



# Brevard Users Group



June 2006



## Prez Sez

By Larry French

Our May meeting featured Cartridge World, an inkjet and laser refurbishing franchise owned by John and Marilou Russell. The meeting was a success thanks to Marilou's presentation. She gave us an interesting and informative presentation on the cartridge recycling industry, the effects of recycling on the environment and care of our cartridges.

The Board of Directors has increased the amount the club will spend on prizes for the monthly drawings. Also, we will now be using the cartridge turn-in program as a way to purchase prizes. It is our hope that this change will enhance interest in the club. Everyone likes to get freebies.

Jim Booth of Brevard Computer & Technology Services has agreed to attend our afternoon Viera meetings and lend his expertise to help answer questions for us. This should be a win-win situation for Jim's company and our club.

As you may have noticed, we are now sending the newsletter via First Class mail instead of bulk. Our declining membership and the cost of bulk mail has

made it more economical to send the newsletter First Class. We are still keeping the bulk mail option open in case it becomes more feasible.

Take care of each other,

Larry French, President



**New Day Meeting**  
 A daytime meeting is held on the first Monday of the month at 2pm, in One Senior Place, 8085 Spyglass Hill Rd in Viera.  
<http://oneseniorplace.com>

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## Secretary's Report

By: Erich Dalton, Secretary

### BUG MEETING

May 18, 2006

The meeting was opened at 7:04 PM by the president Larry French.

Announcements were made that further income from the recycling of ink cartridges will be put toward the monthly meeting door prizes, and Jim Booth would offer to fill the job of answering tech questions at the monthly Viera meeting.

Door prizes were given out by drawing. Theresa Moore chose an 80gig HD, Louise McFadden a one year subscription to smart Computing, John Williams and Paul MacNeill each took a computer help book, and Bob Staples got a 100 pack of blank CD-R discs.

Our speaker for the evening was then introduced. She was Marilou Russell from our local Cartridge World franchise.

Mrs. Russell gave us primer on the cartridge refilling and remanufacturing industry. Then she gave pointers on cartridge care, most importantly; Do not let the cartridge run dry. It is worthwhile to visit their website at <http://cartridgeworldusa.com/>.

Finally she took Questions from the audience. Some interesting nuggets were that cartridges cannot/should not be refilled indefinitely, that some have their own microchips, and Cartridge World uses specialized machines to test ink heads.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:06pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Erich Dalton, Secretary*



## Treasurer's Report

By Tom Butler

### EXPENSES

Nltr Mailing	\$83.79
Nltr Printing	\$65.71
*2005 PowWeb Renewal	\$93.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$242.74</b>

*\* Back payment to Eric Arnold*

### INCOME

Dues	\$300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>

### ASSETS

Checking*	\$867.48
Savings	\$2,182.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,050.10</b>

### Renewals:

John Geist #0905  
Theresa Moore #1230  
John MacNeil #0390  
Loretta Mills #1152  
Eileen Cameron #1058  
Laverne Shamberg #1057  
Dorothy Rodriguez #1200  
Louise McFadden #1246  
Eveyln Fiore #1115  
Frank Leslie #820

### New Mbrs:

Harold Fossum Jr. #1265  
Jim & Josette Donnelly #1266



# Windows XP Housecleaning

By Dick Maybach, Member of the Brookdale Computer User Group, New Jersey  
[http://www.bcug.com/N2nd\(at\)att.net](http://www.bcug.com/N2nd(at)att.net)

Unless you are careful, after a period of use Windows will begin to slow down. This occurs because many programs are always active, even though you aren't using them and because the number of files increases, which means that searches take longer. Fortunately, Windows XP contains several tools to help you ease these conditions. Using these tools periodically (every month or two is reasonable) will help you keep your PC lean and mean.

Use Disk Cleanup to delete useless files. Right-click on a disk icon in Windows Explorer (C: will be the most rewarding); then click Properties, click the Disk Cleanup button, and select the actions. (I prefer not to compress old files as I've had bad experiences with compression.) Also be sure to check the actions available under the More Options tab, in particular deleting all but the last restore image. Finally search all your hard drives for the strings "\*.tmp" and "\*.dmp" in filenames. Delete anything more than a week or so old; however, Windows will refuse to delete any files it considers important.

Go through your saved e-mail and delete old messages. This will reduce the size of the mail database file and help you to find important e-mail more quickly.

Look at the list of installed programs (Start / Control Panel / Add or Remove Programs) and remove any you don't use. Most of find that new software often is less useful than we expected. Also, many PC manufacturers ship machines with software that we neither ask for nor need. While you're checking, be sure to click on the Add/Remove Windows Components icon in the left margin of the window. You find MS tools that you don't need.

Windows allocates a large portion of your disk space for use by System Restore (Start / All Programs / Accessories / System Tools / System Restore / System Restore Settings). Select each drive and click on the Settings button. Reduce the Disk Space Usage by

moving the slider to no greater than 1 GByte on each of your drives. Use less on small drives, especially if they contain nothing but data.

