



Sunflower Computer Club

Tales from the Mouse

March 2006

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|----|
| Is the Internet Insecure Because of You | 2 |
| New Federal Website Provides Users with Internet Safety and Security Information | 4 |
| How big is a 300 GB hard disk | 6 |
| The Shadow Knows | 8 |
| The Mouse from Hell | 10 |
| Kathy's Page | 12 |
| Anti-Spam Programs – Do | 14 |
| Never Ask For Directions | 16 |
| A Friendly Reminder | 17 |
| Tidbits | 18 |

Computer Room

- Room hours are 6:15 am - 9:45 pm. All Resort Club rooms are locked by 10:00 pm
- **The new door** only locks from the outside...so don't forget to lock up if you are the last one out of the room!

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

A note from the Pres

Hello everyone:

The Club is fortunate in having elected new Officers and Board members for the 2006-2007 season. We're in good hands and next season will be a success. Most all the Committee Chairpersons are returning so continuity for next season is assured.

I look forward to working with our new leadership and enjoying another season with the Computer Club, maybe even get back into demonstrating.

I consider it a privilege to have been the Club President and encourage everyone to get involved with the leadership of the Club.

See you next season,

Bob Krogh

Is the Internet Insecure Because of You? *By Dave Gerber,*

APCUG Advisor; radio show host; Vice President, Sarasota PCUG, Florida dgerber(at)apcug.net

Long gone are the days that we could feel secure and know for certain that we had privacy. With the digital age upon us we can no longer be so sure that our privacy is secure. Recently Google has admitted their organization holds user data indefinitely. This causes concerns as now we know Google has information on us that we do not want anyone to know about.

We can simply blame this all on the big corporate companies; they seem to be a very good escape goat however, this is not the case; your privacy is totally up to you. Certificates ensure that all the data that is transferred between you and the internet is secure and encrypted. Recently in New Zealand there was a short certificate outage on a banks website. During this outage only one out of 300 users took this security warning seriously.

This is a rather large concern, as many users on the internet have the same belief that their data is safe and secure. By the end of 2005 it is estimated identity fraud will cause up to 5 trillion dollars world wide. We, the users of the internet must keep ourselves safe, secure and pay attention to those security warnings. I have compiled some good tools and tricks that will help keep you much more anonymous and secure.

1) Get rid of the internet explorer:

First and foremost Microsoft Internet Explorer is the highest risk to your internet experience. Not only is the most popular internet browser, but is also the most popular for attacks from Viruses and Spyware. Internet explorer is also too integrated with the windows operating system. Have you ever wondered how a dialer or online casino got onto your desktop?

I personally recommend Opera; they have a nice clean browser. The usability is easy and best of all, it uses tabbed browsing.



2) Protect your Connection.

Make sure you have an active firewall operating; Firewalls stop intruders from entering your connection and causing havoc. Hackers can easily gain access to an unprotected network and steal private information.

With the release of SP2 for Windows XP, Microsoft has incorporated a free personal Firewall. If you have broadband your router should have an inbuilt Firewall, and make sure this is enabled, Zone Alarm also offer a free Firewall. You must always do what you can to protect yourself.

3) Don't share those files:

One of the most common security flaws besides running Windows XP, is having File sharing enabled. To disable File Sharing please do the following:

Click Start Menu, select settings.

Click on Network Connections.

(Continued on page 3)

Is the Internet Insecure Because of You? *By Dave Gerber, Cont.*

(Continued from page 2)

Right-click on the Local Area Connection icon and on the menu that appears, choose Properties.

In the General tab under "This connection uses the following items", highlight "File and Printer Sharing for Microsoft Networks". (If File and Printer Sharing is not listed, then file sharing has not been setup).

You may skip the rest of these instructions.

Click Uninstall.

When you are asked if you are sure you want to Uninstall File and Printer Sharing Click Yes.

You may now close the Local Area Connection Properties window.

You must restart for your computer for the effects to work.

3) Hide your IP address:

Your IP address is just like your phone number, it links directly back to you. There are many reasons you may wish to hide your IP address. Preferable you do not want to be tracked around the web, it's just as bad as having a GPS in your mobile phone.

4) Check those certificates:

Your internet connection is not secure, the data that travels between you and the site you may be browsing may pass through over 25 other computers. If you are sending very confidential information such as credit card payments, make sure the address starts with an https. Also check that the padlock on your browser is locked, and is valid for the specific site. This will ensure that you have a 128 bit encrypted connection with the website.

If you want secure email you may also have your emails encrypted too. A good free vendor is Hush-mail. Your email security is more at risk than your web browsing; you must ensure your emails are safe.

5) Kill the spyware

Spyware are little programs that can easily be picked up by surfing any website or downloading files. Spyware can pickup information from where you surf to your credit card details, this information then can be sold.

Microsoft has released a beta version of their upcoming anti spyware removal tool. This too works well, and I highly recommend this tool. Zone Alarm also offer a free online spyware detector.

The information I have passed to you should be seriously considered. The internet is a very unsecure environment; you must ensure your data is safe from outside prying eyes. Make sure you are careful with any transaction you make. Never fool for any kind of email promotion, anyone who tries to sell to you through spam advertising is not trustworthy. Also make sure to check the links from anything you click on; I have found numerous fake Paypal sites that try to steal your login and password.

Remember... it is up to you

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.

