

TOGGLE

THE MICROCOMPUTER TURN (ON)

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TACOMA-SEATTLE AREA MICROCOMPUTER USERS

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Program Note:

Due to the poor turnout at the October meeting, Dave Chapman will repeat his brief description of his experiences with an advanced copy of Windows 8. Based on what he showed the few that were at the October meeting. It should be worth attending just to hear about Microsoft's latest operating system.

URGENT! IMPORTANT NOTICE!

TOG Sunset?

by Carl Tenning, TOG President

The "Tacoma Open Group For Microcomputers" is now over 31 years old. It started out in June 1981 as the Tacoma Osborne Group. After the IBM PC emerged, the name of the club was changed to "Tacoma Open Group For Microcomputers". In the last few years membership and meeting attendance have been declining. Meeting attendance was only eight in both July and August of this year and only six at the September 2012 meeting.

An election of officers was supposed to be held at the May meeting of this year, but no one stepped forward to offer their services. Thus, we continue operating with the previously elected officers, President, Treasurer, Librarian, and Newsletter Editor. No one has filled the position of Vice President/Program Chairman for at least two years now. So, the question arises, should continue on.

The club, however, is on firm financial ground with sufficient funds to continue operation as we are now for about three even if we were to discontinue collecting yearly dues. Thus the proposal was made by the Treasurer at the September 2012 meeting to discontinue collecting membership dues beginning in January 2013. However, until funds are depleted, we will continue to publish and distribute our newsletter, the TOGGLE, both in hard copy and online on our website: www.toggle.org.

A vote on this proposal will be taken at the November 2012 meeting.

In the event that this proposal is approved, (1) membership dues will be terminated as of January 2013 for all active members; (2) we will continue publishing the printed newsletter and it will continue to be mailed out to members existing at that time; (3) new members will not receive a printed newsletter through the mail, but may elect to receive one at the monthly meeting; (4) the club will continue the TOG web site and will post the newsletter on that site, as it is now.

URGENT! Please come to November 12, 2012 meeting to express your views and vote on this proposal.

COMMUNICATIONS NOTES & TIPS

Windows XP CD-RW Drive Not Recognizing Disc in Drive

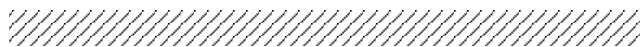
by Carl Tenning/Tacoma Open Group For Microcomputers

Something I rarely use anymore are CD-RW disks. But just the other day I had an old CD-RW disk laying around and thought I would add some files to it. Normally I use Roxio on this computer for burning CD's, but knowing that CD-RW capability is built-in to Windows XP, I decided to add the files by just dragging them in Windows Explorer to the CD-RW drive icon. After dragging the files to the CD-drive window, it shows "Files ready to be written to the CD". Then right clicking the window brings up the menu with the option to "Write these files to CD". Clicking this option starts the CD Writing Wizard. But upon clicking "Next" it said that either there was no CD in the drive or that the CD was full. I even tested the blank CD-RW disk in three other computers and it worked, i.e. did add files on those computers.

So what's wrong? Doing a Google search on the subject suggested that a new ASPI install might correct the problem. It gives the site http://force_aspi_18.w.interia.pl/ for a utility called ForceAspi.

Downloading and unzipping the utility gave five Batch files, one of which, "INSTASPI.BAT" would install the Adaptec ASPI 4.71.2 driver. Doing this solved the problem. Windows XP would now recognize the CD-RW disk in the drive and successfully write the files.

Another Batch file in the download was "DUMPASPI.BAT". Running this Batch file reads and saves a backup of whatever ASPI is currently installed and recommends doing this before installing the new driver. When I did this it reported that the current ASPI driver was empty, so it appears that this was the problem, a missing driver.



LXDE

Cal Esneault, President Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA
(And leader of many Open Source Workshops & SIGs
<http://cccclinuxsig.pbwiki.com>)
Newsletter: Cajun Clickers Computer News
(www.clickers.org) [ccnewsletter \(at\) cox.net](mailto:ccnewsletter@cox.net)

The Linux OS (Operating System) permits users to select from many front-end desktop environments (the interface software that controls mouse, touch screen, icons, etc.). Popular interfaces such as GNOME and KDE are powerful but can require high system resources. LXDE (Lightweight X11 Desktop Environment) is a simpler approach more suitable for

netbooks, mobile devices, or older PC's. It is designed to be faster, more energy efficient, and be a better fit for the future of "cloud" computing. Since LXDE open-source software is based on Xwindows, the commonly used system and network protocol that provides the basis for graphical user interfaces (GUI's), it can be used with all the popular Linux and BSD distributions (distro's) - Ubuntu, Fedora, OpenSUSE, Debian, etc.

LXDE originated as PCMan in 2006 by Hong Jen Yee with the file manager PCManFM as the first component.