Check the startup folder for programs that automatically start; you will probably find that you don't want many of these running. Start / All Programs / Startup to view the contents of the startup folder. To stop a program from starting automatically right click on its icon then click delete. This does not delete the program; it only stops it from being started at boot-up.

Unfortunately, most programs that start automatically don't appear in the startup folder. To disable these, click Start / Run and type "msconfig". Click the startup tab and uncheck any programs you don't want to run at startup. When you finish, Windows will ask you to restart. After boot-up you will see a diagnostic screen. On it uncheck the box that displays the diagnostic screen each time you boot.

You can also turn off Windows services that you don't need, but you shouldn't do this unless you are very knowledgeable. However, it doesn't hurt to look at what's running, and you may learn something. Open the Services window by clicking Start / Control Panel / Administrative Tools / Services and the System Configuration window by clicking Start, then Run, typing "msconfig" and selecting the services tab. Move the windows so you can see both. Clicking on a name in the services window will display a short description. Removing a check mark in the System Configuration window will disable that service, but no matter how confident you are, don't disable any service marked "essential".

Check for unsigned files and drivers; these can be corrupted files or programs not approved by Microsoft. Click Start / All Programs / Accessories / System Tools / System Information / Tools / File Signature Verification Utility / Start. The search will take several minutes; then a list will appear showing all the program files without valid signatures. Consider deleting (by using the Add/Remove Programs tool) these.

Another utility you should know about is System Information (Start / All Programs / Accessories / System  
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## *XP Housecleaning ... Continued from Page 4*

Tools / System Information). This doesn't allow you to change anything, but you can learn a lot about Windows by exploring it. For instance, if you click on the plus box by Software Environment then on Startup Programs, it will show you a list (after a pause) of all the modules that start at boot-up. It shows information in each entry that may enable you to track down a troublesome program. As is common with Windows utilities, you can sort any column by clicking on its header.

If you have problems with a program that ran with an earlier version of Windows, try running them in program compatibility mode. Click Start / All Programs / Accessories / Program Compatibility Wizard / Next / Next. You will see a list of all the installed programs. Select the troublesome program and a compatibility mode (Win 95, Win NT, Win 98/Me, or Win 2000). Clicking Next brings up a screen allowing you to set a lower resolution on the screen, which may be needed for very old Windows programs.

You can tune your PC performance with very little risk, even if you are a novice. Right click on My Computer in Windows Explorer; then, click Properties / Advanced / Performance Settings. Usually, checking "Let Windows choose what's best for my computer" is satisfactory, but you might try "Adjust for best performance" if your machine is slow. If you are more adventuresome, you can select Custom and disable individual features by unchecking items in the list. If you don't like the result, you can just go back to "Let Windows choose what's best for my computer."

After completing the cleanup check to see if you should defragment your disks. Right click on a disk icon in Windows Explorer; then click Properties / Tools tab / Defragment now / Analyze button. If Windows says the disk does not need defragmenting, don't do it. Defragging the C: disk takes a long time, and seldom results in any noticeable performance improvement.

*There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.*



## Letters to "Late Nite"

*Hosted by Marty Shinko*

*Reprinted from:*

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**Q06III.0:** Is there some particular fact or information about computers, which many people don't seem to know, that you wish more people knew, especially novice users?

**A0:** I wish more people were aware that their hard drive will fail, eventually, and that they need to be prepared for that.

That implies that they know what a hard drive is, what it's used for inside their computer, and a little about how it works. Since a computer "looks like" a TV set and seems like any other of a myriad of consumer electronics gear, people might not expect that there's anything inside a computer that wears out, especially since they don't see any moving parts on the outside. People might expect that a VCR or CD player will wear out sometime they know moving parts are involved. When it comes to electronic devices without moving parts, like a radio or TV set or audio amplifier, people might expect them to last for decades, which is an entirely reasonable expectation for solid-state electronics devices. Satellites and spacecraft operate for years and years.

It's especially sad when someone gives their old computer to a friend or their parent (perhaps they got themselves a new computer for Christmas or at an end-of-year sale), without telling them about the hazard of hard drives wearing out they tell them "it still works," which is true at the time. It's like giving someone an old car that has transmission trouble; eventually they're going to put it in gear and it will go nowhere and they'll be stranded somewhere.

**Q06III.1:** How do I tell someone what a hard drive is used for inside their computer and how it works in a few short sentences?

**A0:** The hard drive is the permanent memory part of a computer. It stores all the data and machine instructions you need when you use your computer, and the storage is permanent because it is "nonvolatile";

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### *Late Nite ... Continued from page 5*

that is, the data remains safely in storage even when the power is turned off. The hard drive works by saving data on magnetic media (like videotape in the sense that that's also done by recording data magnetically). In order to read or write data on a hard drive, the magnetic components have to be moving - spinning in the case of a hard drive - past tiny electromagnets called read-write heads. Because the magnetic media inside hard drives need to be moving to function, hard drives are vulnerable to wearing out, even though they are built into sealed units.

