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Next Meeting
Wednesday 5th July 2006
Beginners 7 PM
All about MP3's
Julie Hjort at 8 PM

Newstream Articles

Deadline : 10 Days before Meeting

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Ron's Ramblings

Well I thought I had done it this time!!!!

I was attempting to replace my 3.5" floppy , and was unsure of the connections. The new floppy was configured differently to the original.

After a couple of attempts when the computer started either the light in the floppy stayed on and/or the disk was not read, I attempted to try connecting the floppy outside the case while the computer was running.

OF Course I knew it was risky but that didn't help things on that Friday when the Computer suddenly stopped without a whimper, flashes, smoke or smell.

I tried to restart the system NOTHING!!!

I suffered Computer withdrawal symptoms. I started several times to go and run a program only to realise IT WAS BROKE!!!

Finally on Sunday I decided to reconnect everything and try again. Pushed the button and Voila! It started—Almost.

It couldn't find NTLDR.

Nothing loath I pulled out my XP disk as started. Finally I got things going after I reinstalled XP. But I didn't have all my programmes??

Then I noticed that C:\ was named SECOND Hard Drive. It was the drive that normally was D:\

A few pushes judiciously applied to the C: and when started I had a C:\ and D:\. All that needed to be done then was delete the newly installed XP on D:\and Bob's your Uncle.

I was sure that my wife would have said that I had done it deliberately to get the new tower I have been angling for the last 9 months.

Ron Baker

OPEN NEWSLETTER – JULY 2006

What's Happening at OPEN **Next Monthly Meeting** *July 5th at 1.00 pm*

FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR



Almost all the paperwork associated with our TCF equipment grant has been completed, so we are now looking forward to receiving the funds in our bank account and putting the new equipment into service.

There is fair amount of work involved with installing four new computers and re-arranging the older hardware, software and data-files so please bear with us if there is a 'hiccup' or two during the transition period. I'm sure the end result will justify any minor inconveniences.

For new members or those who didn't take the plunge in the first half of the year the second E-Learn course will commence around about mid-August so please contact a tutor if you'd like to enrol.

Looking a bit further ahead there will be a couple of special tutorial sessions on August 30 – with the increasing popularity of DVD burners we will be doing a combined CD and DVD Burning lesson in the morning, followed by an Introduction to Microsoft PowerPoint in the afternoon. Watch the notice-board and next month's newsletter for more details.

Dennis Murray

OPEN COMPUTING MEETING Wednesday, July 5th at 1 pm

Do you have any ideas for improving or varying OPEN's operations?

Is there a new class or activity you'd like to try?

Why not come along to the next OPEN meeting and let us know.

Our monthly meetings are not just for committee members – any member of OPEN is welcome to come and participate or just find out what goes on 'behind the scenes' at the club.

NEW CLASSES

GRAPHICS FOR BEGINNERS

Wednesday July 12, 9 am–12 noon

A class for new members to learn the basics of graphics and photo enhancement.

QUESTIONS AND

ANSWERS

Wednesday July 19, 9 am–12 noon

The initial session last month was voted a great success by all who attended, with more than a dozen individual topics being covered. This is good session for solving those little computer 'niggles' that don't require a full lesson on their own.

The OPEN Newsletter is part of the Launceston Computer Group's publication "Newstream".

"Newstream" is distributed by E-mail each month, or alternatively can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF file from the LCG Web-site.

The next newsletter will be August 2006.

"EMBROIDERY GROUP"

The Embroidery Group will be meeting on two Fridays this month - July 14 and July 28.

For any details in regard to this class contact Eleanor Horder via OPEN Computing.

FAMILY HISTORY ON-LINE

Standard sessions will be conducted on

July 12 - 1 pm to 3.30 pm

July 26 - 9 am to 12 noon

1841 CENSUS INFORMATION

We have been advised by 'Ancestry' that the 1841 Census Information is now available for Scotland as well as England, Wales and the Channel Islands as noted last month.

Contact Judy Hall for more details

OPEN NEWSLETTER – JULY 2006

Launceston Computer Group SOFTWARE LIBRARY

Dated 1st July 2006

ISK 2000 - Your Library on Disk

Disk 2000 is now available. The change from a floppy disk to a CD has enabled us to include much more in the way of games, information and utilities. Existing members can upgrade to the new CD version for just \$1.50 . Ask at the club or contact Judy via the e-mail address shown below. This disk is free of charge to all new members.

ISK COPY PRICES - CLUB MEMBERS \$1.00 per disk

isk Prices - Box of 25 = \$12.00 Members Only

5D Prices – Box of 10 = \$10.00 Members Only

Games CDs #2 and #3 are also available featuring games that are suited to Windows 98 and later.

AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARY

The Shareware Library is available in between meetings from the following person. Please telephone first to arrange a suitable time.

The library is also available at the venue - Judi works most Wednesdays 9am to 3pm. Email: opencomput-igtas@hotmail.com

Or contact Judy Hall

Email: jahall@intas.net.au

TUTOR NEWS

Welcome to Kell Davis, the latest addition to the ranks of our tutors. Kell will be providing tuition on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Apologies also to Andrew "Spreadsheets" Barnett. A couple of months ago I mentioned that Andrew assisted on Thursdays but many members will know that Andrew also tutors on Tuesdays.

NEXT TUTORS MEETING

Will be held on
Wednesday July 5 at 10 a.m.

For the time being Tutors' Meetings will only be held every two months so please take these opportunities to contribute your suggestions on matters affecting how we provide tuition to members.

VENUE TELEPHONE NUMBER

Members can be contacted at the clubrooms
during class hours by telephoning the number shown below.

Monday to Thursday 10am – 3pm
Friday 10am - noon

0413 698 610

Launceston Computer Group
Monthly
Workshop
Wednesday July 5th
At 7.15 pm

MP3 Music – what is it, where do you get it, what software do you need?