This community backed distro with OpenBox as the window manager has risen rapidly in popularity. In May 2011, Lubuntu (the Ubuntu derivative using LXDE) was made an official Canonical distro and has surpassed the KDE-based Kubuntu in active downloads. On my system which has Ubuntu 11.04 as the main OS, I downloaded the LXDE desktop. Note the traditional tree-and-branch menu system arising from the bottom panel. This reminds me of the older KDE 3.x family. There are no extra "widgets" or desktop panels now common in current KDE 4.x releases. Also, there are no side panels of "tiles" and pop-out icons present in the newer Unity or Gnome 3.x desktops. LXDE has a simple, clean interface which should be comfortable for traditional users, such as those familiar with Windows XP.

Since I also have Gnome 3.x and KDE 4.X programs on my system, I have access to all of them through LXDE. If you want to have a less sophisticated system that runs on older equipment with minimum software overhead, do a fresh install of a dedicated LXDE distro.

For example, a Pentium II processor with 256 MB of ram that was used for Windows 98 could work, or a later 600 MHz Pentium III with 512 MB of ram should run well. Several major distro's provide a wide choice for your selection. For instance, the software provided by Lubuntu includes (among many others):

- GPicView (photo viewer)
- Leafpad (text editor)
- LXTerminal (command line access)
- OpenBox (window manager)
- PCManFM (file manager)

Most distro's also have versions to work with their latest versions. For example, Lubuntu 12.10 will be offered as one of the versions to be released this October. Check all this out at the LXDE.org website.

Making a Hyperlink Clickable in eMail

Big Bear Computer Club Bearly Bytes October, 2012

Yahoo! Mail automatically turns URLs you type, like <http://www.yahoo.com>, and email addresses like example_email@yahoo.com, into links. You don't need to do anything to make an email or a web address to a link. However, a number of email programs won't display these as links, and users of these programs will simply have to copy what you've typed and paste it into their browser's address bar.

If you're using Rich Text mode, you can add a hyperlink when composing email:

1. Type the name that you'd like the hyperlink to appear on your recipient's end.
2. Highlight the name you have created.
3. Click the hyperlink icon from the Format tab (make sure that you are using the Rich Text format).
4. Once the hyperlink window is open, insert the hyperlink URL (example: <http://www.yahoo.com>).
5. Click OK.

The hyperlink name that you have created should now be underlined and will work once the recipient has received your email. For links to work, you'll need a JavaScript-enabled browser. Most are enabled.

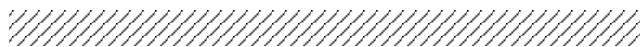
Yahoo, Hotmail:

1. The choice is Mail options or just Options.
2. Click on "Mail Format"; look for something that says Mail format or type of mail.
3. Text is the type of email.
4. Under mail format, select HTML format.
5. Click Apply or Click OK, depending on the email client.
6. Once complete, type up a new email.
7. Press enter after typing up the link, and you should have a hyperlink.

Outlook:

1. Click on the "Tools" menu at the top and scroll the mouse down to Options.
2. Click on "Options".

The options for each email client will be different. Search online for instructions for creating a hyperlink if your email client is not mentioned here.



Hotel WiFi Networks Installing Malware

Sandy Berger www.compukiss.com

If you are traveling this year, there is a new hacking scheme that you should be aware of. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is warning travelers to watch out for malware that comes through hotel Internet connections.

Here's how it works. When you get to the hotel and connect to the Internet through their wireless or wired Internet connection, you get a pop-up notifying you that you must update your Java in order to have the connection work. When you give your approval, malware is installed on your computer giving the hackers access to your personal information. The malware also serves third-party advertisements to infected computers.

Bloomberg has recently reported that Chinese hackers have stolen private data from as many as 760 firms by hacking into the iBahn, a broadband and entertainment service that offered to guests of hotel chains such as Marriott International Inc.

The advice offered by the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (ISC3) includes:

- ♦ Carry out all software updates before traveling.
- ♦ Checking the author or digital certificate of any prompted update to see if it corresponds to the software vendor.
- ♦ Download software updates direct from the vendor's website.

I recommend skipping any software updates that you are offered when traveling and using an encrypted connection for handling email when you are on the road. The way to do this depends on how you access your email when you travel.

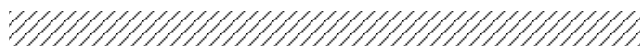
Gmail is secure since it is encrypted. Other email, however, may not be encrypted. For instance, Time Warner's Road Runner Web Mail that you can use when you travel encrypts your user name and password, but not your email itself. Other services may be different. You will want to investigate the service you are using. If you are not sure if your email is encrypted, you can use a free service called Mail2Web at www.mail2web.com. To use it you simply click on "Secure Login" then put in your email address and password. (Make sure you don't just click "Check Mail" which gives you an unencrypted connection.)

If you are not traveling, you still need to keep your guard up. I recently received a very real-looking email that was supposed to be from Order-update@amazon.com. This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it. Since I often make purchases at Amazon, this piqued my interest. The email said that my Amazon order had been successfully canceled and gave a link to the order in question as well as to Amazon's website. I didn't want any orders cancelled, so I read the entire email. Then I hovered my mouse over the two links that supposedly went to Amazon and found that they went to some other website. (This is a great way to check the links in an email. Just remember that you only put your mouse over the link rather than actually clicking on it).

Remember that if you come across these or any other suspected hacking or phishing schemes, you can report them

to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (ISC3) at www.ic3.gov. This website also has great information and alerts for the latest scams.