By the way, there are a few other bits of permanent memory inside a computer, such as battery powered CMOS (Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor) memory used to store the computer's setup configuration, and BIOS (Basic Input/Output System) stored on ROM (Read Only Memory) or in Flash memory used to store the start-up instructions for the computer, but these aren't as important to explain to someone in a few sentences, compared to explaining about the hard drive.

**Q06III.2:** How long can hard drives be expected to last?

**A0:** Hard drives can last for a long time, some over six years; on the other hand, I've had a hard drive fail after only about 15 months, so there's quite a range. The relevant statistic for equipment like hard drives is called the "mean time between failures" (MTBF), although realistically hard drives are replaced and are never repaired, so the pertinent statistic is actually TTFF ("time to first failure"). Keep in mind that if you ever see data for MTBF quoted, it's probably based on some sort of marketing estimate rather than data gathered from failure statistics.

**Q06III.3:** What can I do to be prepared for when my hard drive fails?

**A0:** That's easy - backup your data! Backup your entire hard drive! Use software, such as Drive Image or Ghost, to keep a current copy of your hard drive on a second hard drive inside your computer, or use a backup tape drive, writable CDs or DVDs, or an

external hard drive or zip drive to back up your system. Set up and follow a regular routine for making backups. Get into the habit of making backups regularly!

**Q06III.4:** What are the symptoms of hard drive failure? Do hard drives fail suddenly without warning?

**A0:** Typically hard drives fail gradually, over a period of months, although they can fail catastrophically. If you turn your computer on and hear a grinding sound, that's trouble - that could be the sound of your hard drive destroying itself! (On the other hand, it could be noise from a malfunctioning circulation fan, which is serious but isn't quite as catastrophic). What happens is that the hard drive starts coming up with read errors and bad sectors, which are often recoverable - a second or third attempt to read the sector could produce good results. These multiple retries are often done automatically by the system software, which might display a warning message. Sometimes it isn't apparent that there was a read error, sometimes your computer seems to act strange or runs unusually slowly, but then it recovers (or you reboot and everything seems normal). The problem could have been any random thing.

As the hard drive deteriorates, more bad sectors show up, and more frequently - first about once a week, then every few days, then every day, then every hour or so. Eventually a key sector needed for running the operating system goes bad, and then your computer won't boot up at all.

**Q06III.5:** Could symptoms similar to "imminent hard drive failure" come from other causes?

**A0:** Sometimes the hard drive is working correctly, but Windows had written some incorrect data in one of its startup files (who knows why), which causes Windows to report a problem with a disk sector. Sometimes the boot sector of the hard drive gets corrupted. Unfortunately, there are also some computer viruses that mimic symptoms of a bad hard drive, or attack the boot sector. Since it's hard to tell if the problem is hardware or software, it's better to be safe and have a backup copy of your data, rather than wait for symptoms of hard drive

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### *Late Nite ... Continued from Page 6*

failure to start appearing before getting serious about making a backup.

Companies that manufacture hard drives often have diagnostic software available over the Internet for your particular model of hard drive; it might be useful to get that software and run it to check if you've got a hard drive problem, especially if your computer is more than two years old.

There are ways to rebuild erroneous files. I came across the site, [www.techtips4u.com/kb/sw/SW00014.htm](http://www.techtips4u.com/kb/sw/SW00014.htm), in searching for information about the error message "Unmountable Boot Volume" in Windows XP. This site suggests that you can try to boot from the Windows XP CD, and select "R" (for "Recover," I presume) and follow instructions. The site says that there is a "fixboot" command available. Of course, if the hard drive is working correctly, you should be able to reformat your hard drive and reinstall Windows, to get your computer running again. All the data on the disk would be lost, though, which is no real problem if you back up your data routinely.

**Q06III.6:** What if I can't find my original Windows XP CD, or didn't get a bootable Windows XP CD with my computer?

**A0:** There's a site ([techtips4u.com/downloads](http://techtips4u.com/downloads)) that contains links for making boot disks for various versions of Windows, including Windows XP. It says that it takes six floppies to make a boot disk set for either Windows XP Pro or Windows XP Home. It emphasizes that the boot disk set for Windows XP Home will NOT work for Windows XP Pro, and vice versa.

**Q06III.7:** What can I do when the hard drive fails in my computer?

**A0:** When a hard drive fails, you should replace it. If you've been making regular backups, it's simple to load all your data onto the new, replacement hard drive.

But, if you wait until the hard drive actually fails, generally it's too late for any easy recovery of your data, so expect a long process and a lot of grief! There are ways that data can be recovered from a failed hard drive, but they are expensive and involve sending your hard drive to a special shop which can disassemble it under clean room conditions and try alternative means to extract your data from the magnetic platters inside the drive. This can cost thousands of dollars. They might be able to repair the drive mechanism and extract your data using its own read-write heads; this can cost hundreds of dollars.