New Federal Website Provides Users with Internet Safety and Security Information

**By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont, TX; radio & TV show host
lwilsker(at)apcug.net**

WEBSITES:

<http://www.onguardonline.gov>

<http://www.onguardonline.gov/quiz>

<http://www.onguardonline.gov/stopthinkclick.html>

<http://onguardonline.gov/filecomplaint.html>

<http://onguardonline.gov/tutorials>

The media has recently been rife with stories about internet scams, frauds, identity theft, pedophiles, and other malevolent occurrences that have happened on the internet. While there are many online resources providing informational websites to help prevent us from falling prey to internet victimization, a consortium of federal agencies has created "OnGuard Online" at www.onguardonline.gov. This consortium consists of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), United States Postal Inspection Service, the Department of Commerce (DOC), and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Materials are provided on this website to inform and educate the computer user about several of the most nefarious threats that commonly assail us as we enjoy the abundance of the internet. Topics currently covered are spyware, identity theft, phishing, spam scams, online shopping, P2P (Peer-to-Peer) file sharing, and VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol – internet telephony). There are also a series of online quizzes (www.onguardonline.gov/quiz) where the user can test his knowledge on the

security risks associated with these topics. A series of videos and tutorials on related topics, such as "Viruses and Worms", and "Protect Your Privacy, Family, and PC" are also available at this site (onguardonline.gov/tutorials). For those who have been victimized by internet miscreants, a



resource is available to show the user where and how to file complaints with the appropriate federal and other agencies at onguardonline.gov/filecomplaint.html.

Spyware is defined at this site as "... software installed on your computer without your consent to monitor or control your computer use." Spyware can be used to steal your identity or capture your usernames, passwords, and account numbers (keyloggers); compile personal surfing profiles for directed advertising or other purpose (some forms of tracking cookies); display unwanted pop-up ads, which may be pornographic (ad-ware), redirect the browser to other sites (browser hijacking); install unwanted links on the desktop or in the "favorites" or bookmarks; and a variety of other unwanted and possibly dangerous web related items. OnGuard Online provides links and information on removing spyware, and protecting your computer from spyware.

Identity theft is a scourge that may impact as many as 10 million Americans each year, according to some sources. The incidence of identity theft through internet tricks, such as "Phishing" (typically emails directing the user to an authentic looking but counterfeit website soliciting credit card information, PIN numbers, etc.); "Pharming" (changing data files or "hosts" on the computer to redirect intentional visits to financial or commercial sites to counterfeit sites where valuable personal information is illicitly obtained) accounts for an increasingly significant portion of

(Continued on page 5)

New Federal Website Provides Users with Internet Safety and Security Information

By Ira Wilsker, Cont.

(Continued from page 4)

identity theft. OnGuard Online provides information on how to protect yourself from Phishing scams, and how to protect your identity while online, as well as instructions on dealing with identity theft if victimized.

Some internet security companies report that the amount of spam, or unsolicited commercial email, can easily amount to 60 to 80 percent of all emails sent. According to this website, details are provided on the major spam scams currently in circulation. The top 10 spam scams are: The “Nigerian” Email Scam (may also appear to be from Russia, Columbia, England, or other sources); Phishing; Work-at-Home Scams; Weight Loss Claims; Foreign Lotteries (Congratulations, you are a winner in the Spanish / British / Canadian Lottery!); Cure-All Products; Check Overpayment Scams (I have a large cashier’s check – cash it, keep some, and wire me the difference); Pay-in-Advance Credit Offers; Debt Relief; and Investment Schemes (buy this penny stock – it will quintuple in a few days). Sadly, many gullible internet users still fall for these scams enriching the crooks, and typically receiving nothing worthwhile in return.

Millions of internet users shopped online during the holiday season, and still continue to do so at online retailers, or popular auction sites such as Ebay. While most online shoppers have been successful, and had few problems, there are also thousands who have been victimized to some degree by internet crooks. This site explains a series of safe shopping tips, including “Know who you’re dealing with; Know exactly what you’re

buying; Know what it will cost (including shipping, taxes, and other charges); Pay by credit or charge card; Check out the terms of the deal; and Print and save records of your online transactions.”

“Peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing allows users to share files online through an informal network of computers running the same software.” People,

especially children and college students, use these P2P networks to exchange software, music, videos, and other files. While there is much material that can legitimately be exchanged, P2P is also often a source of spyware, viruses, and illicit and illegal copies of pirated software, music, and other intellectual property. This site lists many of the risks common

with these P2P services, and how to safely utilize such services.

You have likely seen the ads on TV, as well as displays at the electronics and mass merchandising stores for “VoIP”, services that allow the broadband internet user to make local and long distance phone calls over the internet for a flat monthly fee. While expanding on popularity, the path has been bumpy, as some subscribers have been dissatisfied with the service. Issues and service such as “911” calls, while addressed in regulations, are still not universally implemented on many VoIP systems. The OnGuard

Online website also explains what many local VoIP users painfully found out

during the recent spate of hurricanes and other storms, that if there is no power, or internet service is otherwise inaccessible, the VoIP services generally do not function, leaving the user without phone service.

The OnGuard Online site “Stop – Think – Click: 7 Practices for Safer Computing” (onguardonline.gov/stopthinkclick.html) reiterates the oft stated common sense warnings that all computer users should be aware of, and implement:

1. Protect your personal information. It’s valuable.
2. Know who you’re dealing with.
3. Use anti-virus software and a firewall, and update both regularly.
4. Make sure your operating system and Web browser are set up properly and

(Continued on page 6)

.New Federal Website Provides Users with Internet Safety and Security Information

By Ira Wilsker, Cont.

(Continued from page 5)

update them regularly.

5. Protect your passwords.
6. Back up important files.
7. Learn who to contact if something goes wrong online.

If the information on the OnGuard Online websites is utilized, we will all

have a safer and more enjoyable internet experience.

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.

How big is a 300 GB hard disk *By Jim Sanders, Editor, Orange Bytes, North Orange County Computer Club www.noccc.org / [editor\(at\)noccc.org](mailto:editor(at)noccc.org)*

I recently acquired a 300 GB hard disk for \$110 after rebates. When I look at that 3.5 inch hard drive that is one inch high and easily held in my hand, trying to put those 300 Giga bytes of storage in perspective is a little tough. I thought about the first Z80 CPM system I built in 1977 from a Cromemco kit that I had to solder together. It used 8 inch floppy disks that held 128,000 Bytes.

