Launceston Computer Group INCORPORATED

NEWSTREAM

The Journal of the Launceston Computer Group Inc

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2nd Place ASCCA Competition 2004

Volume 4 Issue 2

March 2005

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Next Meeting
Wednesday 2nd March
Beginners 7 pm
8 PM
Mr Bob M^cLoughlin
From The Mac Shop
Introducing new G5 I Mac
& iLife,iWork iSight Software

Newstream Articles

Deadline : 10 Days before Meeting

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Printed & Posted Newsletter $20 extra

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Ron's Ramblings

We are hopeful that the proposed demonstration of Apple Mac Products will go ahead on Wednesday. Most of us know little about the Macintosh System which in many ways is technologically more advanced than the IBM Clone PCs that most of us use.
To my mind the drawback of Mac's appears to be their initial cost, the fact that a lot of Software is not available in the Mac version, and the fact that upgrading by replacement of parts is not as readily available.
Of course Mac users will tell you that Macs are so far advanced that they don't need upgrading as much as PCs.

The Show is going ahead!!. Judy has measured the site and has found room for 20 sites. Members have been emailed PDF versions of the Map, Exhibitor Information and Invitations to Exhibit. These have been sent so that any member who has an idea of a possible exhibitor (not necessarily a Computer Store) whose business may fit into the category "Computer & Technology" that the Show will showcase, can print out and give out to that possible exhibitor.

We also need as soon as possible design for the Posters (A4 size) and Hand out (A5), so we can get them out to the Computer Store, Newsagents and anywhere else that members may consider people who might come to the Show can see them. Now is the time to put your Graphics training to use.

This Show is for the benefit of the Group, especially OPEN so get behind the Committee in their endeavours to make this a Show that will make us better known in the Community and enable us to make the future of OPEN & LCG more secure.

Ron Baker

Launceston Computer Group

SOFTWARE LIBRARY

Dated 1st Mar 2005

DISK 1000 - Your Library on Disk

*Have you received your copy of Disk 1000? The disk holds a complete listing of programs available in our PC shareware library. This disk is free of charge to all new members. (***will be available on CD soon***!)*

DISK COPY PRICES - CLUB MEMBERS *$1.00 per disk*

Disk Prices - Box of 25 = $12.00 Members Only

CD Prices – Box of 10 = $10.00 Members Only

Julie Hjort ,Shareware Librarian

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 - Studioworks most Wednesdays 9am to 3pm. Email: opencomputingtas@hotmail.com

LAUNCESTON

Julie Hjort Phone 6344 5686

Flat 2, 115 Penquite Road, Newstead

Email: jhjort@intas.net.au

Monthly Workshops

Graphics – Advanced

Paint Shop Pro 7

Next class

Wednesday Mar 16th

1pm – 3.30 pm

$4.00 fee - Numbers limited to 8 please register on noticeboard or call **OPEN** on **0413 698.610**

Family History Online

Next Classes

Wednesday March 9th

1 pm to 3.30 pm

Wednesday March 23rd

9 am to 12 noon

$4.00 fee Numbers limited to 8 people

Please register on noticeboard

*** NEW CLASS ***

Learn the basics of **Adobe Photoshop** with tutor

Mark Greenhill

Wednesday March 16

10 am to 12 noon

Graphics – Level 1

This class will be held every second month and is aimed at those people who are new or know little about manipulating graphics.

$6.00 Fee Includes programs and cost of printing tutorials.

Next Class Wednesday Mar 9 *(9 am to noon)*

VENUE TELEPHONE NUMBER

Mobile Phone Number is now available to all those wishing to contact OPEN during working hours. The number is

0413 698 610

Please pay for private calls made *from* this phone

OPEN Session Times

All sessions are held at the venue at

Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

Standard Sessions (All sessions $4.00)

Monday	1pm – 3pm	Basics & Beyond
Tuesday	10am – 12	PC & Mac Support for Beginners
Tuesday	1pm – 3pm	Intro to ELearn & Beginners
Wednesday	9am –12	2nd Step Tuition (see special sessions)
Wednesday	1 pm – 3.30 pm	2nd Step Tuition (see special sessions)
Thursday	10 am – 12	Intro to ELearn & Beginners
Thursday	1pm - 3pm	PC & Mac, Revision
Friday	10am -12	Intro to ELearn
1st Saturday	9 am - 12	NT Camera Club