You will be amazed by the sheer number of crime schemes that are floating around the Internet. There is everything from Ponzi and Pyramid schemes to Internet Extortion. So check out this website. Just as in real life, you have to be aware of the pitfalls to keep yourself safe. It's always good to follow the advice given by Sergeant Phil Esterhaus in Hill Street Blues. "Let's be careful out there."



Advanced Search in Google

Big Bear Computer Club Bearly Bytes October, 2012

Open google.com Type in what you want to find. A gazillion items come up. Yuck! Here's where the advanced search comes in!

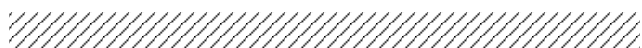
Go to the bottom of the first page. Select advanced search. Yeah!

Now, in this area select the language you want and keep going down the list. Now choose a file type on the list. I use the drop down list and select .ppt.

Now, I have PowerPoint presentations to use and view for my topic. Often it is my lesson plan as a teacher or perhaps a group meeting.

Play with it and see how cool it is!

Cheryl Wester APCUG - July NOOZ



Search Engine Overload

by Tanya L Mattson, Librarian, Computer Users of Erie

So I will admit it, I love Google Search. But I have found it to be frustrating when I am searching for something and get 250,000+ results that are not only not relevant to my search, but are so off-the-wall it is well, frustrating.

So I did a search on searching. I knew there were 'tips', 'tricks' to limit or narrow a search field. Here are some tips to help with what I term the Search Engine Overload. I have tried these with Google maybe these work with others.

I read a bunch of 'technical' jargon about basic operators / OR operators (What??) But this is for the non-techies out there.

Google has in it the ability to have special characters (i.e. +, - etc) or words that modify the search query.

For some general background: when I search with multiple keywords, all the keywords are looked for... so for example -

blue dog will have results of blue dog, blue, dog and all known variations. Words can have multiple meanings and one ends up with all these results that include pages that have absolutely nothing to do with what I was interested in. And to be honest - sometimes steers me off track checking out something that popped up and made me curious.

Now for an exact phrase search - use the "" (double quotation marks) around the phrase: "blue dog" (i.e. words within the quotes are called a phrase)

This cuts down on the variations of the words and the results to be sifted through. It can be done with one word, "human".

This is going to sound like a double negative - bear with me. Now to omit part of the search field, you can use the "+" sign. (yes the plus sign) This is called a special character. Google will only show pages that have a certain word (or phrase) in it.

For example you search for image. Everything that has a reference to image - including other search engines - pops up. But image+cow will narrow the field considerably.

Another good example you are looking for alice in wonderland but you were only interested in the 1951 version. So the search would look like alice in wonderland+1951. (Knocking out lots of results including the 2010 version).

The plus + can add and subtract from the search. It depends on what you are searching for. [Please note there are NO space before or after the +]

Now the minus - is another way to omit from searches. Take the image+cow search - change it to cow image -clipart and it will omit clipart from the images of the cows.

Then you have searching with the asterisk "*". The asterisk "*" is sort of a space for a single word. So wherever there is an asterisk, the search will accept any word.

This is great if you know a phrase/quote/title - but forgot one of the words. So looking for mary had a * lamb, Google will fill in the space (the asterisk) with any word. And of course you can use more than one asterisk.

*now*cow (searching for How now brown cow)

Lastly, just a quick note: there are many other options, including the order of the words. This just scratches the surface but hopefully with help some with Search Engine Overload.

Which by the way is not what SEO stands for (Search Engine Optimization) - someone else will have to figure out that.

Is your mobile device a criminal's best friend?

By Ellen Rinaldi on June 12, 2012 10:05 am

Many of us, if not most of us, are managing our social connections--and increasingly our financial lives--on mobile devices. No longer tethered to the desktop or that pesky laptop, we pay bills, make deposits, and access accounts and balances from any location at any time. It's quite convenient, as long as you remember to charge your phone or tablet. (I've taken to carrying power cords with me, since I often need the device right when I've neglected to charge it.)

Unfortunately, mobile devices have become fresh territory for hackers and criminals looking to gain access to your identity and money. As a result, we're hearing more and more questions about the safety of transacting through mobile channels.

And the fact is, everyone should be asking questions. After all, these new gadgets are in many ways no different from that dinosaur desktop that you've loaded up with antispyware and virus protection. Your mobile devices are also vulnerable to attack, and you should be taking steps to deter fraudsters.

At Vanguard, we devote significant resources toward ensuring the security of our mobile platforms, just as we do for vanguard.com and our other digital services. But we need your help to keep your personal and financial information protected. If you're careless with your electronic devices--and with your user names and passwords--a determined criminal might be able to crack through even the most stringent security systems.

What do you do?

- "There's an app for that." As a starting point, check out the available apps from the major security providers to find a mobile security app that's right for you. There are plenty of them out there.
- Make sure you get an app with threat protection which will scan for malware. Once you've downloaded the security app, keep it updated.
- While you're at it, activate your phone's PIN feature or security lock code, along with antitheft software including remote wipe to guard against misuse should the phone be stolen or lost.
- If you must write down your user names, passwords, PINs, or other security identifiers, never leave them where someone might find them.