Guest Speaker Julie Hjort will answer all your questions on this subject.

NORTHERN TASMANIAN CAMERA CLUB

The next meeting of the Camera Club will be held on Saturday July 15.

If you are interested in learning more about digital cameras and related subjects contact Kai Johnson on 6326 2358.

MACINTOSH NEWS

Facilities for MacIntosh users have been upgraded with the purchase of a second E-Mac computer., and we are investigating the possibility of getting some new graphics software.

We remind MAC users that both weekly sessions are now on Tuesdays, and our MAC tutors would like group members to advise them if they are not going to attend the afternoon class.

(See phone number at left)

OPEN Session Times

At Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

Standard Sessions \$4.00

[Some special tutorial materials may incur additional charges]

Monday	10 am – 12	E-Learn & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	Basics and Beyond
Tuesday	10 am – 12	E-Learn & Beginners [all day]
	1 pm – 3 pm	Mac [all day]
Wednesday		Special sessions or
		As for mornings (see rosters)
Thursday	10 am – 12	E-Learn & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	
	3.15 – 5.15	Beginners 'Waiting List' only
Friday	10 am – 12	E-Learn & Beginners
2nd, 4th	1 pm – 3 pm	Embroidery Group
2nd or 3rd Saturday	10 am – 12	Camera Club

OPEN NEWSLETTER – JULY 2006

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Please register on the sheets – numbers may be limited

Date	Time	Topic	Details
July 5	10 am – 12	Tutors' Meeting	
	1 pm onwards	OPEN General Meeting	General discussion on matters affecting OPEN.
	7.00 pm onwards	Launceston Computer Group Meeting	Guest speaker Julie Hjort will conduct a workshop on the subject of MP3 Music.
July 12	9 am – 12 noon	Basic Graphics	A session for beginners to learn the basic skills in graphics manipulation.
	1 pm – 3.30	Family History On-line	The 1841 Census information for Scotland is now available.
July 19	9 am – 12 noon	Questions and Answers	A general forum on any computer topic that may be
	1 pm – 3.30	Advanced Graphics Paint Shop Pro 7	Continuation of the Advanced level classes.
July 26	9 am – 12 noon	Family History On-line	Research your family history using the Internet and
	1 pm – 3.30	Microsoft Access	TUTORS ONLY
	10 am – 12 noon	Tutors Meeting	Discussion on tutoring topics.

OPEN NEWSLETTER – JULY 2006

TALES FROM THE VICTOR VAULT

Have you had a 'crash' on your computer and when you have gone to reinstall your Microsoft Word (or some other program) it has asked for the 25-letter D code number?? If you are like me my memory has enough trouble with what I had for breakfast let alone a 25-digit code.

Well there is a solution, it's painless and easy to use. It's called: **produkey** - it can be downloaded from www.nirsoft.net. It comes in a 37k (very small) zip-file which can be easily opened using *MinZip*. It doesn't even need to be installed on to your computer. It can live on a floppy, it's that small.

Once you have unzipped the program you click on the **produkey.exe** file and it will give you all the ID numbers of your operating system and other programs on your computer.

A handy tool to have as I have found out just recently. If its too difficult to work out how to use it just search me out or ring me and I'll be happy to explain it further.

Never get caught without your ID numbers again! Smile ... till next time.

Rob Tierney

“VICTOR”

Has your computer picked up a virus? Do you need help installing a new program? Has your computer ground to a virtual halt?

The Volunteer ICT OutReach program (VICTOR) is available to assist members who may require assistance with computer difficulties at home.

For a small donation one of our volunteers can visit your house and help solve your problems.

Contact **VICTOR's** Co-ordinator **Rob Tierney** on 0417 555 398 for details.

VIDEO TUTORIALS

The DVDs that come with computer magazines are often the source for many of the free programs that we use at OPEN e.g. the IrfanView image viewer, Picasa2 photo catalogue, Open Office (alternative to MS Office) etc.

In the past year or so one of the magazines has been using the increased capacity of the DVDs to include video tutorials on a range of subjects.

We are building up quite a range of these video help-files which take you through the various topics step by step with commentary by the expert Writers from the magazine.

To find out how to view these files see me at the club.

Dennis Murray

“COMPUTER CAR-PARKS”

For new users one of the most confusing aspects of computing is understanding the difference between an **operating system** and **applications software**. A typical case is having a computer that shows **Windows 98** when it starts up, but when you decide to write a letter **Word 2000** may be displayed on the screen.

If we think of operating systems as car-parks the situation may become a little clearer :

- Windows 95** A grassy paddock with an old fence
- Windows 98** A gravel car park with boom gate
- Windows XP** A bitumen car park with attendants, security systems etc.

Now regardless of which 'car-park' you have you're not going to get very far without a vehicle. This is where our applications software comes in –

- Word 97** A 1981 Holden Commodore
- Word 2000** A 1999 Toyota Camry
- Word 2003** A brand new Ford Fairlane

Just as all the vehicles have standard features such as wheels, seats, and an engine etc. the various versions of Microsoft Word will have standard features but the later versions will have some 'luxury' features – just like the new Ford Fairlane.

You'll probably be able to drive your 1981 Commodore into anyone of the three car-parks but try and put the new Fairlane into the grassy paddock and you might find that the gateway is a bit narrow or that the heavier vehicle gets bogged. That could be a similar situation to trying to put Word 2003 onto a Windows 95 operating system – most likely it won't fit!

Being able to understand the difference between an operating system and applications software is also important when buying a new computer. You may well end up with a fancy car-park but nothing to drive!

Composition 2

Brian Plush

In this article we continue our look at composition with the primary aim of sampling various techniques to improve digital photography. Strangely enough the same techniques apply to film cameras and even pencils and paper!