Special March Sessions

Wednedsay 2nd Mar	9 am –12 pm	**Tutor Tuition**
Wednesday **2nd Mar**	1 pm on	**OPEN Meeting**
Wednesday **9th Mar**	9 am –12 pm	**Graphics Level 1 Paint Shop Pro 7**
Wednesday **9th Mar**	1 pm – 3.30 pm	Family History
Wednesday **16th Mar**	10 am –12 pm	**Adobe Photoshop**
Wednesday 16th Mar	1 pm – 3.30 pm	**Graphics PSP7 (Advanced)**
Wednesday 23rd Mar	**9 am –12 pm**	**Family History**
Wednesday 23rd Mar	**1 pm – 3.30 pm**	**Print Artist Creating Cards**
Wednesday 30th Mar	**AM PM**	**What's in the 'box' To be advised**

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What's Happening at OPEN

Next Monthly Meeting

2nd MARCH 2005 at 1.00 pm

FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

The first month of OPEN operations for 2005 has seen several new members signing up with the club. We welcome them, and hope that they find their classes enjoyable and informative.

For those interested in graphics we have 'Level 1' classes based on **Print Artist** and **Paint Shop Pro 7** (PSP7), and also an 'Advanced Level' class for **PSP7**.

On March 16 graphic designer Mark Greenhill will conduct an **Adobe Photoshop** session, and this could become a regular session if enough members are interested.

With five Wednesdays occurring in March **additional special sessions** will be held **on Wednesday, March 30th**. The morning session (10 – noon) will be one of our "What's in the Box" sessions. If you've never seen a hard disk, a sound card or the other mysterious components inside a computer, this session should prove informative. Please contact the club for details of the subject for the afternoon session.

Dennis Murray

SPECIAL EVENING SESSION
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
L.C.G. Get-Together
Wednesday MAR 2
7 pm – 9.30 pm

A general information session for those who find it difficult to attend day-time sessions.

Waiting Lists

A waiting list for OPEN classes has been drawn up in the back of the daybook. Please enter the names and preferred sessions and contact numbers in the list.

Induction Packs

The new induction packs are now available.
These packs include all the information a new member requires to begin their course.

Free Copy of Newsletter

Don't forget to submit your Email address if you wish to receive the LCG/OPEN newsletter via Email. If you have not yet received the newsletter via Email tell your tutor.

E-Learn

Starting dates, schedule and course material for the **2005 e-Learn classes** should be available by March 8. Please keep in touch with your OPEN tutors for up-to-date information. It isn't too late to sign up if you wish to enrol.

INTRODUCING "VICTOR"

VICTOR is an acronym for **V**olunteer **I**nformation and **C**ommunication **T**echnology **O**ut**r**each. This service is operated by volunteers from OPEN and its role is to act as a referral service and point of contact for OPEN members who may encounter computer problems that can't be solved in our clubrooms – thus the '**Outreach**' part of the title.
While we will try to respond to your calls as soon as possible, please bear in mind that most of the volunteers are OPEN tutors as well. We request that calls to our VICTOR co-ordinator Robert Tierney be made between the hours of 10 a.m and 5 p.m.

Home number : **6344 6328**
Mobile :
OPEN :
0413 698 610

NORTHERN TASMANIAN CAMERA CLUB

The 'Camera Club' is an independent group that conducts monthly meetings at OPEN's clubrooms, with the next meeting scheduled for **Saturday, March 5th**.

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

Hardware revolutions

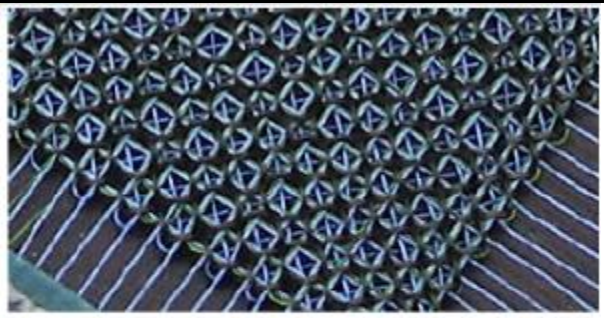
Peter Carter

As we have seen, the early computers were based on vacuum tubes, with working memory of Williams tubes, acoustic delay lines, or magnetic drums, all bulky and unreliable. There had to be better technologies.

Whirlwind

In the mid-1940s the US Navy asked MIT to develop a flight trainer and stability analyser for training pilots and assessing new designs. Jay W Forrester was appointed to lead the project, which eventually became one to develop a general purpose real-time digital computer rather than a flight simulator.