When it comes to home security, you want to aim for being the best protected house on the block. That's true for your mobile devices as well. Let the criminals knock on someone else's digital door.

Ten Tips For Making Your Computing Experience More Private

by Barry Cowen, Deerfield Beach Computer Club,
March 2, 2012

Yesterday, March 1, 2012, Google consolidated all of its services into one privacy statement. Google even explains it in depth on its site. Although there is no way to totally opt out of all of the services, there's no need to panic. As always, keep your antivirus program and antispyware programs updated and turn on your Operating System's firewall. Below are ten helpful tips to maximize and protect your privacy on your computer.

1. Don't log or sign in to any of Google's services. You can still access many of Google's services such as YouTube, Search, and Maps.
2. Use a different search engine such as Bing or Yahoo. Better yet, rotate your searches among a variety of search engines so no one company gets a complete online profile.
3. Use Google Dashboard- google.com/dashboard to view and manage settings for Google services and products.
4. IE9 users: go to Safety and click on the dropdown arrow to view a variety of options. Click on Tracking Protection. Look at
5. Firefox 10 users: turn on the Do Not Track feature. Click on Firefox button on top and click Options, Select the Privacy tab, Check Tell websites I do not want to be tracked. Check and select History and click OK to close the Options window. You can click on the links to clear your recent history and/or remove individual cookies. Click Security tab and click appropriate options. Click OK to close Options box.
6. Google Chrome 17 users: click on the wrench icon in top right corner and select Options. Click on Under the Hood>Privacy. Click on Content Settings and Clear Browsing Data.
7. Safari 5 users: click on gear icon on top right of the page and select appropriate privacy options.
8. Use a site such as Selectout (www.selectout.org) or Privacy Choice (privacychoice.org)
9. Set Privacy options in social media sites such as Facebook. Read all privacy statements fully for applications and programs BEFORE downloading them.
10. Always remember that everything you write or search for on the Internet can be monitored and handed over to law enforcement agencies often without a warrant. **THINK BEFORE YOU SEND OR POST ANYTHING ON THE INTERNET**

OPERATING SYSTEMS NOTES & TIPS

Windows Upgrade - It's Almost Here...When?...Soon...This Month

By Lou Torraca, TUG MOAA Computer User Group, Hawaii
October 2012 www.the-tug.org - Af06hi (at) gmail.com

For those who follow computer news, you probably know that ‘it’ is Windows 8, Microsoft’s latest and, from many reports, best OS. Before I tell you a bit more about 8, I have a suggestion. I know some of you are considering getting an iPad, my suggestion is wait. Microsoft recently introduced their answer to iPad, called Surface, but not all the details are out there yet. So, I would also suggest you take a look at: <http://www.microsoft.com/surface/en/us/default.aspx>

Whenever a new Windows operating system (OS) comes out, we inevitably find ourselves wondering if it’s worth the hassle of upgrading. What will it cost to upgrade? The good news is the two recent options that Microsoft announced. If you are in the market, right now, for a new PC, you will be able to upgrade to Windows 8 Pro when it’s released (all the indications are that it will be released in October) for \$15. And, for those who want to upgrade from Vista, XP or 7, it’s \$40. Will you lose all your favorite features?

So now that Windows 8 is imminent, we have to ask ourselves if it will be that much better than Windows 7 (or even Windows XP, for those of us who never bothered upgrading last time). TECCA asked those same questions and dug through the reviews to find some answers. What can you expect from Windows 8? Is it time for you to make a change?

1. Unified PC, tablet, & smartphone

Windows 8 aims to successfully unify all your devices, from your PC to your tablet to your smartphone. While this claim may sound too good to be true, so far, it looks like a promise Microsoft will keep.

Earlier this year, Samsung showed off a tablet running Windows 8 at the 2012 Consumer Electronics Show. And during an event held in June, the company presented a duo of tablets collectively called the Microsoft Surface. (See my comment, above.) The more basic of the two runs Windows 8 RT, one of three flavors of Windows 8. The more high-end version built with professionals in mind runs Windows 8 Pro. Unfortunately, current Windows smartphones won’t be upgradeable to Windows 8. But if you do get a Windows 8 smartphone, tablet, and computer in the future, you’ll be able to sync your Metro user interface (UI) apps, among other things, across devices. You can even access your computer and your mobile devices using the same login details.

2. The all-new Metro user interface

We mentioned the Metro UI above, but what is it exactly? Previous versions of the Windows operating system feature similar aesthetics, but Windows 8 looks drastically different. The Metro UI displays Windows 8 apps right on your home screen as a mosaic of tiled boxes of different sizes, shapes, and colors. These tiles represent everything from apps running in the background to incoming email and messages to shared photos.

The app tiles update in real time for events including Twitter messages and upcoming calendar events. Metro UI renders well on tablets, especially since if you own a tablet, you’re already used to swiping between home screens. But on computers, you have to get used to scrolling sideways to get to the home screen where you placed the app you want to launch.