KISS We all know that one. In photography very often 'less is more.' This photo at Mambray Creek has three elements: one tree; a warm, orange lit foreground; cool, rain filled clouds. What you are taking the photo of? Remember that from last month? What is the centre of interest? Try to isolate the centre of interest from everything around it to avoid that cluttered look. Too much information can be confusing. That's easy to say, but how is it done? Move around. Change your vantage point. Perhaps move in closer. Maybe higher. Maybe lower. We are so used to seeing at adult height that by getting down low gives a very different perspective. Try getting down really, really low. Then again try getting up higher. Use steps, ladders, buildings, hot air balloons, aircraft, whatever elevates you above the rest. If you are using an SLR use a shallow depth of field by using $f/2.8$, $f/4$, instead of $f/16$, $f/22$. This

will blur backgrounds and the sharp nicely focussed foreground will dramatically stand out. Single out one element of a scene and concentrate on just that. Focus on that tree and forget the scrub. Zoom in on that building and ignore the city. Does every picture you take on your big trip of a lifetime



really have to have your partner in it? Will they leave you if you leave them out?

This photo taken at the 2005 Toyota Rally of SA shows one main element with minimal distractions in the background.

One has to wonder why the car door might be open during a water splash.

Horizons 1 Oops! The world is on a slant. The oceans are dipping off to one side and the seas are planet! Horizons must be no slanting. Horizons must be straight: there is no excuse to slanting horizons



The Port Willunga image has been taken at a low angle, the lighting is great but the horizon is a little adrift! The original is a slide, so is easy to fix (move it in the mount) and of course there is Photoshop the digital version. In the viewfinder (substitute LCD screen these days) there are two sets of parallel lines, the sides and more importantly, the top and bottom of the viewfinder. Use the top and bottom to 'measure' the parallelness of your horizons. (I think I invented a new word!) Line up the horizon with these two lines, then shoot. Okay, okay, sometimes horizons can be placed on an angle for dramatic purpose! However if you intend to do this make sure it is

(Continued on page 8)

Continued from page 7)

sufficiently exaggerated so the viewer is clear of your intentions. Too subtle and it looks like you made a mistake.

Horizons 2 Now that it's straight, where does one place the horizon? Somewhere in the top third of the image, somewhere in the bottom third, but rarely exactly in the centre of the image, even if it is snow capped mountains mirrored in the chilled morning stillness of a blue lake.

The photo of clouds at sunset shows a horizon reduced to a



mere base at the very bottom of the image.

We're back to using a variation of the Rule of Thirds again! Horizons placed in the centre of an image tend to be static and a little boring.



The lake in Japan shows a horizon pushed to the top of the image to emphasise the lake.

Horizons 3
If a horizon separates two planes of your image, use something to intersect the two planes,

something to connect them. A thin pine tree connects the rows of hills to the blue of a sky.



Link the
The
his rod
sand and
although
a little
a small

two planes.
fisherman and
connect the
the sea
the rod may be
hard to see in
image.

Horizons

4

Now after all that, do you really need to have the horizon showing at all? I guess that really does depend on your height, but certainly there is no real need to as this final image from Hawaii shows.

EXCEL EXPLOIT SPECIAL

Over the weekend a potentially serious nasty has been released which could affect Microsoft Office users.

This isn't d.j. vu - it happened a few weeks ago but it's now happened again - this time with Excel. There's NO fix for the security hole in Office which the virus exploits which makes it more serious than a usual 'theoretical' warning.

In this special issue we'll fill you in on the known details, explain why it's not a serious problem at this stage and what you can do to protect yourself.

LOW RISK - FOR NOW

This exploit has been released to some computers, but not many.

That could change but the anti-virus companies have been commendably quick in updating their wares to protect you.

There is also the risk that other virus writers will take advantage of the same or similar exploits.

We're not in the business of trying to scare people for the sake of a headline.

At this stage this Excel exploit isn't a big problem but it could be.

We're publishing this special issue of Office Watch so all our readers will have some facts, not rumours or scare mongering when Monday rolls around.

The good news is that the current versions of the nasty do not seem to be spreading and the anti-virus companies have quickly updated their wares to detect the new threat.

The bad news is that the underlying security flaw is not patched so there's potential for the same or other virus writers to take advantage of the flaw.

It seems the exploit was deliberately released after Microsoft's monthly release of patches to give it the longest time of vulnerability.

This is a 'developing story' - we'll tell you what we know and how to protect yourself with a follow-up in our regular issue of Office Watch later this week.

As usual part of our coverage is to squash some of the false stories floating around

ZERO DAY BUG - AGAIN

It's being called a 'Zero Day' flaw which is geek-speak meaning there's no patch for the security breach. Microsoft knows about the problem and, for once, was among the first to announce the existence of the threat but there's no word about when a fix for the problem will be released to the public.

In the meantime you should rely on updated anti-virus software plus some standard caution about any incoming files to your computer.

We hope that Microsoft moves quickly to make the patch available.

With last month's Word exploit they were lucky more variants didn't appear - paying Office customers deserve more than luck to be on their side.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

\ Excel document can be infected with a Trojan Horse called Trojan.Mdropper.J, this nastie takes advantage of the un-patched security hole in Excel.

The Trojan makes it possible to run a new program on your computer, in this case another 'Trojan Horse' given the name Booli.A.

Bookli.A doesn't do anything bad itself - no files or settings are corrupted.

Instead it tries to download a payload (ie other programs) from a web site and run those programs on your computer.

For Bookli.A the web site has been blocked at the source so even if your computer is infected there's no immediate danger.

For more details check out the Symantec web site among many others.

MDropper.J: <http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/venc/data/trojan.mdropper.j.html>

Bookli.A

<http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/venc/data/downloader.booli.a.html>

THE INFECTED EMAIL AND DOCUMENT

The known emails that have an infected Excel attachment have the name: okN.xls

However those are only the currently reported infections, the email subject and document name are easily changed.

Filtering on the above file name is of little use, proper and updated anti-virus software is better.

WHO IS AFFECTED?