Sometimes you can get lucky, and turn on your computer and the hard drive functions correctly "one last time." At that time you need to be ready to read and back up all your data right then, so you can transfer your data to a new hard drive, the replacement drive. Whatever you do, DON'T be fooled into thinking that the hard drive has somehow cured itself because it seems to be working okay again!

**Q06III.8:** How reliable and accurate are the computer generated directions available from map Web sites like Mapquest.com?

**A0:** Online map sites are fun and easy to use, but you should consider them as only a useful guess, in my opinion.

In an article entitled "Test: Driving Directions Online," in the November, 2005, issue of "Good Housekeeping" magazine, the writers tested six online directions services, including the Mapquest.com and Google.com mapping services. In their test, every service produced some errors. I agree with their recommendation: to be safe, make sure you bring a real map along.

**Q06III.9:** In Q06I.4 you covered the data transfer speeds for various external connections to a PC. Where does Bluetooth fit in the table?

**A0:** Bluetooth is a technology for wireless connections between computers and other electronic consumer gadgets. It can be used to transfer data

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## Late Nite ... Continued from Page 7

from one computer to another. At 721 kbps, its data rate is much slower than an IEEE-802.11b Wireless LAN. For more information about this, go to [www.radio-electronics.com/info/wireless/bluetooth/bluetooth\\_overview.php](http://www.radio-electronics.com/info/wireless/bluetooth/bluetooth_overview.php).

*Marty Shinko has been involved with the CPCUG since the early 1990s, as a volunteer instructor and advocate for beginners. He's used computers for over three decades, from PC's to supercomputers. He can be reached at [mshinko.cpcug@juno.com](mailto:mshinko.cpcug@juno.com) or at 301-253-1743, or in person at the "Late Nite" sessions that follow the CPCUG General Meeting Tech Talks.*

*When contacting me about a question appearing in my column, please refer to the question number. Every question is numbered in the form Q'YR'MO.sequence #, with a 2-digit year, and Roman numeral month. The answers will have a code for the responder; e.g., A0 = Marty Shinko.*

☺



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## Tech Talk (1/06)

### Is Freeware/Shareware Worth While?

*by Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D.\**

*Member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.*

People sometimes question whether or not freeware or shareware applications are safe or even reliable. So I thought I'd take an inventory of the freeware-shareware software that I have on my computer. It's not a long list, but much of it is software that I use every day and it is important to the operation of my system. For example, my list includes OpenOffice (office software suite), Firefox (Internet browser), Thunderbird (e-mail software), Avast! (anti-virus), Sygate Personal Firewall, Spybot Search & Destroy, Spyware Blaster, CD Burner XP Pro (burns CD's and DVD's) and Picasa (photo software from Google). All of these are freeware, although some do ask for donations. You don't have to pay if you don't want to do so. Have I made donations? Yes, but only after I have used the software and found it useful. I also make extensive use of Google & Froogle, both of which are free search engines. How about mapping services such as Google Maps, Yahoo and Mapquest? These are also free services.

So is this software safe and reliable? Let's take OpenOffice as an example. It reads and writes all the file formats found in Microsoft Office. So documents can be interchanged with anyone using MS Office with no problem. This article for instance, was written with OpenOffice and saved in its new international open document format. After it is completed, I will save it in MS Office format and transmit it to the editor for publication.

OpenOffice also does spreadsheets, presentations, drawings, databases and HTML documents. All of these can be converted to MS Office format. OpenOffice also reads MS Office formats and can edit them directly without conversion. OpenOffice is freeware, so why should I pay the very high price for Microsoft Office? There may be some functions of MS Office that I don't

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### ***Tech Talk ... Continued from Page 8***

have, but so far I haven't missed any and I've been using OpenOffice for over a year. I've just downloaded and installed the latest version (2.0).

Have I had problems with OpenOffice? That answer to that is a definite NO. It works so well that I have it as the primary word processor, etc. on both my desktop and laptop. I use the spreadsheet format for a number of purposes. And, I just recently prepared and gave a slide presentation from my laptop. The flexibility of the presentation software enabled me to do everything I wanted. It also had the capability of adding animation and sound to the slides. However, that was more than I needed. The OpenOffice software also allowed me to print handouts of all the charts included in the presentation. That gave the audience something to take home and study.

As for my Avast! anti-virus software, it is among the highest rated A-V applications. It updates itself in seconds in the background. It does pop up a notice after an update has been installed. It also notifies me when there is an update to the application, not the virus database, so I can download and install it at a convenient time. On my broadband connection any updates take only seconds. The longest update and install was for a program update and it took less than a minute. O.K., but does it protect me from viruses? In the three years I have been using it, I haven't had any virus infections. I've also downloaded it and installed it on many other computers as well as recommending it to many people. It is free for personal use and no donations are needed. It is indeed a gem in the freeware field.

Why would I use Firefox as a browser when Internet Explorer is free? Mainly because it is a better browser. It uses less memory, loads more quickly, and has a tabbed window interface that I really like. IE won't have tabs until the next major upgrade. Some people have made much of the fact the Firefox has "holes" which could allow hacker exploits just as IE does. My answer to that is that all large applications have errors, but at least Firefox provides patches much more quickly than does Microsoft.