Whirlwind was the fastest machine of its time, the first sixteen-bit machine, with some 4000 vacuum tubes, and with 32 electrostatic tubes for its memory. Therein lay the problem: the electrostatic tubes had short lives, and cost $1000 each to replace. The project was spending $32000 a month to replace them.



Closeup of core memory. Three wires are threaded through each core, two to magnetise it, one to sense. The core planes were assembled by hand: $6000 each is one price quoted

In early 1949 Forrester read an advertisement for a magnetic material called Deltamax, and wondered if it could be used in some way for computer memory. He experimented, finding that his idea worked in principle, but that Deltamax was not the right material. That turned out to be ceramic ferrite, and after four years of development a version of Whirlwind with magnetic core memory was complete. Maintenance on the memory required two hours a week rather than four hours per day. At about the same time An Wang was pursuing similar ideas at the Harvard Computing Lab.

Whirlwind evolved into SAGE (Semi-Automatic Ground Environment), a network of radar stations and computers intended to protect the US from attack across the Arctic. Its technologies were used by many other machines, and magnetic core memory remained in use until the 1970s. The story is told that when IBM was preparing to manufacture cores it consulted with the Lifesaver company for advice on forming them.

Solid-state

Semiconductors had been known from at least the 1920s, but remained largely a curiosity as pure materials were difficult to prepare. In mid-1945 the Bell Telephone Laboratories began serious work on solid-state physics, with a team consisting of William Shockley, John Bardeen, and Walter Brattain. They decided to concentrate on germanium and silicon, particularly pn junctions (the boundary between materials containing an excess of positive or negative charges).

After two years, they announced the transistor in December 1947, a device that acted like a triode vacuum tube, but was faster, used much less power, and promised to be far more reliable. The name meant ‘transfer resistance’. It was 1951 before a better version, the junction transistor, still made of germanium, was available, and it was this version that was taken up by makers of all manner of amplifiers: hearing aids and radios in particular. Transistorised computers were not long in coming, and before long all computers had logic circuits based on transistors.

The trio was awarded the 1956 Nobel Prize for Physics for their work, and Shockley set out to capitalise on the invention, playing a leading role in the development of what became Silicon Valley. It was the break-up of his firm that led to the formation of new semiconductor manufacturers.

Integration

In May 1952, even as the transistor was beginning its career, an engineer from the UK Royal Radar Establishment, GWA Drummer, wrote:

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> 'With the advent of the transistor and the work in semiconductors generally, it seems now possible to envisage electronic equipment in a solid block with no connecting wires. The block may consist of layers of insulating, conducting, rectifying and amplifying materials, the electrical functions being connected directly by cutting out areas of the various layers.'

At that stage Drummer had no real idea how his blocks might be made, and research in the UK eventually led nowhere. But others were thinking.

One of those was Jack Kilby, an engineer at Texas Instruments, the first company to make transistors from silicon. In mid-1958 Kilby put together a phase-shift oscillator on a sliver of germanium, and in the following months developed more circuits. The patent was filed on 6 February 1959, and TI began producing integrated circuits for the US Air Force. Kilby won a Nobel Prize for Physics in 2000.

Robert Noyce worked for Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory, but was unhappy with the way the company was run, and left to form his own business with a number of other ex-Shockley employees. Fairchild

***AppleSauce* February 2005 28** Semiconductor concentrated on silicon transistors, and Jean Horni and Kurt Lehovic devised ways of improving the design and manufacture.

Based on Horni and Lehovic's work, Noyce devised a better method of making integrated circuits than Kilby's, with one of the key innovations being the deposition in a vacuum of metal conductors on top of the components.

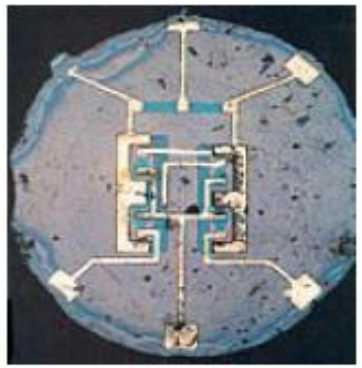
Companies freely licensed their patents, and before long all the manufacturers were using Noyce's methods. The first chips were expensive, and for a time in the 1960s most went to military and space customers: Fairchild won the contract to supply components for the on-board computers for the Gemini spacecraft, the first manned spacecraft with computer control for orbital rendezvous.

