed deterioration that needs to be repaired, and result in changes to the schedule noted above. Arlington County Parks & Recreation Department is seeking replacement space for our meetings.

Merger Update

Discussions between NCTCUG and the Washington Area Computer User Group to consolidate the two groups are continuing. The merged organization will be called the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society. The name has been reserved with the Virginia State Corporation, and

the domain PATACS.ORG has been registered for our web activities.

A merger agreement is close to being finalized, including roles for all existing officers and directors-at-large of both groups. Also nearing completion is work on a governing document, which will involve the consolidation of NCTCUG's existing Constitution and Bylaws into a single PATACS Bylaws document. Changes will predominantly reflect the new name, the return of a five officer structure and expanded board of directors, with minor tweaks in other areas.

The new Bylaws will be subject to an approval vote by NCTCUG members, which is expected to be sought at the May 2nd or May 23rd meeting, if the process continues on current schedule. The merger is expected to close two to three weeks after that approval.

NCTCUG Information

NCTCUG, Inc. 201 S. Kensington St. Arlington VA 22204-1141

Club Information call: 301-577-7899

Web Site: www.nctcug.org

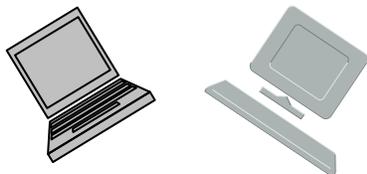
Officers and Directors

All officer terms expire 2012

President	Jim Rhodes	703-931-7854
1st VP	Ron Schmidt	301-577-7899
Treasurer	Paul Howard	703-860-9246
Secretary	Bill Walsh	703-241-8141

Directors — all terms expire 2013

Mel Mikosinski	703-978-9158
Nick Wenri	703-759-3938
Sy Fishbein	703-536-5894
Walter Fraser	202-544-8478
Roger Fujii	



Article Submissions

Articles, helpful hints, and other items of interest to readers of the NCTCUG Journal are always welcome and will be published as soon as possible after submission. Priority is given to members' contributions. Articles may be submitted in MS Word (.doc) or Rich Text Format (.rtf) or plain unformatted text (C/R only at end of paragraphs, no indents preferred) via email to the editor nctcugbj@verizon.net

Membership Policy

The National Capital Technology and Computer Users Group, Inc. is a non-profit [501(c)(3)] organization founded in 1978 to educate users of all Tandy computers and MS-DOS compatible computers. Membership dues are \$25.00 (U.S. Funds) per year, with a \$5 surcharge for international mail. Membership in NCTCUG includes membership in all SIGs, access to the BBS and software libraries, and subscription to the Journal published 8 times per year. Applications may be obtained at any club meeting, by downloading from the BBS, by calling one of the officers or board members, or by writing to the club. A sample newsletter, membership application and related information may be obtained by enclosing \$1 and mailing your request to Jim Rhodes, 201 S. Kensington Street, Arlington VA 22204.

Advertisement Policy

Members' advertisements: Ads are accepted from members for non-commercial purposes at no charge. Copy should be sent to the Editor in the same format as article submissions. Commercial Advertisements: Ads are accepted from commercial advertisers at the rate of \$40 per full page, per appearance, with discounts for multiple insertions. Smaller ads are priced accordingly. Payment for ads must be made in advance of appearance. Advertisers must supply a permanent address and telephone number to the editor.

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COMPUCENTER BBS

Is no longer in operation. It has been replaced by the 'compucenter' mailing list at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/compucenter/>

If you are moving

Please send your change of address to the club address as soon as possible to avoid missing issues.

Thank You!

(Continued from page 14)

The “Date and Size” tab provides the ability to search for files that were “Modified, Created, or Last Accessed” between specific dates and times. This may be useful if you know the very specific kind of information about the file in question. This may also be a good way to eliminate large numbers of files under certain conditions. Additionally, this tab offers the ability to search based on the size of the file provided that very specific information is known.

The fourth tab, “Attributes”, provides the option to search for files based on certain system parameters” such as “Archive”, “Read Only”, “System”, “Hidden”, and “Directory”, which may be useful under some very specific circumstances. This tab also offers some NTFS only (New Technology File System), file searches using the NTFS parameters, “Compressed”, “Encrypted”, “Temporary”, “Not Indexed”, “Reparsed Point”, “Sparse File”, and “Offline”. These last search criteria may be useful only under certain very special circumstances and probably only to those very technically inclined.

If you are familiar with the Windows XP search feature, you will see that Ultra File Search provides, to a Windows 7 user, all of the features that were available in XP. Now with Ultra File Search I can finally locate that “DVD Movie List” I started looking for.

May 2012

1st Wed. (5/2)
7 p.m. General Meeting

2nd Wed. (5/9)
**Online-Only Webinar using Skype
for information see club page at
<http://www.nctcug.org/webinarsig.html>**

4th Wed (5/23)
7 p.m. Internet SIG

3rd Monday (5/21)
7 p.m. Board of Directors

Meetings are at **Carlin Hall**, 5711 S. 4th St., Arlington VA: East off of Carlin Springs Rd, just south of Arlington Blvd/Route 50. See website for directions to post-meeting pizza gathering.

See important notice about meeting locations on p. 15!

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Arlington VA 22204-1141

First Class