I could go on and on talking about the software I'm using. Suffice it to say I have been using them all through

several updates and for at least a year. It's really nice to be able to try out an application before thinking about having to make any payment. If you want to find more shareware, you should sign up for Fred Langa's free newsletter. He always has information on reliable freeware-shareware applications. His newsletter is useful for any computer user.

Another question is why do people make their software available as freeware or shareware? In some cases, usually for shareware, it is a trial run to see if is commercially viable software. In other cases, it is a way of having a large group of people testing your software at little or no cost to the programmer. Also, some people write programs for their own use and then find that others find them useful as well. So the software ends up on the freeware list.

Then we have the major players like OpenOffice and Firefox. OpenOffice has a mission statement: "to create, as a community, the leading international office suite that will run on all major platforms and provide access to all functionality and data through open-component based API's and an XML-based file format." In other words, it is designed to work with Windows, Linux, Solaris, FreeBSD and Apple Macintosh operating systems. It also makes its programming code freely available under an open-source license.

The Mozilla Foundation was established by AOL's Netscape division and provides support for the Mozilla open-source software, Firefox and Thunderbird. The Foundation is a California not-for-profit organization. It is exempt from federal taxation under IRC 501(c)3. Any donations made to it are tax-deductible.

In both cases, these organizations are part of an international group that believes software should be free or at least very inexpensive.

Google is somewhat different from these other companies. They primarily make their money from ads associated with searches made by users. If you go to their Picasa web site, you will find a link to other software they produce. Some of it has a price, but there is also usually a version that is free. So they are not an open-source software company. But their freeware generally does what you expect.

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### ***Tech Talk ... Continued from page 9***

Some major software companies that produce anti-virus software, firewalls and malware removers make their software free for personal use. Why? Because they believe it is better to give software away so more people will be protected than to have unprotected computers connected to the Internet. There are far too many computers that have been turned into “zombies” by trojans or other malware. We would all be better off if every computer was cleaned of malware and protected from further infection. So these companies are doing themselves a service at the same time they are doing a service for the public.

So how do you find products like this? For most of the software applications I’ve listed you can go directly to a web site associated with their name. As an alternative you can go to download.com. This is a web site operated by CNET. You can search for any of these products by name on the CNET web site. The listings also identify those applications that are freeware or shareware. Even shareware usually has a trial period where you can use the software to see if it does what you want before you make any payment.

Another site devoted to only freeware is: <http://www.freewarearena.org>. It has a wide range of freeware listed, and it provides user ratings of the software. It also has links to other freeware sites.

The Sarasota SPCUG Monitor is another good source for shareware-freeware. Our editor, Dr. Herb Goldstein, spends hours researching software for you. He always has many interesting applications listed in his column entitled “Computer Buffet”. So you can find useful and reliable shareware-freeware if you look for it. This is another “try it, you might like it” situation. :

*\*Dr. Lewis is a former university & medical school professor. He has been working with personal computers for more than thirty years. He can be reached via e-mail at [bwsail@yahoo.com](mailto:bwsail@yahoo.com).*

*Reprint from the: SPCUG Monitor  
Newsletter of the Sarasota PC User Group*



## **Do a clean sweep of your Computer**

### **How to safely remove software and files from your PC**

*By Marc Saltzman*

*<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/moredone/cleansweep.aspx>*

[mindshar@microsoft.com](mailto:mindshar@microsoft.com)

Like many mothers, Andrea Grace will sit down at her PC to check e-mail, only to find that her kids, Jason, 8, and Rachel, 10, have installed some new programs. “Between those CD-ROM games found in cereal boxes and downloaded Neopets, there are now icons all over the place,” says Grace. “And of course they don’t play half the games. If I ran out of space I wouldn’t know how to delete them,” she admits.

Grace isn’t alone—it’s not uncommon to fill space on a hard drive with games, productivity programs, or files, such as music, digital photos, and video clips. Some technology analysts believe that we use less than 10 percent of the programs installed on our computer.

So, considering you’re likely to do some spring cleaning in the coming months by removing old and unwanted clutter from your closets and garage, why not tidy up your computer as well?

While deleting programs is relatively easy, many novice computer users believe they can be removed by simply deleting their icon on the desktop. This does not work as it’s only a shortcut to the real program, which consists of many files. And keep in mind that you can do damage to your PC’s performance by deleting an entire program folder that you don’t think you need from your hard drive.

The following is a look at how to safely—and easily—remove old or unused programs from your Microsoft Windows XP-based computer. Much of the advice is also applicable to older versions of Windows.

#### **Decide which programs to purge**

The first step is to decide which programs you no longer need. Try to keep only the programs you use

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## ***Clean Sweep ... Continued from Page 10***

regularly as it's easy to become a digital packrat. If it helps, make a list of programs you want to keep and others you can do away with.