At this stage Microsoft is only talking about 'Excel' with no specific versions.

You should assume that all versions of Excel are vulnerable until advised otherwise.

WHAT TO DO?

While Microsoft has yet to patch the underlying security hole, the anti-virus companies have moved with their usual speed to add detection for the new nasties.

If you grab the latest updates for whatever anti-virus software you use then it should detect any incoming infected documents.

In this case 'latest' means an update released on 15 June 2006 or later.

To make sure, run your AV software update (Symantec's LiveUpdate or similar) and check the date of the update after it has installed.

IS IT SPREADING?

The current infection doesn't include any automatic method of distributing copies of itself.

Many viruses these days 'farm' addresses from an infected computer to send copies of the infection to other computers.

The current threat combination does NOT do that.

An unpatched and known exploit in Word is a strong lure for virus writers to take advantage before Microsoft patches the hole.

So it's possible we'll see other infected documents that take advantage of the same security lapse.

From Office Watch 11-24 dated 18/6/2006

As Win98 (Finally) Fades Into The Sunset...

Dear Fred, Thanks so much for the Plus! help over the last several years. With your help, I support the personal computers of a number of family members and friends, about five of whom

still run 98SE and do not have the resources to upgrade at this time. I have kept them free firewalled, free anti-virused, and hotfixed, but the schedule has been somewhat erratic as it depends upon when I can get to them, and some are out of town.

So far, they have had no problems that I can't correct.

Microsoft says: "Support ... ends on July 11, 2006. Microsoft will end public and technical support by this date. This also includes security updates."

The part that confuses me is where they say "This also includes security updates."

Do you know if security updates (and other updates such as WMP9, etc.) already posted by July 11 will remain and still work with Windows Update?

If so, I can relax and take some time getting to them and at least have the computers as far up to date as Microsoft will allow. I had planned on in a couple of cases re-installing the operating

system and building up with Windows Update. If Windows Update is no longer going to work, then I am going to have to hustle and try to get to them all by July 11.

I realize that this isn't the greatest approach, but I have found that with proper safeguards and safe online practices Windows 98 can still be a good platform, and for some folks it's the only alternative for now. Thanks for any help.

Sincerely, Paul Heinzerling

Microsoft has actually been quite gentle with Win98 users; extending the scheduled end-of-support date for that OS numerous times. But the safe thing to do is to assume that this time they really mean it. <g>

If that's the case, no new patches or updates will be available; and Microsoft will most likely turn off access to WindowsUpdate for Win98 machines. They've already done that with the early versions of XP--- you have to be running a ServicePack version of XP to use the Update site now.

If you want to continue running Win98, the safest thing is to download all the Win98 patches and updates now (I'll tell you how in a moment) and save them on your hard drive or burn them to a CD. Later, if or when you need the patches, you'd use the locally-saved versions of the update files, rather than going to WindowsUpdate.

To download all Win98 updates (or, for that matter, updates for any MS operating system):

Go here: <http://v4.windowsupdate.microsoft.com/catalog>

Click the "Find updates for Microsoft Windows operating systems" link.

Scroll down to "Windows 98 and Windows 98 Second Edition."

Click the "Search" button.

Click "Critical Updates and Service Packs" (there are 77 as I write this, and that may be the final count).

Scroll through the listbox of Critical Updates and click the "Add" button for each one.

When all critical updates have been added, go back to the search-result list at the top of the page and repeat the same process for all the updates in the other categories, one by one:

Additional Windows Downloads Internet and Multimedia Updates Multi-Language Features (if you need these) Recommended Updates Windows Tools Advanced Security Updates

When you're done, you'll have a pile of software in your "download basket." Click "Go to Download Basket" (the green arrow) and let the data flow: The download tool will create a "WU" folder ("Windows Updates") in whatever location you designate, and populate subfolders within WU with locally-runnable copies of the Update files you selected.

If any files fail to download on the first try, they'll remain in your "Download basket" so you can retry. Don't close your browser though; the download basket goes away when you do, and you'd have to start over.

If the above doesn't work for you, try the official instructions from Microsoft: "How to download updates and drivers from the Windows Update Catalog,"

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/323166>

In any case, I think all Win98 users should be prepared to go it alone by the end of June. Don't count on Microsoft continuing to make patches and updates available; grab 'em for yourself, now, and then you'll be sure to have what you need.

And when your Win98 is fully patched and up to date: Use a disk-imaging tool to preserve that perfect setup, and burn the image to CD. In the future, if you need to reinstall Win98, you'd simply restore the image, and be back to perfection in one step.

(P.S. and BTW: The total download size for all major Win98 patch and update files (not counting multi-language features) is a tad over 300MB. That's larger than the original Win98 operating system itself! <g>)

From LangaList 15th June 2005

Networking XP With Older Windows

Fred: My computer is running XP Home and my wife's runs ME. Her PC has a floppy, a CD drive and a HP all in one printer/scanner/copier/fax. Mine has a CD, a CD/DVD writer and a HP printer. I would like to have them networked so I can access her floppy, or the all-in-one when needed.

I did my research before starting and made sure that they should be able to be networked. I have the cable hooked up (it is the one where the ends are reversed) and they have been networked before.

I must have made some changes to services or something because now they are not networked.

I went back into msconfig and clicked the Normal startup button to reset all the drivers.

I have gone back thru the network wizard and tried to set up a home network all to no avail. I used the XP CD on the ME PC and did the "Perform Additional Tasks" routine.

The computers are named and the workgroup is the same on both computers.

I had an IT person (my son) try to network them but he was unable. My son says that XP doesn't like to be networked with ME and that I should reformat the ME PC and install XP on it.

I had rather not do that unless necessary. Any advice would be greatly appreciated. ---Harold

Let's start with the general question first: All flavours of Windows can network with each other, but remember that WinME is part of the Win98 family, whose networking got its start in Windows For Workgroups 3.1, way back in 1992. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_3.1x) That was the Neolithic era of networking (the 80's would have been the Paleolithic); but whatever you call it, networking was a *lot* clunkier than it is now.