The diskettes were easy to damage and it was a good idea to keep them in storage boxes. I made some good money selling the SRW Computer Products plastic storage boxes at a great ACP Swap Meet discounted price of \$2.00 each. They were designed to hold 10, but you could get 2 or 3 more in if you were careful! I wondered how many floppies that would be, so I punched the numbers into the calculator. $300,000,000,000\text{B}/128,000\text{B} = 2,343,750$ diskettes. I don't know how to visualize that, but I did calculate that it would take \$468,750.00 worth of those boxes to store them all. I then remembered that the average price at that time was about \$3.50 a diskette. Again the calculator, $2,343,750$ diskettes \times \$3.50 = \$8,203,125.00. Wow! That is a number that I don't want to think

about if I am talking about a hobby.

Another way to wrap your mind around huge numbers is to start small, with something that you can relate to, and work your way up. Now we know that one byte equals one character of the alphabet. The common 10 point type has 10 characters per inch. So, if we have 120 characters/bytes in a row, we have one foot. There are 5,280 feet in a mile. So $5,280 \times 120$ gives the number of character or bytes that would be on a mile long ticket tape that was being printed with 10 point type, an answer of 633,600 bytes. Compared to the 300 Giga bytes on the hard disk, 633,600 bytes is not much. To find out how much, we need to take the 300,000,000,000 byte capacity of the hard disk and divide it by 633,600 bytes in a mile. The answer to



(Continued on page 7)

How big is a 300 GB hard disk *By Jim Sanders, Cont.*

(Continued from page 6)

that math problem is the equivalent of 473,485 miles of ticker tape.

To put that into perspective, let's take the circumference of the earth (nominally 25,000 miles) and divide that into our answer. So, $473,485 / 25,000 = 18.93$. If we could find a big enough roll of ticker tape, printing all the information on that hard disk would wrap around the equator of the earth 18.93 times. That sounds impressive, but how many people can really visualize that. Besides, I don't know anyone who has a big enough ticker tape printer. Another thought, that ticker tape would be 3,000 miles short of stretching from the Earth to the Moon and back.

But let's try it with regular 8.5 inch x 11 inch paper. Again, standard printing would be 10 point type, 10 bytes per inch, and 6 lines per inch. Most people leave at least a half inch margin all the way around the page. So that means each line will be 7.5 inches, or 75 bytes, and there will be 60 lines per page. So each page will use 75 bytes x 60 lines, or 4,500 bytes. First, let's take 1 of the 300,000 megabytes on the disk and see how many pages that represents. $1,000,000 / 4,500 = 222.2$ pages. We still have 299,999 megabytes left and, using them, the total number of pages comes out to 66,660,000 pages.

That is also a little hard to imagine, so let's see how many reams of paper that is. Take 66,660,000 pages, divided by 500 sheets per ream = 133,320

reams of paper. Again, a little hard to visualize.

A lot of things have their volume given in cubic feet. That's 12 inches x 12 inches x 12 inches or 1,728 cubic inches, or 1 cubic foot. I measured one case of paper at 11.25x9x17.5 inches, or 1,771 cubic inches. Let's be generous and round that off to one cubic foot. So at 5,000 sheets, or ten reams per case, we divide the 133,320 reams that we came up with by 10 to get 13,332 cases, or that many cubic feet of space.

Stipulating that an average house is 1,400 square feet with eight foot high ceilings, then the average house has 11,200 cubic feet of space, ignoring the walls. If you filled up your house, wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling, with cases of printed paper, you would still have 2,132 cases left over. If you are in better shape than I am, there is still room to get one car in that two car garage. That's 10'x20'x9' = 1,800 cubic feet, so that still leaves us with 332 cases of paper. We could take all of the junk out of the other half of the garage, lay down a two foot thick layer of paper and put all the junk back in on top of it. That's how much the 300 Giga byte disk holds! So, unless you are planning on taking out a home improvement loan, don't buy that 400 Giga byte disk.

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.

GADGETS!!!

March 30th — Marcia Johnson will be presenting some computer gadgets!!!!

The Shadow Knows *by Mike Morris* Front Range PC Users Group, Fort Collins, CO

www.frpcug.org [ml_morris\(at\)jymis.com](mailto:ml_morris(at)jymis.com)

How many readers remember that phrase? Or remember listening to the show on the radio:

"Who knows what evil lurks in the heart of men? The Shadow knows."

Recent headlines have described the availability of TV shows on the internet—at a price. No headlines, however, for The Shadow or other radio programs from the 1930's and 1940's. The copyrights to a large number of the old radio shows have expired, and you can now download (or order) these programs in a variety of formats and listen to them through your computer or other audio equipment.

Whether your interest is historical research, for the nostalgia value, for a hobby, or for the simple entertainment value, the variety of programs and information about these old radio programs is astonishing. I originally searched the internet using Google and the phrase "old radio programs." That search returned over 20,000 hits over 6 months. The correct phrase should have been "old time radio." That search returned over 1 million hits from the past 6 months.

These websites provide an incredible wealth of information. I have checked a very small number of websites, and offer my comments on them. There are episodes of The Shadow, Sam Spade, The Thin Man—as you can see, I like mysteries. There are comedies, westerns, music, and much more.

By the way, how many readers remember the origin of Sam Spade? Do you recall the movie "The Maltese Falcon" with Humphrey Bogart? The movie was based on the novel of the same name by Dashiell Hammett (originally published in 1929), which introduced the world to Sam Spade. Another novel by the same author, "The Thin Man," (originally published in 1933) was turned into

a movie starring William Powell and Myrna Loy. Here is a trivia question for you: who *really* was the Thin Man?—answer at the end of this article.

As you might expect, the audio quality of these old radio shows varies. Some websites allow you to listen to short samples of selected shows using either RealPlayer™ or Media Player, both of which are bundled with the Windows operating system.

"It is Thursday night, July 31, 1930. The time is 9:40 PM. Radio listeners tuned to CBS hear the first appearance of "The Shadow"" Thus begins the history of "The Shadow" as provided by the Old-Time Radio Program Guide, <http://www.old-time.com/toc.html>. This website has links to historical information on a number of old time radio programs and to other websites that include soundbites and stories, and to websites that offer programs on cassettes, CD's, DVD's, or direct downloads to your computer.