Has it been a year since your child touched that action game? Chances are you still have the original CDs anyway (should you want to reinstall it in the future), so perhaps it's time to wipe it off the hard drive.

Have your music tastes changed since you went through that Country & Western "stage" in 2002? You can easily delete downloaded MP3 files—or at least burn them to a CD to free up space on your PC.

If you're unsure about a program that's on your hard drive, you can always do a search at your favorite search engine (e.g., MSN Search) to see what it is. For example, if you don't plan on buying a camcorder, remove any preinstalled video-editing software that may have come bundled on your PC.

### **Ready, set, "Start"**

The easiest way to remove a program from your hard drive is to look for an uninstall or remove option from within its program group. You will find this by clicking the Start menu, then All Programs (or Program Files), and then choosing the program you want to uninstall.

Once inside this program group, you will usually see an icon to launch the program, a ReadMe file (documentation that tells you how to use the program), and, for our purposes, an option that enables you to remove or uninstall the program. Click this and follow the onscreen wizard to safely remove the program from your PC. You may be asked to reboot your computer. Only click to do so once you've saved everything that's open at that time.

### **Quick tip:**

If you want to free up even more room on your hard drive, go to My Computer or Windows Explorer and right-click on the letter associated with your hard drive (usually C:). Click Properties, then click Disk Cleanup. Check off the desired boxes and it will tell you how much space it can free up.

When uninstalling a program, you may also get a message that says the program can remove a file that may be shared by another program. To be safe, keep these suggested files on your PC (they shouldn't take up much room on your hard drive, anyway). Similarly, when you uninstall a game, the program may ask if you want to keep saved game files (i.e. a bookmark of your progress). If you think that you will reinstall and play this game again, you can choose to keep these files.

Sometimes the program group may be the company's name. Move your mouse over the name and it will reveal which program(s) are inside.

### **Quick tip:**

If you download a .zip or .exe file from the Web and then install the program to the hard drive, you can delete the original file once it's successfully installed.

Keep in mind that your PC automatically creates restore points while you're using your computer. That way, if you accidentally delete a program that you want to keep, you can revert your PC back to an earlier time. To do so, click the Start menu, then All Programs (or Program Files), then Accessories, and then System Tools. Click System Restore and the program will guide you through the steps.

### **Take "Control"**

Some programs do not give you the option to uninstall them from a program group. No problem. You'll need to go to the Start menu, select Control Panel, and then Add or Remove Programs.

It may take a few seconds for this page to load but once it is finished, it will display a long alphabetical list of installed programs. Once you see the name of a program you no longer want on your hard drive, click it, then click the tab to the right of it, which will say Remove or Change/Remove, and follow the prompts. A progress bar will show you how long it will take to safely remove the program. When it's finished, you will see the list once again.

Go through the list, but leave those programs that you are unsure of. Remember—you may use Microsoft Word all the time so do not uninstall Microsoft Office as

***Continued on Page 12***

## *Clean Sweep ... Continued from Page 11*

Word is part of it. Some programs may not be familiar to you, but are required for another to run—a rule of thumb is to ignore it, especially if it doesn't take up too much space on your hard drive (you will see how many megabytes on the right-hand side of the program name). If the program is spyware or adware (such as SuperShopper Toolbar), then you may want to leave this for your spyware/adware program to sniff out and safely remove. Two good free programs are Ad-Aware and SpyBot, both of which are available at Download.com. You can also download the free new Microsoft Windows AntiSpyware (Beta).

### **Quick tip:**

This article focuses on uninstalling entire programs, but it's even easier to delete individual files. Once you're inside My Computer or Windows Explorer, simply highlight the files you no longer want on your hard drive and tap the delete button or right-click and select Delete. This will send all unwanted files to the Recycle Bin for safekeeping—until you're sure that you no longer want them.

*Article written by Marc Saltzman and adapted from an original piece from Microsoft Home Magazine.*

*There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.*



## **Heading North ?**

Send your new address to the Editor at:

**newsletter@bugclub.org**

And to the Treasurer at:

**treasurer@bugclub.org**

## **The Future of Broadband Access**

*By Bob Hewitt, Editor*

*The Journal of The Computer Club, Inc., Sun City Center, Florida [http://suncitycentercomputerclub.com/rsh1916\(at\)juno.com](http://suncitycentercomputerclub.com/rsh1916(at)juno.com)*

This may end up to be a case of who gets there fastest with the mostest.

The goal is Broadband. Just about all computer owners want it. Many cannot afford it. But every provider wants to get the biggest share of the pie.

The telecommunications industry was in the driver's seat first with dial-up. Then came cable as a carrier and telecom countered with DSL. Up rose Wi-Fi, Broadband Wireless Mesh, and finally BPL (Broadband over Power Line).

Pew Internet and American Life Project released a survey finding that about 55 per cent of internet-using Americans enjoy a broadband connection at home or at work.

Since computers have overwhelmed the marketplace, it may be somewhat misleading to lump them together.