In 1968 Noyce left the company he co-founded, and with Gordon Moore, began Intel, where the story leads next...

From Apple Sauce January 2005

Triple flip-flop from a DEC mini-computer: six transistors, plus resistors, capacitors and diodes. The board is 125mm long, 62mm wide

Kilby's oscillator, 1.57mm long, 1mm wide (Texas Instruments)



Early (1961) Fairchild IC, a logic device with two flip flops, each with two transistors. That makes it roughy equivalent to two thirds of the circuit board on the previous page. It's 1.5mm across

Newbie Club Tutorials

Tutorial; "It's Elementary Dear W"

If you need to know, for any reason whatsoever, you can find out every detail about the insides of your computer by putting Doctor Watson to work. At least on Windows 98 you can! XP is different.

In Windows 98 ..

>From the Start menu, click Run. In the Run dialog box, type "drwatson" without the quote marks. Then click OK or press Enter.

You won't see anything happen! That's a very important point. But if you observe closely, you'll see a new icon appear in the system tray (next to the clock). It's the Dr. Watson icon!

Right click the new icon and choose the first line item, 'Dr. Watson.' A system "snapshot" is taken. A report will appear on your screen, saying "you've got a real mess on your hands" or "everything's fine." Something like that, anyway.

Leave Watson running, do your thing, then check back for an updated report. If stuff is still working right, you'll get the same "everything's fine" report. If not, you'll know that, too.

In XP it's much different...

Type in drwtsn32 and rummage around. Type in Dr Watson into Windows Help and see what he can do for you.

Geek Speak Busters ... "Program and Log File"

A Program is a complete self contained set of computer instructions that you use to perform a specific task, such as word processing, accounting etc. A program - in true geek style - is also called an application.

Why DO those techie types do it?

Either it's a Program or an Application. Imagine a techie saying to someone ...

"Hi my name is Joe but you can also call me Humphrey"

Gimme a break

Another Geek Speak Buster ...

A Log File is a file that stores messages generated when you use an Application, service, or operating system. These messages are used to track the operations performed.

For example Web servers maintain log files listing EVERY request made to the server.

Just to confuse you more, log files are usually plain text files (like in this email) and often have a .log extension.

---------- **And Another**

"Shortcut"

A shortcut icon is not the actual program, but a representation of that program. It is a pointer to the program which you place in an easy-to-use place (your desktop, or main screen you look at). Right clicking a shortcut icon and choosing 'Properties' will show you the details about that icon.

--------- And Finally

B. "Splash Screen"

This is a term given any window that appears prior to the actual program you're waiting to use. For example, the Windows screen you see when turning on your computer that says "You are not starting Windows..." (duh!) is a splash screen. It's splashed momentarily on your screen.

Clear? Savvy? Comprende?

OK I believe you but thousands wouldn't :-)

Tutorial ... "Common Questions Answered"

Q: When I use remove programs from my computer, should I answer "Yes" or "No" to the question, "Do you want to remove a shared file?"

A: Shared files have the file extension ".DLL" on them. That means they're a Dynamic Linked Library file. All this means is the file in question can be used by different programs. A word processor and another program may share a DLL file. So removing that file may cause another program to malfunction.

You may have seen a message stating that a certain file cannot be found. That file is needed in order to open the program you're trying to use. Why is it missing? Could be that you removed it when you un installed another program.

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The bottom line: If you aren't familiar with a filename, and you're asked if you want to delete it, don't. Just answer "No" to the question. The genie inside your PC will leave the file alone.

Q: Is it true that a lot of files in my Temp directory can slow down the startup process of Windows? And why are there files in that directory, anyway?

A: Yes, it's true. But there would have to be a lot of stuff there that was never deleted. Normally, programs use the Temp directory to store bits and pieces of themselves while work is going on. When you close the program, or an install of new software is complete, files that were stored in the Temp directory should be deleted automatically.

But this doesn't always happen.

Using Windows Explorer, open the Temp folder in the C:\Windows folder. Look at the dates on any files in that folder. If the dates are older than the last time you started your computer, you can safely delete them. Don't delete any file in the Temp folder that has today's date on it, unless you recognize the file.

Tutorial: "How to Remove Programs Safely"

How to properly remove programs from your computer:

Windows has a little program that helps you delete applications safely and CORRECTLY.