3. More energy-efficient than Win 7

According to a test by Tom’s Guide, Windows 8 uses less power than Windows 7, keeping your laptop running longer. Windows 8 is configured to save battery life by dropping to a low-power state (longer than Windows 7 can) when you’re not doing anything power-intensive. It also shuts down ports you’re not using rather than running them needlessly.

4. Speedier performance

Is Windows 8 faster? The answer is a resounding yes. The Consumer Preview version of Windows 8 has so far proven to be faster than older Windows versions in various speed tests. In fact, Lifehacker found that Windows 8 boot times can be up to 25 seconds faster than Windows 7 boots, and the new OS can pretty much do most tasks a smidge faster than the older OS. Sure, it’s just a few seconds shaved off, but those few seconds are pretty noticeable when you spend a lot of time on the computer.

5. Easier to use with multiple monitors

If you decide you want a computer setup comprised of more than one monitor, then Windows 8 may be the operating system that will work best for you. Designed with multi-monitor use in mind, it lets you customize your taskbar settings for each monitor or open window.

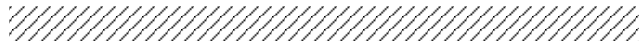
Microsoft even lets you customize a different desktop background for each monitor or stretch one image over multiple monitors. You’ll also be able to run slide shows over multiple screen screens.

6. Limits on third-party browsers

Recent reports indicate that Windows 8 RT, one of the platform’s versions meant for use on devices with ARM processors such as one of the Surface tablets, could limit third-party Internet browsers. Those of you who prefer Firefox or Chrome over Internet Explorer may be out of luck. This has yet to be confirmed as of this writing, but keep it in mind if you’re buying a new Windows computer or tablet in the future.

7. No support for WinXP by 2014

Windows 7 and Windows XP are two of the most popular operating systems at the moment. If you're running Windows 7, you're probably fine until 2020, but if you're an old XP faithful, you might have to rethink your position and upgrade to Windows 8 soon. As of April 2014, Microsoft plans to stop supporting Windows XP. So, there you have it; it's up to you to decide. Whatever your decision, have fun and be careful out there on the WWW.



TECH TALK - Windows 8

By Joe Isaac, Windows SIG Leader
Central Kentucky Computer Society, October 2012

Windows 8 Pro pricing:

Windows 8 Pro Download upgrade offer good until January 31, 2013:

From Windows XP \$40 (If you have Windows XP, you should get a new computer, I think you should not upgrade) If you upgrade, it only keeps Personal Files (.docs and .jpg). You lose your Windows settings and your programs.

From Vista \$40 Keeps Windows settings and Personal Files. You lose your programs like Microsoft Office Home and Student 2007, etc.. You must reinstall your Programs.

From Windows 7 \$40 This upgrade keeps Windows Settings, Personal Files, and Programs.

From Windows 7 Only \$15 for a Windows 7 computer you purchased between June 2012 and January 2013.

A DVD upgrade \$70 (not a download) to Windows 8 Pro, offer good until January 31, 2013.

All users have the option to perform a clean install.

Starting October 26, 2012, you may buy a Windows 8 desktop, or laptop computer, or the new Surface Tablet (competition for the iPad). (Surface Tablet pictured below.)

I have been using the Beta version of Windows 8 for several months.

At first I hated it; I thought they were nuts. I still think they should fire the guy who got rid of the start button. Having said that and after going through the learning curve, I now love it. I love the speed, the live tiles in the start menu, and the ease of using it. Windows 8 is a fun operating system.

But, if you're happy with Windows 7, just stay with it.

GENERAL INTEREST

Turn Your PC into a 3-D Game Machine

by Vinnie LaBash, Sarasota PCUG, Florida
Sarasota Monitor (www.spcug.org) labash (at) spcug.org

3-D has been around for almost as long as photography. The general public's first major exposure to 3-D was the 1952 motion picture Bwana Devil. It wasn't the first 3-D movie, but it was the first to be shot in color and receive wide exposure. The film didn't win any awards, but the novelty of 3-D was a hit with big screen fans. People became enamored with the illusion of depth for several years, but the thrill eventually faded, and 3-D was essentially gone from movies by 1960.

3-D was by no means dead; it bounced around development labs for years until it was combined with wide screen technology and ultimately merged with the incredible IMAX experience. You're not going to get IMAX on your PC, but you can get a solid 3-D effect in most of your games with a little effort and small expense. It might be fun too.

Several weeks ago I received an interesting email from Roy R. who is well aware of my fondness toward high end games. He told me about a web site that claimed to turn a PC into a platform that could display most games in 3-D even if they were designed for 2-D.

Since the process appeared both relatively uncomplicated and inexpensive, the only thing to do was to see if it really worked. The first thing was to go on Amazon and eBay and search for a pair of two color 3-D glasses. They can be red/blue or yellow/blue. You could probably make a pair yourself with colored cellophane. A few minutes of searching came up with an acceptable pair of glasses for \$2.00. For that amount of money I almost didn't care if they worked or not. Whatever the outcome, it certainly beat spending \$200 for a 3-D hardware accelerator, that much or more for a 3-D monitor, and up to \$200 for a pair of 3-D shutter glasses.

The next step is to go to <http://iz3d.com>. From there, download the free driver for their unique 3-D monitor. Here's how it's done.