The goal of computer mavens is the most speed per dollar expressed in Kbps (Kilobits per second), Mbps (Megabits per second), or preferably MBps (Megabytes per second). The latter conforms to the standard measurement of file size and gives an operator an instant impression of the time involved in achieving a download or a transfer, depending on the speed of his CPU or internet connection.

Because their infrastructure was already in place, the telephone and cable industries became the leaders in delivering internet resources to their subscribers at \$10 to \$50 per month depending on speed. But then came the advent of wireless transmission, commonly called Wi-Fi, with its short range signal providing access principally to portable (laptop) PC's—a significant advantage to travelers who were charged a small amount for access.

*Continued on Page 13*

## ***Broadband continued from page 12***

Almost paralleling the transition from fixed telephone to cell phone, Wi-Fi evolved into wireless mesh internet which has sparked a huge demand for municipal wireless broadband. Fifty four localities, including major cities, are in the process of establishing or already have established such services.

Tempe, Arizona established a wireless access network last November, covering 40 square miles, with an access cost of \$30 a month per subscriber or \$3.95 per hour.

Manassas, Virginia became the first citywide Broadband-Over-Powerline site last October when it opened a 10 square mile site available to all at \$29 per month.

Philadelphia has contracted with Earthlink to cover its 135 square miles with wireless internet service—the cost to Earthlink an estimated 10-million dollars and a cost to residents an estimated \$20 per month for service. It's assumed that Earthlink will amortize its investment by income from advertising.

The excitement over wireless broadband in heightened by a comparison of download speeds available. The fastest of the three Wi-Fi formats now in use (the 802.11g) is 54 Mbps (megabits per second) or 7 Megabytes per second which is 18 times faster than the cable modems of today. Further is the recent approval of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) for the new 802.11n Wi-Fi format which may be two years before activation but could achieve data processing speeds of 600Mbps; an almost incomprehensible 75 Megabytes per second—200 times today's cable modem speed.

At that rate, one could download 80 minutes of music in 10 seconds or an entire opera in 30.

The wired communications industries are not unaware. Witness the fact that they have spent millions of dollars lobbying state legislatures to kill off community internet. Over the past few years, no less than 14 states have enacted legislation that bans or places limits on municipalities from building community internet projects.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush signed a law last June that prevents cities from offering broadband if there are competing private services.

There are anti-competitive issues at the federal level, also. Republican Representative Pete Sessions of Texas introduced an anti-community internet bill which would prevent any city in the country from providing internet access if a private company offers internet services nearby—even if the private company serves as little as 10 per cent of the residents.

Republican Senator John Ensign of Nevada introduced the Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act which would severely hamper cities' ability to build and manage wireless networks.

In response to Ensign's bill, Republican Senator John McCain and Democrat Frank Lautenberg introduced legislation that gives municipalities free rein to offer broadband and would overturn state laws banning such activities.

Now that President Bush has lent his support to a broad set of proposals to get every corner of the country access to broadband connectivity by 2007, it will be interesting to watch both sides welcome that goal as supporting their particular positions.

The big question for the public is cost. There have been no definitive publicly-available figures on installation and maintenance of the cutting-edge WiFi mesh application.

Jupiter Research has estimated that the average cost of building and maintaining a wireless network is \$150,000 per square mile over five years. Bert Williams, vice president of marketing for Tropos Networks, which has successfully provided mesh based WiFi hardware in several locations around the world, says, "We usually talk in terms of \$75,000 per square mile for our gear." Adding the ongoing costs for backhaul and system management, he believes the total to be closer to \$100,000 per square mile, while Sky Pilot Networks quotes \$50,000.

***Continued on Page 14***

## Broadband continued from Page 13

A long and vigorous battle is ahead involving the established vs the un-established. But one thing is certain. Everyone is going to end up with a piece of the pie. For this is still early in the digital age and there is plenty to go around.

muniwireless.com	informationweek.com
zdnet.com	vnunet.com
jupitermedia.com	arstechnica.com
eetimes.com	mercurynews.com
slate.com	eweek.com
mistershape.com	S. Derek Turner

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## What Comes After You Have Your Pictures in Tip Top Shape?

*by Donald Cummins, APCUG Representative, Fresno Personal Computer Users Group, California*

Paper and ink are a team – one without the other is just paper or ink. Paper is one of the least understood or overlooked items.

Paper should be used with care. A wedding picture may be a total loss if you put it on the incorrect type of paper. If the picture is taken on the soft side (not very sharp) and printed on very glossy paper, it will make it look out of focus. It would be much better if it is printed on less glossy paper or, even better, on a matte-finish paper. Many of the wedding photos may need to be printed on a number of different types of paper to find the best results. At the same time, the ink cartridges may need to be changed from one group of photos to another.

Some people feel you should use only one brand of paper that is made for your brand of printer; e.g. Epson printer should only use Epson paper and Epson original ink

cartridges. They say do not “mix and match.” Others say stick with one brand of paper or ink and know everything about them. This can be a huge effort at the beginning but may pay off later. Each photo should be and must be looked upon as being unique unto itself.