More history is available at Radio Days: A Soundbite of History, <http://otr.com/index.shtml>. There are links to history by category (Mystery, Private Eyes, Comedy, SciFi) and to histories of selected programs (Captain Midnight, Terry and the Pirates). This website also provides an historical timeline with important dates in radio broadcasting with descriptions of relevant programs. Selected downloads (soundbites) are included. There is a link to a schedule of old time radio on the airwaves (and on the internet).

At "It Seems Like Only Yesterday," <http://www.yesterdayradio.com/>, old radio programs are offered for sale on cassettes. Categories include: World War II and Civil War History, Big Band Music, Comedy, Westerns, Science Fiction, and Sherlock Holmes. The Big Band category includes

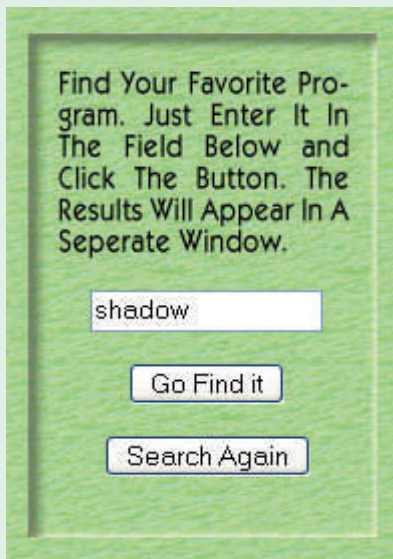
(Continued on page 9)

The Shadow Knows *by Mike Morris Cont.*

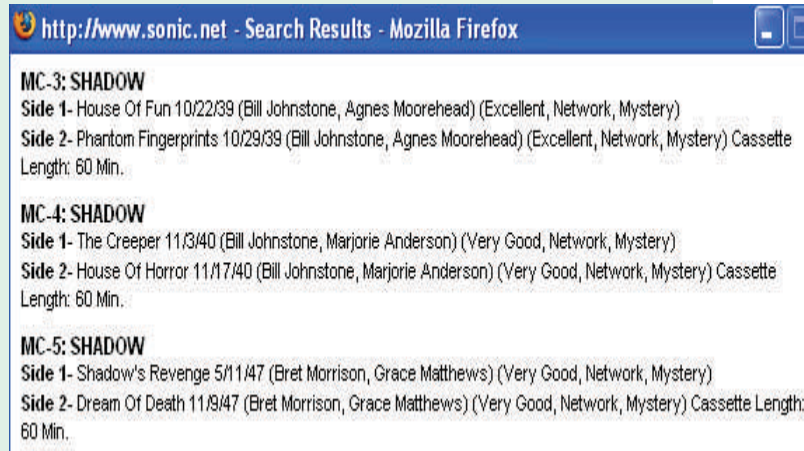
(Continued from page 8)

Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, and other broadcasts from the 1940's.

The "Radio of Yesteryear" website, <http://www.originaloldradio.com/>, claims to have 50,000 old time radio programs available on CD's, in various formats. There is a category called "Radio's Best 1000," and "single subject" CD's such as Abbott and Costello, CBS Radio Mystery Theatre, and many more.



Meanwhile, back at . . . old-time.com, there is a link to a website called "Radio Showcase," http://www.old-time.com/sponsors/rad_sho.html. This site offers an excellent searchable database, with "actor credits, recording sources, story categories, and program notes . . ." Here is a sample of a search:



Here is a sample of the results of the search:

In the interest of objectivity, I call your attention to the RadioLovers.com website, <http://radiolovers.com>. This site claims to offer individual old time radio program downloads. However, I did not pursue the offer. I found the site's use of pop up ads objectionable (the ads appeared despite having the pop up blocker enabled in my Firefox browser). But that is my personal prejudice. For those with greater tolerance to such ads, you may find this site useful.

As I listened to these old radio programs, and read about their history, I realized that there was one program that I wanted to locate above all others: the original radio broadcast of War of the Worlds. This program, created from the 1898 H. G. Wells novel by Orson Welles and broadcast in 1938, is famous (or infamous) for the real panic it created.

A search using Google on the phrase "war of the worlds" provided the result EarthStation1.com, <http://www.earthstation1.com/wotw.html>. Success! I listened to the entire program (slightly less than one hour) using RealPlayer™. My brain soaked up certain phrases:

(Continued on page 10)

The Shadow Knows *by Mike Morris Cont.*

(Continued from page 9)

“. . . these creatures have scientific knowledge far in excess of our own”

“. . . a vanguard of an invading army from Mars”

Okay, so point your finger at me and laugh, while you enjoy the latest movie version with its extraordinary computer generated special effects. I thoroughly enjoyed the hour I spent listening to this classic radio broadcast. Even the 1930's audio quality added to its menace.

While you are watching the movie, I am going to dim the lights, turn off the TV, unplug the phone, and settle into my favorite chair. It is time to listen to *The Shadow*. Even in the 21st century, it is com-

forting that there is an answer to the question “who knows what evil lurks in the heart of men?”

The Shadow knows.”

[The trivia question answer: No, it is not the detective Nick Charles. The title of *Thin Man* belongs to the extremely eccentric inventor Clyde Wynant, who remains missing until the last chapter of the novel, when it is revealed that he is the victim of a gruesome crime.]

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.

The Mouse from Hell

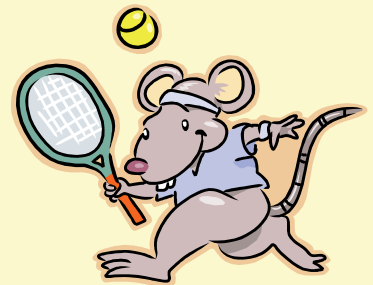
Hardware Review...or Sort of *By Ann Moore, Topeka PC Users Club Personal Computer Newsletter, February 2006* www.topekapcusersclub.org [commuter\(at\)cox.net](mailto:commuter(at)cox.net)

Several months ago, I sent the following e-mail to “Answerperson” concerning a tragedy in my life:

“Dear Answerperson,

When I started my computer this morning, my mouse showed no sign of life. Its heart (red light) did not flicker nor did it feel warm to my touch. It was stone cold dead. I tried to revive it by performing an uninstall-reinstall, to no avail. A check of outlets and wiring found them intact. How do I determine the cause of death? There were no early signs of malfunction. If it were an animal, I could have a necropsy performed. Must I disassemble it to determine the cause of death? I cringe at the thought of disemboweling my friend. My mouse was not extraordinary in any way – it was not wireless nor was it ergonomic, just a simple mouse that

I loved and cherished. Every day for four year, I held this inanimate object in my hand, caressed it, and knew every curve and indentation intimately. We were as one.