Why correctly? Because a lot of new software leaves entries in the Registry, and unless you uninstall your programs, the excess code gets left behind. Not so tidy.

Oh dear oh dear oh dear, do I remember when I was a Green Newbie and simply right clicked and deleted about a dozen programs.

Chaos, confusion, crashes, and things went bump in the night!

Never again. So unless you insist on learning the hard way, when you want to uninstall an application, follow these steps:

1. Click Start.
2. Choose Settings > Control Panel. . I
3. n the Control Panel window, double-click the Add/Remove Programs icon.
4. Under "The following software can be automatically removed by Windows..." select the application you want to remove.
5. Click Add/Remove and follow the instructions to remove the application. It will show you dialog boxes to assist you in the process.

When you remove programs, you may be asked if you want to remove files called "DLLs". That's an acronym for Dynamic Linked Library file. These are shared by other programs. If you want to be real safe, just answer "No, No, No". Everything but the files in question will be removed. (Everything related to the program you're uninstalling, of course.)

This is all very geeky, really. But the time may come when you need to uninstall something. So use this. Don't just randomly delete the files that make up programs.

Tutorial; ----- "Change That Boring Start Up Page".

When you launch your browser, does it always go straight to MSN? Or to Yahoo!? Or to some other site? Would you like to make it open on a blank page instead? Or just change the default entirely to a new page, like, your own page that you built?

Here's how...

Open Internet Explorer.

On the Menu line, Click Tools, Internet Options.

You'll see the Internet Options dialog box displayed. The General tab is pre-selected.

The first item is the Home Page section, and it says "You can change which page to use for your Home Page." The address bar will have a URL (address) listed. Three buttons help you make a choice: Current, Default, and Blank.

The buttons in order now....

* The 'Current' button makes whatever page is in your browser at the

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moment the new home page. It's the current page. Click to "make it so."
* The 'Default' button will most likely make Microsoft's MSN network the default page.
* The 'Blank' button will make a blank page your home page. Just a blank page is all you'll see.
So, if you have a particular page you want to appear when you start IE, just open the menu, set the page to Current, and you've done it. What about Netscape users? Edit your preferences.
Click 'Edit' on the menu line, then
Click 'Preferences'.
You'll see the options right there

Geek Speak Busters

---------- "HTTP"
You see this in your browser's address bar all the time. What the heck does it mean? It's just a sneaky bit of techie-speak for the very inner workings of the Internet.
It stands for Hyper Text Transfer Protocol. If you know anything about protocol at all, then you'll understand that part. The Web uses a protocol to transfer information between your browser (your web page viewer gizmo) and the computers that house that info.
The pages you view are 'hypertext' documents. Put it all together, and you've got the "easily excitable linked text transfer system" or Hyper Text Transfer Protocol.
Gimme a break!

..... **Look out - here's another**

--------- "USB"
Stands for "Universal Serial Bus". It's the bus that keeps going round the fountain at Times Square. (Never been there, and don't know if busses are allowed around the fountain, but it sounded good. Not even sure there's a fountain there, either.)
In computers, this is a method used to transfer data between your computer's brains and the item in question... like a printer, scanner, or digital camera. Data is transferred to and fro, and electrons hurry hither and yon. All through the USB port. It's faster than a serial port, which is slow way to move data. And you can plug and unplug stuff into a USB port with the greatest of ease. Comes standard on all new computers. I hook up my printer through a USB port. Tutorial: "Keyboard Accelerator"
When you open the Start menu, you'll notice that the items there have a built-in accelerator key. You don't see anything, but if you press the first letter Programs, your cursor will highlight the Programs item.
If there is more than one item that begins with the letter "P" pressing "P" again will take you to the next item on the menu.
Want to get to the Programs flyout menu fast? Just press the Logo key, then the P. Bam! You're there. Nobody can do it that fast with the mouse.
Want to get to the Accessories flyout window fast? Logo key, P, Enter. The Accessories item is at the top of the Programs list, and is highlighted automatically for you. Hitting the Enter key opens the Accessories item. Anything that's highlighted will be activated by hitting the Enter key.
Okay, let's assign some Accelerators.
Rename an item on the Start menu by right clicking the item, then choosing "Rename" from the list. Type a number next to the item you want to use. For example, lets say the Registry Editor was number one on your list. Rename it to: 1. Registry Editor.
Now, to activate the Registry Editor, press the Logo key, and then number 1. Just like that, you're there. If you want to hang onto the mouse, fine. Just click the Start button, then press the number 1.
Go down the list, numbering the items in some logical sequence. "Logical" is a word that applies to you. If it makes sense to you, it's logical for you. It may not be for Einstein, but hey, he couldn't even make change.
Once your programs are numbered, you can make a list, tape it to your monitor, then just tap a few keystrokes and you're there.