Now this is where ink comes into play. There are two types of ink dye and pigment. Dye inks produce somewhat brighter colors and are prone to fading. They now may last 10 years or longer. Pigment inks are less bright and last longer than dye ink on photos.

Some feel that the larger number of dots per inch is one of the biggest things that will enhance the finished photo. The other side says 1440 dpi is all you really need. The droplet size may be the finishing touch to the photo if your printer can put down a droplet size of four picoliters and/or smaller; this is too small for our eyes to see. Some printers are even putting down droplets as small as 1.5 picoliters.

Does the ink bleed through or run or take forever to dry and cause the paper to cup up? Some will lay down the ink in a number of passes and others may lay the ink down in one pass. One may require the paper to move through a number of rollers and others will pass straight through.

One item which can affect the finished photo is how thick the paper is. You need to check how the paper moves through the printer because the way it moves will control how thick the paper can be.

Printers now have many more capabilities than four or five years ago. They have more ink colors, ink placement size, and speed than ever before.

For detailed printer information, check the following websites for their information on printers, ink and paper information:

Epson – [www.epson.com](http://www.epson.com)

Canon – [www.canon.com](http://www.canon.com)

Hewlett-Packard – [www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com)

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## Special Interest Groups

### New Day Meeting

A daytime meeting is held on the first Monday of the month at 2pm, in One Senior Place, 8085 Spyglass Hill Rd in Viera.

<http://oneseniorplace.com>

### WINDOWS SIG

Meets 7:00 PM Thursdays

1st & 3rd Thursday at Eau Gallie Library.

All Other Thursdays at Melbourne Library on Fee Avenue.

### BEGINNERS SIG (Newbies)

Meets at 6:30 pm. The 2nd and 4th Thursdays, in the Fee Ave Library, before the Windows SIG

### IMAGING SIG

Meets at 7:30 PM the second and fourth Thursdays, after the Windows SIG, at the Fee Ave Library in Melbourne.

### NEWSLETTER SIG

Meets twice a month on the Saturdays before and after the BUG monthly meeting.

Place is Jim Townsend's home  
call 728-5979 for directions.

### TINKERS SIG

Meets on most Sundays at Bob Schmidt's house.  
Call 952-0199 to verify meeting and directions.

## BUG Club Information

### BUG E-MAIL LIST

To be included in the BUG E-Mail roster, send an E-Mail to Larry French at:  
[president@bugclub.org](mailto:president@bugclub.org).

We will need your full name, E-Mail address and your BUG membership number. You will then receive notices and updates on BUG activities, special events, changes to schedules, etc.

### BUG Officers

Meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Fee Ave. Library, in Study room 1  
Time 7:00 pm to 8:00pm

## Sponsorship Rates

	4 Months	8 Months	12 Months
Full Page	\$160.00	\$ 305.00	\$ 440.00
Half Page	\$ 85.00	\$ 162.00	\$ 232.00
Qtr Page	\$ 45.00	\$ 86.00	\$ 123.00
Bus Card	\$ 25.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 68.00

## Moving ?

Don't miss out on any issues of the BUG Newsletter  
Send your new address to:  
Brevard Users Group Att: Treasurer  
PO Box 2456  
Melbourne, FL 32902-2456  
And e-mail to the Newsletter and Treasurer at:  
[newsletter@bugclub.org](mailto:newsletter@bugclub.org)  
[treasurer@bugclub.org](mailto:treasurer@bugclub.org)

## Brevard Users Group Membership Application

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \$25.00

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Brevard Users' Group  
Incorporated  
P. O. Box 2456  
Melbourne, FL 32902-2456**

**Meetings:**

Are held at the Melbourne Library on Fee Ave. the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

**Membership:**

Is by application and payment of \$25.00 annual dues. Membership is for 12 months from receipt of dues and includes a year's subscription to the newsletter.

Your membership expires on the date indicated in the upper left of your address label (YYYY\MM). Please allow six weeks for processing the renewal.

---

**BUG Officers**

**President:**

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president@bugclub.org

**Vice President**

Lester Cassel  
vicepresident@bugclub.org

**Treasurer:**

Tom Butler 242-9869  
treasurer@bugclub.org

**Secretary:**

Erich Dalton  
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**Member at Large:**

Dan Wadler

**Committee Chairperson**

**Beginners Help:**

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geotbutler@juno.com

**FACUG Representative:**

Open

**Program Director:**

Open

**Webmaster:**

Eric Arnold  
webmaster@bugclub.org

**BUG Web Page:**

<http://bugclub.org>

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**Hardware (Tinkers) SIG:**

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**Newsletter Publishing SIG:**

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newsletter@bugclub.org

**Win 9x/XP SIG:**

George Rymer 724-6715  
Chuck Boring 454-9455  
Bob Staples 255-2623

**Imaging SIG:**

Ed McEwen [imaging@bugclub.org](mailto:imaging@bugclub.org)