Step 1: From the iz3d.com home page, click the Get Software page

Step 2: From the dropdown menu, select Anaglyph.

Step 3: When the download screen appears, select the Current version Download button.

Step 4: After the software has been downloaded to your system, choose RUN to install the program.

Step 5: Follow the instructions on the dialog boxes or simply select the defaults.

Step 6: On the setup dialog box be sure to check the Run Control Center box. Accept whatever defaults the process offers, and then click Finish.

Step 7: The Direct X dialog box will appear. In the Output section select Anaglyph (free) and the option matching the 3-D glasses you have. Click Apply.

Step 8: Examine the selections under Direct X in the left side of the dialog box.

Step 9: If you know what you're doing, change whatever is appropriate, otherwise close down the dialog box by clicking on the red X in the top right corner.

Install the driver on your machine.

Step 1: Close any open applications or browser sessions.

Step 2: Go to your Downloads folder and look for a file named iZ3DDriverSetup.1.12(4016).EXE. If the numbers at the end of the file name are different, don't worry about it. All it means is that the driver has been updated since I wrote this.

Step 3: Double click on the file name to begin the installation process.

Step 4: You may get a Security Warning dialog box stating that the publisher could not be verified. Click the Run button.

Step 5: The Account Control dialog box may also make an appearance. Give permission to continue.

Step 6: You will get several more dialog boxes.

Accept the defaults to continue.

Step 7: On the Select Destination Location dialog box either accept the default location for the installation files or choose another location. Click Next.

Step 8: On the Select Components dialog box, choose Full Installation from the drop down menu.

Step 9: Click Next on the Select Start Menu dialog box.

Step 10: Click Install on the Ready to Install dialog box.

Step 11: Accept the defaults on any dialog boxes that may appear.

Step 12: Click Finish when the installation is complete. See illustration above.

Step 13: On the DirectX dialog box select the Anaglyph (free) and Red/Cyan or Yellow/Blue depending on what kind of 3-D glasses you have.

Step 14: Click Apply.

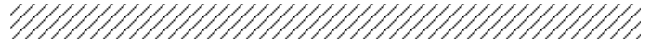
Step 15: Close out the dialog box by clicking on the red X in the upper right corner of the dialog box.

Load any of your DirectX games and you will see a menu that will walk you through the steps to initialize the 3-D settings of the game. You may have to shift the focus by holding down the Shift key and pressing the + or key on the numeric keypad.

There are directions in the menu that refer to the "Num" key. This is not the Num Lock key, but a reference that the instruction refers to the numeric keypad.

The process worked with Mass Effect and Mass Effect 2, Call of Duty, Left for Dead, and World of Warcraft, an online game. I couldn't get it to work with Fallout New Vegas, so there's no guarantee it will work with all of your games, but for \$2 it's certainly worth a try.

3-D technology has changed and improved considerably over the years, but one thing remains constant. 3-D glasses still make you look like a dork.



Open Source Lab History of Open Source Software

By Cal Esneault, President of CCCC (Cajun Clickers
Computer

Club) and leader of many Open Source Workshops &
SIGs July 2011 issue, Cajun Clickers Computer News

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In the 1960's, computers were large ("main frames") and each manufacturer had a unique operating system (OS). Attempts to develop a more universal OS failed, but Bell Lab developers used these efforts to make a new OS (Unix) that ran on smaller "mini" computers (size of a refrigerator versus size of a kitchen). Since there was little commercial interest in smaller "personal computers" in the early 70's, they were allowed to offer source code to universities. Unix became a key tool to develop computer professionals since results could be openly published in contrast to proprietary systems.

In 1984, AT&T was broken-up into the "baby Bells," and they took the opportunity to ask for return of rights to Unix since PC's were now a big commercial item. However, a lot of additional code had been written since 1975 by others on which AT&T had no claim.

Developers set about to write missing pieces taken back by Bell Labs and to further develop robust operating systems

that would be freely available to all users. On the US east coast, Richard Stallman launched the GNU Project and developed the GNU Public License (GPL) as a legal tool to ensure future software would continue to be free. On the west coast, a group at the University of California at Berkeley worked on and improved the Unix system and built applications for their Berkeley Software Distribution (BSDUnix).

It was not until the early 1990's that Unix versions unencumbered by any AT&T license requirement were available. Bill Jolitz developed 386BSD for PC's which spawned a family of operating systems - NetBSD, FreeBSD, and OpenBSD). Linus Torvalds implemented a new kernel (Linux) and used utilities from the GNU project to inspire a family of GNU/Linux systems - Red Hat, Debian, Slackware, etc.)

Given the essential software base and necessary legal standing, software developers pushed to create programs for these new systems. Initial programs were limited, however, to using a Command Line Interface (CLI) which was different from the Graphics User Interface (GUI) used by proprietary systems at that time. To address this, GUI desktop" frontends were developed. The two most popular desktops were GNOME and KDE. In addition, "package management" software was developed to aid the normal user in finding and installing software free from the Internet.

With a wide variety of freely similar options, groups had to bundle selected software into an infrastructure of operating system and applications that worked well together. These sets of programs are called distributions ("distro's"), and over 300 distro's are available today.