What many of us did back then was to set up two separate networking protocols: TCP/IP for internet access, and "NetBEUI," the NetBIOS Extended User Interface, for LAN access.

NetBEUI is a non-routable protocol--- its packets can't move over the internet--- so confining local network communications to NetBEUI helped keep things secure back in the early days when security tools were less sophisticated and less readily available.

Windows XP doesn't speak NetBEUI by default, but you can optionally add it--- Microsoft does supply an official NetBEUI protocol for XP. Then, with your Windows PCs using NetBEUI for local communications, and TCP/IP for internet communications, both older and newer PCs can be made to easily talk with each other *and* to the outside world.

OTOH, you can set things up just with TCP/IP, but you'll have to place a lot more faith in your firewalls and other security tools; you'll be pairing new tech with old tech, and that sometimes yields uncertain results.

On the other hand, simply adding NetBEUI to XP pretty much solves the problem, with no loss of security for the XP box. NetBEUI is an old technology. but it works.

Now, it's possible you already did some of the above, and that brings us back to the specifics of your case: If all the software stuff is OK, then it's hardware. I'd suggest looking at the crossover cable. Better still, buy a simple networking hub. (They only cost \$10 or so.) The hub lets you use normal cables, and simplify setup because the indicator lights show you when there's a connection, and when there's activity.

Anyway, you have lots of choices, and lots of help available:

XP-ME Networking: <http://www.google.com/search?q=me+xp+network>

Using NetBEUI:

http://www.google.com/search?as_q=netbeui&as_sitesearch=langa.com

<http://www.practicallynetworked.com/sharing/netbeui.htm>

Cables and Hubs: <http://tinyurl.com/fugfl>

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&lr=&q=crossover+network+cable+ethernet>

TWO EXCEL PATCHES OUTSTANDING

The last 'zero day' security breach in Excel hasn't yet been patched (see our special issue earlier this week (Office Watch 11-24 18/6/2006) and now there's another Excel-related problem

So now we have two unpatched Microsoft Office related security breaches on the books.

In this issue we'll fill you in on the latest problem and what you can do to protect yourself.

ANOTHER EXCEL PROBLEM - SORT OF

The latest Excel 'breach' is a 'proof of concept' only at this stage - meaning that the exploit has been demonstrated but no-one has yet used it to infect computers. Microsoft is stressing that point, but as other people have noted, the exploit is easy to copy and so it's only a matter of time before someone uses it.

In short, the latest problem can occur in hyperlinks contained in an Excel document - a specially created link can, when clicked, cause another program to run (eg a virus or other nasty/nastie).

There are variations on the basic exploit, various ways of getting the unwary to open an Excel spreadsheet and have the exploit activated.

While Excel is the place where the link appears, it seems the problem is really in a core part of the Windows operating system, not Excel. Whatever the problem is, Microsoft is adding it to the list of unpatched security holes.

You'd have to hope that, with the various publicly known methods of using this security breach, Microsoft will move quickly to plug the breach and not wait for the usual monthly bulk release.

WHAT TO DO?

All you can do is apply the usual cautions, be wary of links in Excel documents and Excel documents generally until further notice. That's standard really since you should be careful about files from unknown sources (let alone links in files).

It's good advice from Microsoft but it overlooks the fact that emails can be spoofed with the 'From' address faked to seem like it's from someone you know.

What do they say these days 'Be alert but not alarmed' - there's no reason to panic, just keep the currently low possibility in mind.

While Microsoft's actions are not known at the time of publication, you can bet that the major anti-virus companies are working on updates to detect possibly suspect documents. As always, make sure that your anti-virus software is up to date.

From Office Watch 11-25 dated 4/6/2006



A man accused of robbing a bank was tried and found guilty. Just before he was taken away, the man looked the judge in the eye and said, "Would it be okay if I called you an arrogant, power mad, obnoxious excuse for a human being?"

The judge's face went purple and he roared, "It most certainly would not! If you do then I'll add another two years onto your sentence!"

The defendant nodded and then asked, "And what if I THOUGHT you were an arrogant, power mad, obnoxious excuse for a human being?"

The judge was becoming very annoyed but replied, "Well I couldn't do anything about that because I have no control over your thoughts."

The defendant smiled and said, "Well in that case judge, I THINK you're an arrogant, power mad, obnoxious excuse for a human being"

Tutorial .. "How To Restore A Broken LAN Connection"

Joe Robson <http://newbieclub.com>

A wireless LAN (or WLAN, for wireless local area network) is one in which a mobile user can connect to a local area network (LAN) through a wireless (radio) connection

Setting up a wireless LAN at home to share computing resources is becoming more and more popular, and wireless LAN manufacturers have simplified the process of setting up a wireless LAN to just a few quick and easy steps.

However, like any computer hardware, wireless LAN can work for months or years and then all of a sudden, it stops working. That's technology folks:-)

Before you call in the professionals to check your wireless LAN, here are a few simple things you can do to troubleshoot the wireless LAN yourself.

1. First of all, save your work and restart your computer. If you have access to the wireless LAN router and broadband modem, restart them as well. This simple technique has a surprisingly high success rate.

2. If this fails, the second thing is to check for loose connections. If you have a USB or PCMCIA wireless LAN card, ensure that it is seated firmly in the slot. If you have an internal PCI wireless LAN card, you will need to open the computer casing to check the connection.

3. If a loose connection isn't the cause of failure, the next thing to try is check Windows' My Network Places. XP Users click on Start/My Network Places. Are there any new network icons that appear there? Sometimes, your wireless LAN card may detect another network nearby that has a stronger signal and connect to the new network instead. If My Network Places showed any unfamiliar network name, simply remove it. Then double click on your own network name to re-establish the connection.