I have accepted the fact that I must now lay it to rest, but where? Is there a cemetery for computer mice? Should I have it cremated or do I put it in a box and bury it in my backyard under the lilac bush? What will become of my dear friend? Is there a computer mouse heaven? This has never happened to me before and I am devastated.

(Continued on page 11)

The Mouse from Hell *By Ann Moore, Cont.*

(Continued from page 10)

Please no cards or flowers. There will be a memorial fund set up in the name of "Ann's Mouse" and donations may be sent to [commuter\(at\)cox.net](mailto:commuter(at)cox.net)"

Answerperson offered his deepest sympathy and suggested that I put my sorrow behind me, go on with my computing and find a new mouse. I visited Best buy in search of a replacement and found no sympathy there. Their only concern was to sell me a very expensive replacement. In my vulnerable state, if the clerk had shown a little compassion, I might have purchased a more expensive model but because his attitude was cold and unfeeling, I left the store with one of their cheapest models. There is an old adage: "You get what you pay for," and that is exactly what I got – in spades.

I doted on my new mouse, showering it with an abundance of TLC. I never mistreated it by applying any unnecessary pressure, jerking or pulling. In spite of all my efforts to maintain a close personal relationship, it soon became apparent that we were not compatible. The erratic behavior of the mouse became noticeable following surgery on my right shoulder. I was forced to change the mouse settings to accommodate my left hand and the mouse began to balk at every command. Although I moved it around very slowly, it would take off and race around the screen leaving me breathless in my attempt to keep up with it.

In October, I purchased a new LDS 19-inch monitor and the mouse went ballistic. It refused to leave the confines of its colorful, soft pad. Trying to reach

the far corners of my monitor with my cursor became almost impossible. The mouse resisted my every effort to control its actions. Every day was a tug-of-war and I was losing my patience. I had serious work to do and no time to play games. I needed a good reliable mouse. I decided that this obnoxious, malevolent, detestable little rodent had to be eradicated. It was time to go cordless.

Completing a jubilant trip to Best Buy, I came home with a Logitech cordless mouse. I could hardly wait to start using it. What a difference a cord makes! This Logitech moves like a cream and is a pleasure to work with. It takes me everywhere I went to go. Truly, a match made in heaven. I am certain that I have found a new reliable friend.

What do I do with this evil, malicious, wicked little devil that made my life a living hell? No sad songs or mourning for this monster. I had visions of snipping off its tail to make it impotent, then dropping it on the floor and stomping it to death. I even considered calling "The Terminator." What I will do is wrap it up in colorful paper and donate it to the club for a prize at the next Christmas party. I am hoping it will fall into a strong masculine hand that will teach this contemptible, spiteful, despicable creature how to behave in the presence of a lady.

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.

Thurs, Mar 9, 9:30AM in the Ballroom

Mr. Joe DeMichael of COI will be addressing issues relating to On Line and Offline Virus, Spyware and more helpful information

KATHY'S PAGE

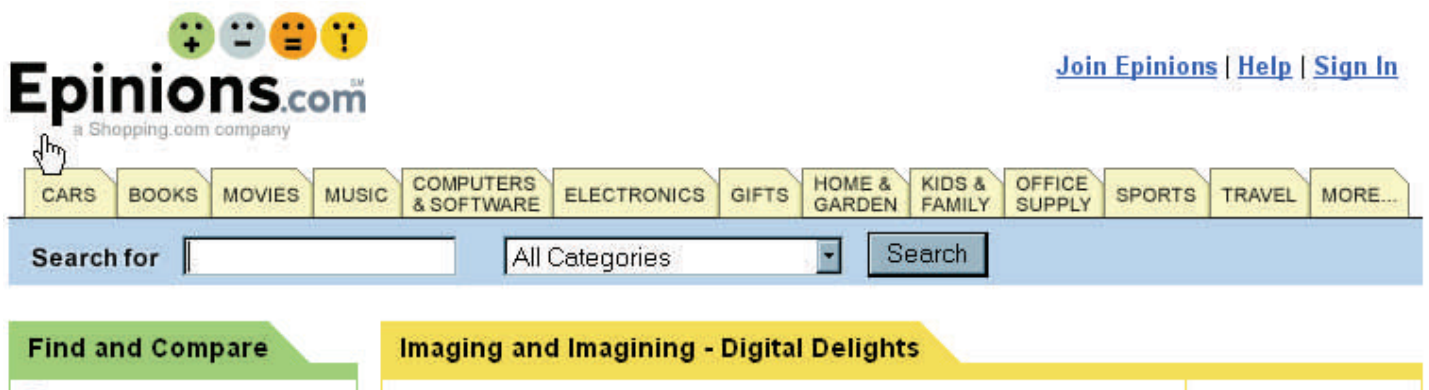
Kathy has been giving us lots of information on the use of the internet.

This month is a great one on Service providers, and more!

Have you ever wanted to know information on a book?

Have you ever wanted more information on a car but do not know where to look? How about traveling. Trying to find a spot just for you? Well here is a site that will give you opinions on that and more.

<http://www.epinions.com>



Epinions.com
a Shopping.com company

[Join Epinions](#) | [Help](#) | [Sign In](#)

CARS BOOKS MOVIES MUSIC COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE ELECTRONICS GIFTS HOME & GARDEN KIDS & FAMILY OFFICE SUPPLY SPORTS TRAVEL MORE...