In 1997 the term "open source" became popular to define these non-proprietary works. "Source" code is a set of computer instructions written in a type of computer language that can be read by humans. It is later "compiled" into a machinecode readable by computers. With source code "openly" available, programmers can make modifications and additions to the original program with little effort. Thus, once the original work is done by dedicated volunteers, incremental improvements require very little time and programs can be offered without cost to users.

There are now many sophisticated open source programs available for major PC operating systems (Windows, Mac OS, Linux, and BSD). Some examples are:

1. OpenOffice.org (personal productivity)
2. Firefox (Internet browser)
3. Thunderbird (e-mail client)
4. GIMP (photo editor)
5. Inkscape (vector graphics program)
6. Audacity (audio editor)
7. Avidemux (video editor)
8. Media-PC-Home Cinema Player

Due to slower development of open source programs in general and momentum of established proprietary systems,

open source OS has only a small share in the PC arena. The situation is different in the mobile market, however, where the open source Android OS for smart phones is currently the most popular platform. Android development is being led by Google, and over two dozen handset and tablet manufacturers have implemented it on their equipment.

From humble beginnings, open source software has grown to be a key factor in modern technology.

HARDWARE NOTES & TIPS

Too Scared to Buy Anything Online?

Lee Seidman, Vice President, Business Professional
Microcomputer UG, CT

Newsletter: The Help Key (www.bpmug.org) Lseidman (at)
yahoo.com

Lots of consumers find purchasing goods online intimidating; news reports of identity theft, online piracy, and privacy concerns only deteriorates people's confidence in buying things on the Internet. Using free software tools combined with some education and common sense is all one needs to build to become a savvy and safe e-consumer. The secure e-consumer first needs to recognize when a web site represents a reputable merchant. Using online reviews from epinions.com, bizrate.com, resellerratings.com, or even just a search on Google will help one gauge a vendor's trustworthiness based on the experiences of others. Peruse the commentary and read what people say and how they rate their transactions with that supplier; what may initially be perceived as a negative review may be little more than someone griping about something irrelevant or inconsequential (like it was delivered a day later than expected, which may be the responsibility of the transporting service instead). If there appears to be a pattern of complaints about a particular vendor, it is sensible to take that into account before ordering anything.

In the above example, we are "window shopping" on a popular technology vendor web site called newegg.com. Pretend that the unseen address bar at the top reads: <http://www.newegg.com>. This means the site offers no security presently; no sensitive information is being exchanged at this time. When we decide on an item to procure, most web sites (like newegg.com) will request for the purchaser to sign in (some sites will offer an opt-out area for this, but many do not). **IF YOU CREATE AN ACCOUNT ON THESE SITES, DO NOT USE THE SAME PASSWORD AS YOU WOULD USE TO ACCESS YOUR E-MAIL.** The address bar will have changed to read [https://](https://www.newegg.com) and a lock appeared in the browser as well (at least with Internet Explorer). Clicking on that lock reveals information about the web site and its security.

This tells the consumer that this web site has been verified as who they say they are and that the connection is encrypted

(we are no longer just “window shopping”). VeriSign and a handful of other similar companies are the Internet’s certificate authorities (CA), which substantiate the identities of companies on the web. By viewing the certificate (which is how the web browser on your computer knows to trust the web site it is displaying), you can see its validity and when it expires. Once that certificate expires, your web browser will alert you that the site is no longer trusted as it once was (this should rarely happen with the big-name sites). Note that web sites that request any form of identification (like logging into a webmail, bank, or paystub account) or financial transaction should use https:// and certificates.

When it comes time to actually buy an item online, a credit card offers the best peace of mind available. Most of the major credit card companies offer “zero liability protection” for unauthorized purchases (read the fine lines carefully, MasterCard states on its web site that one’s account must be “in good standing,” the consumer “exercised reasonable care in safeguarding” the card from unauthorized use, and that there must not be more than two unauthorized events reported in the past twelve months). While the legal verbiage may present a chill, many issuers offer temporary credit card numbers specifically for use online (Citigroup calls their “Virtual Credit Card” while Bank of America markets it as “ShopSafe”). These temporary credit card numbers expire quickly or have whatever transaction limit you wish to assign. When it is time to purchase an item from an online merchant, open another web browser, log into your credit card issuer’s web site, and look for the section to open the tool for a virtual credit card.

This virtual card number appears and functions as an authentic credit card to the vendor; its purpose is to keep its use limited to that particular transaction and to keep your actual credit card number a secret from that vendor. If the virtual credit card is compromised by an unscrupulous third party, it is not as much of an intrusion into one’s financial existence as if the actual credit card number was used (there is no need to replace a credit card, change accounts, etc.) Using this tool satisfies the card issuer’s requirement for “exercising reasonable care in safeguarding” the authentic credit number, limits the amount of uses it can be tried (usually just once), and makes online shopping less frightening. The web may present dangers, but using your savvy skills and online tools should take the fear out of shopping.