4. If there is no new network nearby, you can try moving your computer right next to your wireless LAN router. If this works, then the original problem is likely to be a case of outside interference. You should think carefully about what has changed recently in your house. Maybe you have added a new cordless phone or other equipment that use radio waves. Try switching them off one at a time to determine the source of interference.

5. If the problem is solved by moving your computer nearer to your router, then the signal from your wireless router may be too weak, because you are working too far from the signal source. An easy and effective solution to this problem is to purchase a router signal booster. You locate the device next to your computer and it amplifies the weak signal, giving extra range to the router output. You'll also find that you can now work much further way from your router with your laptop - in the garden for instance!

5. If you can't determine any source of interference, you can now try resetting the wireless LAN router to its original factory setting. You can login to the router's control panel using a web browser and look for the option that allows you to restore the settings to the factory defaults.

If none of these techniques work, it's likely there is a hardware failure in your network. You need to unplug each piece of hardware in your wireless LAN in turn to figure out where the failure is. Once you identify the source, call the manufacturer and report the fault. In the event you are unable to isolate the source of failure, call the manufacturer and seek their advice. They should be able to advise you on how to troubleshoot your network further. Just remember to be polite and undemanding. Cussing their hardware is not the best way get a favourable response:-)

Article from Joe Robson, creator of PC and Internet Security Kit

at <http://newbieclub.com/security> See his other sites listed

at <http://www.joerobson.com>

Tutorial ... "Little Known Ways Of Using Search Engines"

From Joe Robson <http://newbieclub.com>

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The Internet today is an ever growing database of knowledge. But as with almost anything in life there are some negative things attached to this aspect of Internet.

First, the Internet is not an ordinary encyclopaedia, i.e., an organized knowledge database. The Internet is more like a disorganized database to which everyone can contribute. Because of the diverse and widespread information input and the requirement to find specific information when one needs it, there is a need to bring some sort of organization to the Internet community. Today there are web directories and search engines as two of the most useful mechanisms responsible for bringing order to the Internet.

Web directories organize links to many places on the Internet where information about a specific topic can be found. Web directories can have a general or topic specific focus and are usually organized into several categories based on the topic. Web directories are good sources of information if they are well-maintained with regular updates. They are usually maintained better by human actions than by automated software.

Computers still cannot determine the relevancy of certain text as effectively as humans. A good example of a human edited directory is dmoz - Open Directory Project, (<http://www.dmoz.org>). It is the largest and most comprehensive human-edited directory on the Internet, maintained by thousands of volunteer editors.

Search engines are yet another tool that helps you find information on the Internet. There are many search engines on the Internet but the biggest and the most popular are Google, AOL/Netscape, Lycos and MSN. Some of them also have their own web directories, which are often comprised of dmoz data combined with their own data.

Search engines, however, are different from web directories. They do not categorize links to web places like web directories do but they allow users to 'search the internet' using specific search terms.

However, it should be noted that what is really being searched at the moment you submit your inquiry (in the form of a search term) is, in fact, a database.

These databases are constantly updated and upgraded with so called 'search engine spiders' which search the Internet all the time looking for new and recently updated websites.

So what search engines can help you do is to find which pages contain, and are the most relevant to, the search term you have used. For determining the relevancy of a page to the search term, they use complex algorithms which are not completely revealed to the public.

The reason for this is that these algorithms, once known to public, could then be used to adjust a site's ranking, ignoring the fact that the content of the website must be relevant to what people are searching for. Search engines want visitors to return to their websites and thus need to provide quality. This quality is relevant results for a visitor's search inquiry.

With the basic operation of web directories and search engines now explained, what are effective ways to use them to obtain relevant information?

Here are a few simple tricks that many people do not know when searching the Internet for information using search engines.

Let us look at Google, <http://www.google.com> since at the moment Google is the most popular, and thought by many the most comprehensive, search engine.

When you search for something on Google you may get a variety of results, some more and some less relevant to the original search inquiry. For example, you may end with results from various newspaper articles that merely mention the search term, but the content may be totally unrelated to the search inquiry. A good technique to minimize those unrelated results are to place "intitle:" or "allintitle:" before your search terms.

The "intitle:" option is used when you search for a single word search term and anything you write after that word will not be affected by the intitle option. So if you want a phrase to be affected by the intitle option you will use "allintitle:" instead. E.g. "intitle:cars" but "allintitle:used cars" (without the quotation marks). Note that there should be no space between the colon and your search term.

A similar effect can be accomplished with the options "inurl:" and "allinurl:" but here Google will restrict the results to show only those results where the URLs contain the word or phrase you have searched for.

If you are searching for a definition of a term, Google offers help here too. You

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have to type "define:" (without the quotation marks) followed by the word or words you want defined. If Google has come up with that definition on the internet it will be displayed for you at the top of the search results. Please note that if you enter more words after "define:" Google will see those words as a phrase.

When you have a URL of a website that interests you (e.g. www.example-url.com) you can find all the websites that link to that site, all the websites related (similar) to that site and check what info Google has on that particular site.

You will use "link:" followed by the URL of your choice (e.g. "link:www.example-url.com" - without the quotation marks) when you want to find all websites that link to that site. The prefixes "related:" and "info:" are used in the same way.

Should you wish to search only a certain website, not the whole Internet, you can use "site:" following with the URL of the website you wish to search. But note that the search term here comes BEFORE the "site:" which is followed by the URL of the website. E.g., "download linux site:www.linux.org".

The only time the quotation marks are used in searching is when you are searching for a phrase and not combined with any of the above mentioned prefixes. For example, "searching the internet" with quotation marks will search for the exact phrase and "searching the internet" without quotation marks will search for the places where the words "searching", "the" and "internet" appear not strictly in that order.

Logically by using quotation marks when searching you will get fewer results but more relevant ones while without the use of the quotation marks you will get more but usually less relevant results.