Search for All Categories

Find and Compare Imaging and Imagining - Digital Delights

Have you ever wanted to know if the Mac people are having more fun? Or if you should be a mac or should you be a PC person? What type of buyer should consider a Mac.

<http://www.epinions.com/cmhd-Apple-Topics-1>



Epinions.com
a Shopping.com company

[Join Epinions](#) | [Help](#) | [Sign In](#)

CARS BOOKS MOVIES MUSIC COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE ELECTRONICS GIFTS HOME & GARDEN KIDS & FAMILY OFFICE SUPPLY SPORTS TRAVEL MORE...

\$1149 \$999 Notebook after mail-in rebate &
\$599 \$499 Desktop after mail-in rebate online from Dell™ Home.

Some offers end 3/8. [CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

IT'S A **DELL**

Search for PC Desktops [Advanced Search](#)

Home > [Computers & Internet](#) > [PC Desktops](#) > Topics

Mac vs PC

Did you know that there are many types of Internet Service Providers that you can get for around \$10 per month (unlimited, nationwide and payable by the year)? This site will help you find the right one for you:

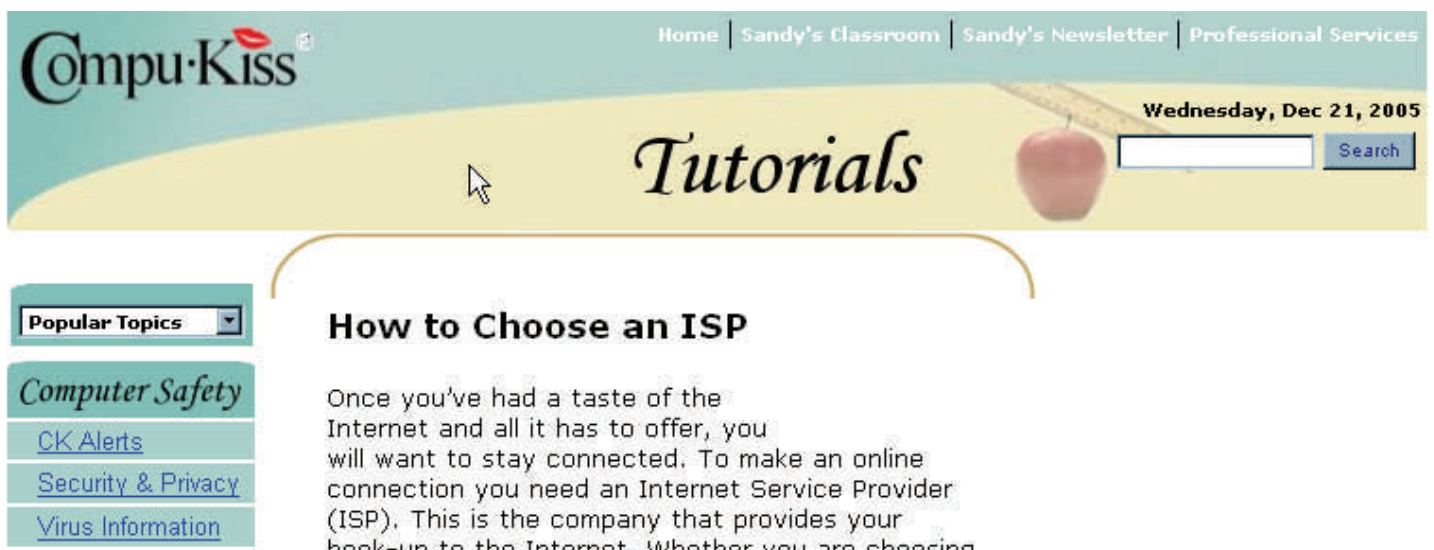
http://www.ehow.com/how_108530_choose-internet-service.html



The screenshot shows the eHow website interface. At the top right, there are logos for 'eHow' and 'wikiHow'. The main header features the eHow logo and the tagline 'Clear Instructions on How To Do (just about) Everything'. Below this is a Google search bar with a 'Search' button and a 'Web eHow.com' link. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Computers & Home Electronics Center > Other Internet and Networking'. The main title of the article is 'How to Choose an Internet Service Provider'. Below the title are three icons: 'E-MAIL THIS', 'PRINT THIS', and 'RATE THIS'. On the right side, there is a 'Related eHow's' section with three links: 'Choose a High-Speed Internet Access Method', 'Evaluate Free Internet Service Providers (ISPs)', and 'Change Your Internet Service Provider'.

This site helps you choose and how to switch:

<http://www.compukiss.com/sandyclassroom/tutorials/article1266.htm>



The screenshot shows the Compu-Kiss website. The header includes the 'Compu-Kiss' logo and navigation links for 'Home', 'Sandy's Classroom', 'Sandy's Newsletter', and 'Professional Services'. The date 'Wednesday, Dec 21, 2005' is displayed on the right. The main heading is 'Tutorials' in a large, stylized font. Below the heading is a search bar with a 'Search' button. On the left side, there is a 'Popular Topics' dropdown menu with a list of links: 'Computer Safety', 'CK Alerts', 'Security & Privacy', and 'Virus Information'. The main content area features the title 'How to Choose an ISP' and the beginning of an article: 'Once you've had a taste of the Internet and all it has to offer, you will want to stay connected. To make an online connection you need an Internet Service Provider (ISP). This is the company that provides your hook-up to the Internet. Whether you are choosing'.

Anti-Spam Programs – Do They Really Work? by Vinny La Bash,

vlabash(at)home.com Member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.

February 2006 issue of the Sarasota PC Monitor www.spcug.org

Among the most effective anti-spam programs are the ones that use some kind of approval based email management system. They work by constructing a “white list” of permitted email addresses, accepting mail from anyone on the list, and rejecting everything else. The program initially sniffs through your contact list, inbox, and other email folders, organizes the email addresses it finds, asks you if you want to add or change anything, and the list is complete.