Tu**torial... "Buttons and Screen Resolutions"**

How many rows of buttons can you put on the taskbar? (the bar at the very bottom of your screen with all those buttons)

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The answer depends on your screen resolution. If you're running your computer at 640 x 480 pixels, then you can have 9 rows. If you're at 1,280 x 1,024 then 20 rows will do it. Why anyone would desire such antics is beyond comprehension.

Don't panic

This would be a good time explain about Resolutions, and provide a few usability tips. Resolution is measured in pixels, across the screen and down the screen. So 640 x 480 means you could count 640 dots across, and 480 dots down.

Set the number of pixels your monitor displays in the Display Properties dialog box. Click ...

Start Settings

Control Panel

Display Settings

Then adjust Screen area in pixels, then click OK

If you don't like it just go back and reset it to your previous setting - so make a note of your present setting.

Now do NOT panic when your screen goes blank for a few seconds until the new settings are loaded!

The resolution options will depend on the quality of your video card. The more memory it comes with, combined with its overall abilities, the more colours you can view at a certain resolution.

For example, you may be able to set your computer to display 64 million colours (not photographic quality, but close) and be able to run at 800 x 600 resolution. However, if you bump the resolution up a notch to 1,024 x 768, then the number of colours you can view may drop to 256 colours. It all depends on whether or not your video card does press ups every morning:-)

PICTURE EDITING There's so many picture editors out there it's enough to make you wave the white flag in defeat. Thankfully we've found one that suits all our needs and more.

PhotoShop Elements is basically Adobe Photoshop for humans. Photoshop is a massive and intricate program used by professionals throughout the world, but it's not for those of us who want to tinker with our holiday photos.

For the last few years, Adobe has been working on Photoshop Elements. It's a scaled down version of Photoshop with lots of guides and automatic tools. To date you have to say that Photoshop Elements was a good try but still a ???? for occasional users.

With version 3 of Photoshop Elements I think they've made it more accessible. A new Quick Fix section gives you the basic tools only - meaning enough for most people. Or you can click over to Standard Tools are see all the filters, layers and lasso's that are available.

The price is good at $89.99 with two separate $20 rebates via Amazon & Abode. There's even better value if you're looking for a video editing package. Adobe Premiere Elements v1 is a scaled down version of Adobe's video editing suite and is worth a look if you're dabbling in that area (likely since most still digital cameras now have a movie mode). It's a bit pricey at $100 retail but you can get Photoshop Elements v3 and Premiere Elements v1 for only $139.99 and $60 worth of rebates.

Adobe Photoshop Elements v3 http://www.woodyswatch.com/l.asp?ASIN:B0002UDM2Q

Adobe Premiere Elements v1 http://www.woodyswatch.com/l.asp?ASIN:B0002UDQ8Q

Combination pack (Photoshop Elements 3 and Premiere Elements v1) http://www.woodyswatch.com/l.asp?ASIN:B0002UDQ8G

About the only thing we don't like about the Elements packages are their extreme reliance on the despised mail-in rebate. Having one such offer is bad enough -- but two? Amazon and Abode need to get their act together on this.

From Woody's Office watch 9.29

Avoid the Lycos anti-spam offering

You may have heard about the screen-saver that was being offered from Lycos, Europe, as an honest, but misguided, effort to fight against spammers.

The idea was for the screen-saver to send data to known spammers' web sites, and with enough people running the program the web site would crash. In practice the idea has some practical and ethical loopholes. The biggest one being that a legitimate non-spamming web site could be added to the list and wrongly attacked.

Spam is a nuisance, costly and understandably gets people upset, but in our reactions against this plague there has to be some moderation.

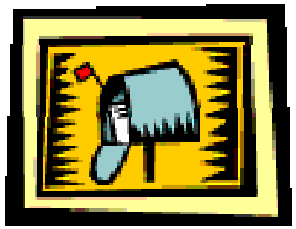
Lycos has withdrawn the program after the difficulties with their plan were highlighted. Sadly a virus writer has made use of the publicity. Hence this extra issue of WEE – we want to warn our readers about a new virus that takes advantage of anyone wanting to fight against spam.