These little tricks should help you use the Internet more efficiently in the search for information and should improve the quality and relevance of your search results.

From Newbie Club Insider



Kwik Tips

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----- How To Adjust Email Text Size

If you're like me you may sometimes have trouble reading small fonts on your monitor when reading your email. If you have a scroll mouse then try this

Open your email.

Click and hold down the Control key (ctrl) on your keyboard

Roll the mouse wheel

Magically the font size will increase or decrease depending on which way you scroll . When you next open your email the font size will have returned to normal.

----- How To Adjust your Mouse Settings

As you move the mouse across its pad, the cursor may fly across the screen, or it may crawl. This speed is easily adjusted within the Mouse Properties dialog box. Use the Pointer speed slider to make adjustments.

In Windows XP: Start Control Panel Mouse

Windows 98: Start, Settings, Control Panel Mouse

If the mouse pointer is moving too fast, drag the slider to the slower side. If it's creeping, speed it up by dragging the slider to the right, or faster side.

While you're in there, try some of the dozens of ways to customize your mouse settings. You can't break anything!

----- Copy and Paste ...

This is a task that every computer user needs to know.

Say you wish to copy a portion of text into a file in which you are creating a report or project, even an article or your website content? With a little practice you will be an ace at it and wonder how you ever got along

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without it. To copy something you must first highlight it using your left mouse button.

Start by placing your mouse cursor then clicking your LEFT mouse button at the beginning of the text you wish to copy. When you do this DO NOT let go of the mouse button, and while holding it down simply move your mouse over the text until you reach your stop point. Then release it.

Now simply move your mouse into the center of the highlighted text and press your RIGHT mouse button. This will bring up a menu. LEFT click on 'COPY' from the menu. You have now copied the text and are ready to paste it into your project or a new notepad text file.

Place your mouse cursor in the blank notepad or project and then press the RIGHT mouse button to bring up the menu. From the menu LEFT click on "Paste". If you successfully completed the copy process your text should magically appear in the space you are working in. If not, go back and try again.

----- Using F1 Key

How do you access to help when you're stuck in a program such as Textpad. or Internet Explorer?

Sure, you can wade through the 'Help' file in the toolbar. but you may find it easier to look up most common Windows commands if you press the F1 key on your keyboard.

This will bring up the help file for Windows allowing you to quickly search or browse for the answer or information you are seeking for almost everything you might want to do in Windows as well as Windows related programs.

Keep in mind that most all of the applications created for your Windows operating system have the same basic commands available from the menu system. Some variants may exist depending on the purpose of the software application but the basics are usually there.

From Newbie Club Insider

Langa Letter: XP's No-Reformat, Nondestructive Total-Rebuild Option

By [Fred Langa](#)

[InformationWeek](#)

Jun 19, 2006 12:00 AM

It's one of those software design decisions that makes you scratch your head and wonder, "What were they thinking?" The "it" in this case is XP's most powerful rebuild/repair option, and yet Microsoft chose to hide it behind seeming dead ends, red herrings, and a recycled interface that makes it hard to find and (at first) somewhat confusing to use.

But it's worth exploring because this option lets you *completely* and *non-destructively* rebuild, repair, or refresh an existing XP installation while leaving already-installed software alone (no reinstallation needed!). It also leaves user accounts, names, and passwords untouched and takes only a fraction of the time a full, from-scratch reinstall does. And unlike a traditional full reinstall, this option doesn't leave you with two copies of XP on your hard drive. Instead, you end up with just the original installation, but repaired, refreshed, and ready to go.

When the Recovery Console techniques don't work, and you're facing the prospects of a total reformat/reinstall, *stop!* Try the no-reformat reinstall technique we're about to illustrate, and you just may get your XP setup running again in a fraction of the time and with a fraction of the hassle of a grand mal wipe-and-restore.

The First Fork In The Road

The no-reformat reinstall operation starts with a normal boot from an XP setup CD. Ideally, to save time, use a setup CD that's been "slipstreamed" to include the SP1 and SP2 patches and upgrades. (Need info on slipstreaming? See "[How To Save An Hour \(Or More\) On XP Installs](#)" and also this [third-party site](#).)

Start your PC with the setup CD in a drive, and hit a key when you see the following screen:

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If instead of booting to the CD your PC boots from the hard drive, you may need to modify your PC's "boot order." It's easy and only takes a minute to make the change so that the PC will check for a bootable CD before trying to boot from the hard drive. See [this](#) for more information.

Once your PC starts to boot from the CD, you'll see something like what's shown in Screen 2:

After a minute or two, you'll see the "Windows Setup/Setup is starting Windows" screen, shown in Screen Three. Don't be alarmed: It's still just the setup process running, and nothing's been changed on your PC yet. Soon after Screen Three, you'll be presented with the normal "Welcome to Setup" screen, as shown in Screen Four.

The "Welcome to Setup" screen is poorly worded; the "Repair" option we want isn't the one explicitly offered here. In fact, the repair option we want isn't shown at all. See the text for full detail.

The poorly worded options in Screen Four lead many users astray. The only mention of "Repair" here is "...repair a Windows XP installation using Recovery Console..." but that's not the no-reformat repair/reinstall we're seeking. (The Recovery Console Repair option is useful in its own right for fixing relatively minor problems with the operating system, and we fully explore it in the links listed above.) The repair option we do want--a nondestructive, no-reformat reinstall--is actually hidden beneath the Setup option, "To set up Windows XP now, press ENTER." So hit Enter, just as if you were setting up Windows afresh and from scratch.

The next screen, about licensing, gives no reassurances that you're on the right path for a nondestructive repair/reinstall--in fact, it's the same screen you see when you're setting XP up on a virgin hard drive. But this is only the first of many screens that the Repair option will borrow from a full-blown setup. Press F8 to accept the licensing terms and to go on.