A Tablet Love Affair

By Roger Carlyle, Cajun Clickers Computer Club,
May 2012 Cajun Clickers Computer News
www.clickers.org ccnewsletter@cox.net

Last year, like many folks, I thought Tablets were just a passing fad - used mostly by people who liked to play games, get recipes, or do online shopping. I was from the old school and staunchly declared that nothing could replace the desktop or laptop computer.

Any other form of computers were mere toys. Then it happened ever so subtly. I was slowly exposed to the Tablets. First seeing news media use them on national news shows and then an occasional Apple geek using them at local coffee shops. Curiosity got the best of me and I found myself reading more and more about Tablets. First on the internet and then seeing advertisements in local newspapers and on websites such as CNET, ZDNET, Newegg, etc. As I was a user of an iPod I soon realized the power and versatility of the Tablet . . . and I fell in love and I wanted one.

After reading numerous tablet reviews and talking to several different tablet brand owners, I settled on getting an iPad 2 (lousy timing on my part - - the New iPad was released three weeks after I purchased my iPad 2). Mostly because at the time Apple was the clear leader in Tablet technology and the number of Apps available for the iPad. Another reason for choosing the iPad was for its 10" screen size. I wanted the larger screen for viewing videos and typing with the onscreen keyboard is much easier than on the smaller Tablet screens. Right out of the box it was love at first sight. I turned it on and found the initial setup to be very easy to use. Even a very novice computer user would find the setup and initial operation easy to follow.

I soon found myself settling into my plush reclining easy chair where I began exploring all the Apps available at the App Store. A large variety of Apps are free or \$0.99 at the App Store. I was soon exploring the Internet, using email, taking pictures and making movies all with my new found tablet. I literally could not find anything that I could not do on my new Tablet that I did on my desktop computer. As a matter of fact there were things I could do on the Tablet that I could not do with my desktop. The only thing I go back to my desktop PC for is where heavy keyboard usage is required, such as Producing the Cajun Clickers newsletter or doing intensive input into an Excel spreadsheet, etc.

Has owning a Tablet changed my life? Yes! I rarely get out of my plush recliner to go to my desktop PC. I do online shopping, check bank accounts, send videos to my distant friends and relatives, view live radar weather reports, read newspapers such as the Advocate, find recipes for my wife, read iBooks, and much, much more with my new iPad Tablet. And I can take it with me anywhere I go.

Based on personal experience and from the reviews I’ve read recently, my choice for a Tablet would be either the New iPad or the Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1. Both are top performers and get five star reviews.

Help Lines

HARDWAREHELP	AdvisorNo.
Reformat Hard Disk, FDISK	2,4,5
Install Hard Drive, CD-ROM/RW	2,4,5
Install Video Card	7
Partitioning Hard Drives	2
Internet/Intranet	6,7
Audio Cards	4
MPs Files, WMA Files, WAV Files	3,4
Burning CD's	3,5
Homesite	7
Net Objects	7

SOFTWAREHELP	AdvisorNo.
Win 95/98/ME/2K/NT/XP	2,3,4,7
Win 7	4,7
Microsoft Word	2,7
Microsoft Excel	4
Microsoft PowerPoint	4
WordPerfect	1,7
Norton/Symantec AntiVirus	2,3,6,7
Norton System Works	2,7
CompuPic / CompuPic Pro	3,7
Winzip, WinRAR	6
Ccleaner	3,4
Outlook, Outlook Express	2
Internet Explorer	2,7
RegSeeker	3,5
Instant Messaging	2
Installing Software after Reformatting	5
Deleting Files; Wiping	6

ADVISORS

Name	Phone	Hours
[1] Fred Shelton	(253)752-0120	Variable
[2] Bob Henkel	(253)537-6732	8A-8P any day
[3] Tom Stepanek	(253)922-7939	7-9P Mon-Fri
[4] Carl Tenning	(206)824-3843	6-9P Mon-Fri
[5] Oclad Wesley	(253)212-0352	6-9P
[6] Bob Thomson	(253)752-5582	Variable
[7] Ray Mills	(360)692-7568	6-9P Mon-Sat

Tacoma Open Group for Microcomputers (TOG)

New Member Application/Existing Member Change of Address Form

For **Tacoma Open Group** annual membership, send form (if needed) & **\$25** to Bob Henkel., 10613 25th Avenue E., Tacoma, WA 98445.

Make checks payable to TOG

Please print or type. Date: _____ Sponsored by: _____

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Address: _____

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TACOMA MEETING

When: **Mon 12 Nov 2012 -7:00 PM**
Where: SE Tacoma Community Centre
1614 99th Street E.
Tacoma, Washington

From I-5 take Exit 127 (Hwy 512) to Portland Ave., north on Portland to 99th, left over tracks. Building is on south side.

Future Dates: 2nd Monday of Month

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Deadline: 15th of this month to appear in next months' issue, if room

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How To get To The Meeting

For those readers still unfamiliar with how to find our meeting place we have reproduced the map showing its relationship in Tacoma to Portland Ave S. and the 512 Freeway. The 512 Freeway can be entered from I-5 in Tacoma on the west or from Hwy 167 in Puyallup on the east. Proceed to Portland off-ramp and turn north to 99th Street. Some folks in the middle of Tacoma may prefer to take Portland southbound to 99th. At 99th turn west over the tracks and there you are!