F-Secure is reporting a new virus spreading by email. You may see an email headed like "Be the first to fight spam with Lycos screen" and an attachment that mentions Lycos and fighting spam.

While it's not been reported as happening yet, it would be conceivable that the same file could be spread by peer-to-peer systems, well-meaning web sites or well-meaning friends.

Naturally the attachment isn't what it says it is. It is really a keystroke-spying program that records everything you type (including passwords, account details etc) and sends it back to the bad guys.

Bottom Line: avoid anything that says it is an anti-spam program from Lycos – regardless of the source.



COMPUTER TIPS AND HINTS

Digital Photography

Don't be fooled by Pixels

Pixels do not determine the quality of the image; they determine how big the image is.

How good the image looks is determined by the quality of the pixels, the lens and the processor inside the camera. Think about the biggest size of print you will ever require and choose the right number of pixels.

- The resolution (= number of pixels in a digital photo) says less about the quality of the image than about the size in which it can be printed on paper.
- The higher the resolution, the larger the image file - and the smaller the number of image files that will fit on a memory card.
- Even if you have a high-resolution digital camera, you don't always have to take your photos at "full capacity". Almost every camera lets you vary the resolution setting from one shot to the next and thus take photographs with a lower resolution even with a 5-megapixel camera.
- 2 megapixels is usually perfectly adequate for presentation on a web site, e-mailing or producing a paper print up to the standard format of 10 x 15 cm. The resolution can certainly be a little higher for larger print formats or selective enlargements: 3, 4 or 5 megapixels will stand you in good stead in this case, depending on your individual requirements.

A good rule of thumb can be found in the following suggested settings

Size	Good	Best
4x6	640x480	1024x768
5x7	800x600	1280x960
8x10	1024x768	1600x1200
11x14	1280x960	1712x1368

Optical Beats Digital

Pay close attention to a camera's optical zoom.

Cameras tend to have 3 times, 6 times, or even 10 times zooms,

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usually displayed by a 'x' sign. The zoom puts you in control of how much you want in your photograph. Choose longer zooms (6x, 10x) for wildlife and sports photography to get in closer. **Digital zoom** is of little importance when choosing a camera - it just cuts away the edge of the image and enlarges the section in the middle. A good hint is to disable the digital zoom in the camera's setup options. This then helps avoid accidentally activating the digital zoom whilst taking your shot.

For fast moving object - Burst Mode can be Useful

One of the biggest pitfalls of digital cameras is shutter lag. This is particularly annoying when you want to take photos of fast moving objects.

One solution is if your digital camera has a "burst", "continuous" or "rapid shot" mode, it may prove beneficial to your photography. During a fast-paced event, it is almost impossible to time every shot perfectly. Burst mode lets you set up your exposure, shutter speed, and other options before shooting. You then focus on where the fast moving object will come into frame and take several photographs in rapid succession. Later you can sift though the files and keep the good ones, discarding the ones not required.

When purchasing a digital camera that you might be using for action photography, see if it has burst mode. You should check:

- How many photographs will burst mode take in succession?
- During how much time will burst mode work (does it take 10 photos in 2 seconds, 20 in 5 seconds, etc.)?
- What are the resolutions supported by burst mode?
- Does the digital camera require high-speed memory to take burst mode shots?

From Senior Link Sentinel 18th February 2005

The Birthday Treat

The husband asked his wife what she'd like for her birthday. "I'd love to be six again", she replied.

On the morning of her birthday, he woke up early, got up, made her a nice bowl of Lucky Charms and then took her off to Disneyland.

What A day! They went on every ride in the park. The Matterhorn, Space Mountain, Splash Mountain, Pirates of the Caribbean and the Haunted Mansion.

Five hours later she staggered out of the theme park. Her head was reeling and her stomach felt upside down.

They drove to a McDonald's where her loving husband ordered her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a refreshing chocolate shake.

Then it was off to a movie to see the latest blockbuster, a hot-dog, popcorn, a soda pop and her favourite candy, M&M's.

What a fabulous adventure!

Finally she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed, exhausted.

He leaned over his precious wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, "Well, dear, what was it like being six again?"

Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed. "Is that what this crazy day was all about?

You idiot, I meant my dress size!"