Next, the XP setup process will show another screen that you may recall from your initial setup of XP. It searches for "a previous version of Microsoft Windows." In our case, we're not replacing a previous version of

Windows, but rather repairing the very same version that's on the setup CD--but that's OK; it's just another poorly worded screen.

Screen Seven finally shows verbiage that's not recycled from the generic XP setup, but is specific to our Repair task. Setup should find your damaged copy of XP and present it for repair, as shown:

If your damaged copy of XP isn't highlighted in the list box, highlight it now. When it's selected, press R to start the repair process.

The Repair process then selectively deletes system files in the \Windows folder and subfolders and copies undamaged replacement files from the setup CD to their proper

The Repair process then works on the current setup's Registry, leaving much of it intact and rebuilding the rest.

The system then needs to reboot and will do so automatically. If your setup CD is still in

the drive, remove it so that the system won't try to boot from it.

The first Repair reboot will take longer than normal. Don't be alarmed. Also, don't be alarmed when Setup resumes. Once again, it will appear that you're performing a full, from scratch setup; there's nothing on-screen to indicate that you're repairing an existing version of XP. But although the setup screens are the same as what you'd see in a full install, it's still a repair process, as will become clearer in a moment. The first two of the Repair setup screens ask for your language preferences and product key. Enter these normally.

Many of the next few Repair screens will also be familiar. The "installing devices" screen, for example, is identical to the one you normally see during a full, from-scratch setup. But Repair is actually retaining much of the current setup's configuration and so will move through these steps faster than in a full setup

The setup screens don't reflect the fact that a Repair proceeds much faster than a normal, full setup. In fact, the time estimates in the setup progress bar will be way off. You'll be done in far less time than the progress bar predicts

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When this portion of the Repair is done, you'll see a "completing installation" screen:

Setup then reboots your PC again, and this reboot will also take longer than usual. This is normal

After the reboot, you'll be brought to an abbreviated version of the "Welcome To Windows" setup pages.

You'll be asked if you want to register and--depending on how badly hosed the previous installation was--you may or may not be asked to reactivate the copy of Windows. Next, the setup software handles the final networking details and then offers a "thank you" screen.

In most cases, the system will now reboot for a final time. The Repair is done. It's a normal boot, bringing you to the normal choices for login.

If all has gone as planned, you'll find all the user accounts and passwords intact, all the hardware devices set up as before, and all the previously installed software still installed and configured. In fact, if all has gone as planned, the only significant change will be that whatever problem your copy of XP was previously experiencing will now be gone!

You now have a range of repair tools at your disposal, ranging from simple on-the-fly fixes such as [Registry cleaning](#) and [safe Mode fixes](#) to Recovery Console fixes (see links in the beginning of this article) and, now, a nondestructive, no-reformat repair/rebuild option. With this information, you should almost never have to face a dreaded start-over-from scratch reformat/reinstall of XP!

Editor's Note.

[I have not included the screens here.

Also the references to "Here" are links to LangaList articles on the Information Week Web Site

Tutorial..... "How To Organize Your Learning Time"

Joe Robson <http://joerobson.com>

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When using your PC, you tend to repeat certain tasks over and over. However, when these tasks are new to you, they can take a long time to learn.

You make mistakes.

You get stuck.

You cuss and scream:-)

You spend hours working out how to do a relatively simple task. Yet the next time you have to perform the same task, you get stuck again because you've forgotten how. And you can't believe you didn't scribble down a few instructions as you went! Now you have to search for the same information again.

Great fun!!!

Get organized now and you'll never again have to waste time repeating a search for essential information. Here's how.

1. Create a new folder on your desktop. (Right-click on the desktop and choose NEW then FOLDER.) Call it "HOW TO".

2. Open Notepad (If you haven't used it before, you'll find it here:

START/ALL PROGRAMS/ACCESSORIES/NOTEPAD.

To put it on the desktop, RIGHT click "Notepad" and choose SEND TO/DESKTOP). In future, make it a habit to open Notepad before you do any new task, ready to scribble down notes.

3. Type the name of the task you're about to start on. (For example: 'How Create Tables In Word'.) Save your document - using the same name - to your new HOW TO folder.

4. Minimize Notepad by clicking the 'minus' sign in the top right hand corner of the window. The icon for Notepad will go down to the task bar on the bottom of your computer screen. Whenever you need to make another note, just click on this icon and it will bring the document up on the screen again.

5. Begin working on your task. At the completion of every successful step, bring up Notepad from the task bar and note what you did and how you did it. Save your document every time you do this in case your computer shuts down unexpectedly.

6. If you have to send off a query to a help desk, or put in a support ticket, or stop to do some research, make a note that this is what you did. Copy and paste the URL of any website you go to for help. This could be invaluable to you later.

7. When you have successfully completed your task, go through your step-by-step notes. Tidy them up, and if necessary clarify a step here and there. Make sure that this is a reliable, useful checklist that you can follow the next time you need to do the same thing.

What you have done in fact is to write your own Tutorial for that particular task.

Follow the same process every time you perform a new task. As time goes on, you will have an invaluable set of personalized checklists. You also have the basis of a useful 'how to' product or e-book that will help others who are just starting out.

THIS SHOULD RATTLE YOUR BRAINS A LITTLE

If you ever feel stupid, then just read on. If you've learned to speak fluent English, you must be a genius! This little treatise on the lovely language we share is only for the brave. Peruse at your leisure, English lovers. Reasons why the English language is so hard to learn:

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
 - 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
 - 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
 - 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
 - 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
 - 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
 - 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present..
 - 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum
 - 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
 - 10) I did not object to the object.
 - 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
 - 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
 - 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
 - 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
 - 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
 - 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
 - 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail
 - 18) After a number of injections my jaw got number.
 - 19) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
 - 20) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests
 - 21) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?
- There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine

in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France (Surprise!). Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

Quicksand works slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend. If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? Is it an odd, or an end?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

P.S. - Why doesn't "Buick" rhyme with "quick"?