From that moment on, any incoming email that is not on the list is considered to be spam, and is automatically exiled to a quarantine folder or wherever you decided it should go during installation. The programs do work as advertised, which is both their greatest strength and their greatest weakness. Here’s what you need to know before installing one of these puppies.

Scenario 1: A friend you have lost contact with over the years sends you an email. That friend’s email address is not on your white list. Unless you have a quarantine folder where unapproved email is sent without automatically deleting it, you will never see this email. You have to check your quarantine folder, at least occasionally, to see if there are any false positives residing in there with all the junk. How much time will this take? Who knows? None of the programs mention this in their promotional material or specification lists.

Scenario 2: You install a new program or device and run into difficulties. The troubleshooting guide sends you to an email address where you can get a solution to your problem. You remember to add the email address to your white list.

You wait for a reply, and wait, and wait. What happened?

Your problem was given to a technical representative who has an email address different from

the general support address. You don’t see the reply unless you check the quarantine email folder, assuming that in your efforts to rid yourself of all spam you did not specify that anything not on your white list be automatically deleted.

Scenario 3: You order something from an online merchant and before your order is shipped the merchant emails you to ask whether you want the white one or the black one. The query has been rerouted to the quarantine folder because the person trying to contact you has an email address that is not on your white list.

Scenario 4: Your spouse sets up a Yahoo! Email account for the sole purpose of sending you a surprise Valentine’s Day email. For no apparent reason you are getting the silent treatment. You ask, “What’s wrong”? Your spouse replies, “Nothing”.

Scenario 5: Your granddaughter just got an email address of her own. She sends you a message, and can’t understand why you won’t answer. She asks her parents “Why doesn’t grandpa love me anymore”?

We could go on, but you get the general idea.



(Continued on page 15)

Anti-Spam Programs – Do They Really Work? by Vinny La Bash,

(Continued from page 14)

99.99% of all real spam will be banished from your sight, but the very few legitimate emails identified as spam will very likely be the ones you most want or need to see. Some anti-spam programs have a “sender confirmation feature” that automatically sends a personalized notification to anyone whose message has been quarantined. Simply replying to the challenge causes the original message to be moved to your inbox, and allows their email address to be added to the white list. Legitimate senders can respond to these challenge messages, but suppose that for whatever reason they don't. Does a seven year old grandchild really understand why she needs a grandparent's permission to send an email?

What you end up with is a time-consuming process of back and forth emails. Why should every email first contact have to be sent twice? What a waste of time. This might be acceptable if your email volume is very low, but who are we kidding. Simply establishing an email account anywhere will get you a boatload of spam. ISP level filters are a joke. How many essays do you want to compose explaining why someone needs

“permission” to send you an email? I don't respond to challenge email. Why should anyone respond to mine?

You can check your quarantine folder regularly, but with the huge quantity of genuine spam generated and thrust upon us daily, it's too easy to overlook a legitimate message. When you finally delete the spam, there is a good chance that among the junk a valuable note is lost forever.

After using one of these programs for several months, I decided that I would much rather delete spam manually, rather than run the risk of missing an important legitimate email. No computer program, no matter how expertly crafted or trained, can ultimately determine what emails I do or don't want to read. Even after being married for 38 years, my wife still can't read my mind. How do I expect a dumb computer to do it?

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.

Two wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people.

He said, "My son, the battle is between 2 wolves inside us all. One is Evil ... it is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good ... it is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Never Ask For Directions

Trade Your Maps For High-Tech GPS Tools *Nathan Chandler*

Reviews

March 2006 • Vol.17 Issue 3

Page(s) 19 in print issue

Send insights and insults to Nathan at nathan@smartcomputing.com



Personal Navigation Device

\$699

MapQuest

info@mapquest.com

www.mapquest.com

MapQuest is one of the Web's best-known mapping sites, and the company is expanding its product offerings by teaming with TomTom



RoadMate 360 North America

\$799.99

Magellan

(800) 669-4477

www.magellangps.com

Clunky interfaces, inaccurate maps, and idiotic voice prompts have doomed more than one GPS (global positioning system)-powered driving tool. As with all matters digital, though, the products are getting better, and I tested two guidance systems that made me more willing to embrace GPS and less likely to resort to paper maps.

Street Adventures

MapQuest is one of the Web's best-known mapping sites, and the company is expanding its product offerings by teaming with TomTom (www.tomtom.com) to sell the MapQuest Personal Navigation Device. The PND includes a 1GB Secure Digital memory card that's preloaded with maps of North America, so you don't need to connect to your PC until you want to change maps or other setup options. This model has a 3.5-inch touch-sensitive screen and includes about 30 languages and 50 voices that tell you exactly where to drive.

There are several voices that offer directions. Another standout feature is the display's perspective, which is designed to emulate the view you'd see looking out your windshield—that is, you'll see a horizon line, and objects in close proximity look larger than those that are farther away. Also nice was the rechargeable lithium-ion battery, which lets you carry the 11-

ounce unit as you travel on bicycle or by foot. Setting up the PND was a cinch. The heavy-duty, adjustable arm attached quickly to my car's windshield, and within five minutes, I'd used the touchscreen to enter my first destination. The interface was colorful, fun, and so intuitive that I didn't even bother to crack open the product manual.

Whip Smart Passenger

Like the MapQuest model, Magellan's RoadMate 360 comes with preinstalled maps of North America. The 360 has a full-color touchscreen, with seven menu buttons and a controller pad to help you make selections more efficiently. Better yet, the RoadMate also has a fold-out antenna, which may improve reception in some areas.

As you begin entering directions, the voice prompt recites each key press aloud, a feature that's sometimes helpful and sometimes annoying. It took a few extra steps to enter my first destination with the 360, as I had to work my way through a frustratingly inane hierarchal menu (region, state, city, and finally, street) to enter the address.

After I typed an address, the device offered several routes (shortest, no freeways, etc.) for my destination, and once I selected an option, I had the option of clicking through each turn to preview my route and eliminate any streets I didn't like, a process that caused the device to instantly calculate a new route. The RoadMate usually displays a traditional top-down perspective, but when you approach a turn, it shows a Split TrueView feature that's more three-dimensional.

There were plenty of other features to play with, too, including a trip computer, track recorder, speed indicator, and compass, as well as different map colors. Like the PND, the RoadMate also displays points of interest, complete with phone numbers and full addresses.

Although the RoadMate's list price makes it look

(Continued on page 17)

Never Ask For Directions *Nathan Chandler Cont.*

(Continued from page 16)

much pricier than MapQuest's product, that number is very misleading. You'll find this Magellan product online for well under \$700.

■ Final Destination

Overall, both units worked well, but they occasionally made it far too confusing to enter certain addresses, a task that admittedly became easier with practice. Both models also sometimes told us to take silly, pointless turns that lengthened

our driving times by a few minutes.

However, for the most part, they did their job of guiding us without major difficulty. If you want a navigational tool that's simple to use, MapQuest's version is the way to go; if you crave more features and don't mind a slightly steeper learning curve, consider the RoadMate 360.

"Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing. Visit <http://www.smartcomputing.com/groups> to see what Smart Computing can do for you and your user group."

A Friendly Reminder *by Jennifer Farwell*

Reviews

March 2006 • Vol.17 Issue 3

Page(s) 25 in print issue



AlarmWiz 2.1

\$24.95

AcroVista Software

www.acrovista.com

Scorecard

Performance 4

Ease Of Use 5

Installation 5

Based on its title, AlarmWiz would appear to be a reminder program. In reality, it straddles the line between the reminder tools in programs such as Outlook and full-fledged task scheduling and automation programs. It's a nifty, combined task reminder/motivator utility that is perfect for road warriors who are also hopeless procrastinators.

Using AlarmWiz, you can set reminder alarms for events and prompts for tasks. Alarms can be audible or silent—AlarmWiz can play the WAV or MP3 file of

your choice or launch a CD, and/or it can display a flashing alert with the text of your choice. (AlarmWiz does not support Windows Media file formats, so you'll need to convert files you ripped or downloaded.)

To further encourage you to get moving, AlarmWiz can execute programs, launch your browser, upload or download files using FTP (File Transfer Protocol), or send emails.

Each action requires a separate alarm, but you can set them close together so they occur consecutively. You can also set them to occur once or to repeat indefinitely at a variety of regular intervals or on specific dates you choose. AlarmWiz lets you create an exceptions list for those times you don't want its help, and it offers a user-configurable Snooze Button if you want to temporarily postpone tasks or reminders.

For the road warrior, the possibilities are endless. Wake to your favorite CD and then have AlarmWiz launch Outlook, connect to the Internet, start Microsoft Word or Excel, and send a reminder email to your associates about the morning meeting. By the time you emerge from the shower, your messages are waiting and you can get straight to the tasks at hand. One warning: After you run it the first time, you cannot open it from the Programs menu (it keeps running minimized if there are upcoming alarms). To open the interface, right-click the icon in your System Tray and click View Alarm Window. ■

"Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing. Visit <http://www.smartcomputing.com/groups> to see what Smart Computing can do for you and your user group."

Skeakers

March 18 We have-The Digital Photo Guy Lee Otsubo www.thedigitalphotoguy.com

Digital cameras are all about immediacy and fun. Learn to emphasize the **fun** by joining Lee Otsubo,

Each year The Digital Photo Guy™ talks to over 9,000 enthusiasts, aged 13 to 93, in computer clubs, community college courses, and scrapbook show classes. He has been an invited guest speaker at SWUG and APCUG, and has been interviewed on radio talk shows about digital camera technology. Visit www.thedigitalphotoguy.com to listen to Computer Outlook and Computer America radio interviews, watch 5-minute tutorials about various software tools for digital photography, or view his latest photography work in the Photo Gallery.

Lee's company, Digital Photo Guy, Inc., publishes multi-media learning CDs, and DigiCue© Card products--"the CliffNotes® of digital photography: clear, concise, and enlightening." Here's what others have to say:

"... Lee ... takes you through Digital Photography from start to finish, giving the information with intelligence and humor. This presentation is well worth your time."

Michael Ging, Staff Photographer, The Arizona Republic

"I want to thank Lee again for giving us a SUPER GREAT workshop presentation today. There was a standing-room only crowd...it was the best presentation we've had in years."

Bob Hastings, President, Sun Lakes Country Club (California)

Tidbits:

January 2006

March 2 - business meet

March 9 - Mr. Joe DeMichael

March 18 - Lee Otsubo, the Digital Photo Guy

March 23 -Annual Recognition Dinner

March 30 - Marcia Johnson

Class and Special Interest Group Schedule is posted on the website and is updated frequently! Check the **CALENDAR** page.

Articles for the next issue of Tales from the Mouse are due on June,25, 2006. Tales from the Mouse is produced monthly from November thru March/April and a summer issue in July.

Sunflower Resort Computer Club is a member of the Arizona Alliance of Computer Clubs (www.AZacc.org), the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (www.APCUG.org) and registered with Microsoft Mindshare.

Business Meetings **9:30 am-11:00 in the** **Ballroom**

Officers:

President.....Bob Krogh
Vice President....Kathie Favaro
Secretary.....Gary Sugar
Treasurer.....Marcia Johnson

Board Members:

Sandy Hart
John Jung
Don Klinker
Wally Treu
Sharon Stahlecker, Audit

Committees:

Basic Training: Marvin LeNoue
Hands-On Training: Jean Blair
SIGs: & Classes Nancy Baker
Program Coordinator: Cecelia Scott
Monitors: Dianne Hill/Dick Anderson



Technical: John Jung, Wally Treu, Sandy Hart
Computer 911: Bruce Shanks
Sunshine: Shirley Ryti
Hospitality: Mary Lou Carey
Christmas Brunch: Betty Casper
Annual Banquet: Mary Lou Carey
Email database: Bob Kaempfer
Webmaster: Sandy Hart
Newsletter Editor: Joann Dingel
Meeting Setup: Pete Johnson
Reviews Editor:
Historian

We're on the web!

www.sunflowercomputerclub.org