The moral of the story:

Even when a man is listening, he's gonna get it wrong

@ Web Based Email

We get a lot of questions from readers about web based email – services like Hotmail, Yahoo Mail, Gmail and Walla among many. In this issue we'll help you make an informed choice about whether web based email is the way to go.

What is it?

Web based email is where your email (and sometimes calendar and contact information) is stored on a large server on the Internet (where the server is doesn't matter). You access your email, send messages, read incoming email from a web browser. Almost any web browser will do and you can access it from anywhere in the world.

I suspect most of you are familiar with one or more of these services:

- Hotmail www.hotmail.com
- Yahoo Mail mail.yahoo.com
- Gmail www.gmail.com still in beta and not available publicly.
- Walla www.walla.com
- FastMail http://www.fastmail.fm/

All of these have free account options.

The amount of storage varies from 250MB to 1GB on the free accounts.

Sounds great, so great you might wonder why people use any other type of email?

@ Why use web based email?

So why not use one of these services? There's many concerns and we're going to play devils advocate here.

- Free accounts are subject to any change in terms at any time – something that is less likely with an account you pay for – even if as part of your Internet access fees.
- Most free accounts have a time limit. If you don't access your account in that time then the account is closed and all your emails and information is deleted. While the time limits are usually generous – they are worth keeping in mind if you go into hospital for a long time or are otherwise offline.
- Storage. 1GB might sound like a lot but with sharing of pictures becoming more common, that can fill up real fast.
- Email size. Always be aware of the size limit on individual messages. A larger digital photo or music file can easily go other that limit. With digital cameras going into the 4-5 mega pixel range and beyond large images are more common than even a year ago.
- You need Internet access. There's an arrogant presumption in many quarters that you can get Internet access anywhere. But that's not always the case, or its expensive, inconvenient or incompatible. There are plenty of cases were you'd prefer to read and write emails for later sending.
- Browser compatibility. Some web based services use Java or sophisticated web coding which isn't compatible with older web browsers or the security settings won't permit access. This is worryingly common in Internet café's or terminals when you're traveling.
- Can't search quickly. With the new desktop search tools (ahem, reminder about our great new ebook http://shop.woodyswatch.com/dsh/) you can find messages stored on your computer much faster than anything online.
- You can lose a long message when you're part way through typing or if the browser crashes when you hit send. It happens a lot more often than you'd think. For longer messages it's better to type offline (in Notepad or WordPad) and paste.into the outgoing message.
- Non trusted domains. The ease of obtaining some free mail accounts means they are heavily used by spammers and scammers. That's why some companies won't accept some free email addresses if you try to logon or buy. Hotmail.com and Yahoo.com addresses are the most commonly blocked.
- Privacy. It's unlikely, but possible, that someone at the host company could peek into your email. More likely is that someone gets or guesses your name and password to login to your account from anywhere.
- Backup. There's usually no way to make a copy of your emails offline. If the host loses data or stops your account, you're sunk.
- Accessibility – if you die or are infirm. This is no small matter – Yahoo had a difficult case recently where the email of deceased US soldier was wanted by his relatives. Yahoo was caught between their privacy rules and doing the right thing by the family. The lesson for everyone here is to make sure your login names / passwords are stored somewhere for your next-of-kin executor to use.

From Email Essentials 3.03

MENSA Definitions

The Washington Post's Style Mensa Invitational once again asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supplying a new definition. Here are this year's winners:

1. Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

2. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

3. Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

4. Foreploy: Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.

5. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.

6. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

7. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

8. Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

9. Hipatitis: Terminal coolness.

10. Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)

11. Karmageddon: "It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer".

12. Decafalon (n.): The gruelling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

13. Glibido: All talk and no action.

14. Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

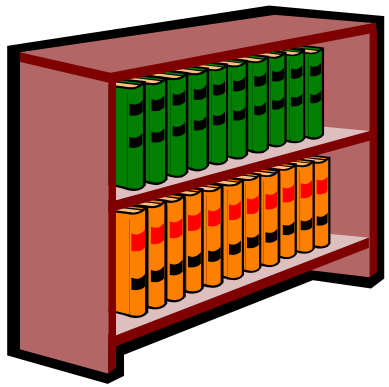
15. Arachnoleptic fit (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

16. Beelzebug (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

17. Caterpallor (n.): The color you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating.

And the pick of the bunch:

18. Ignoranus: A person who's both stupid and an asshole.



Anti-adware misses most malware

By Brian Livingston

Now that 80% of home PCs in the U.S. are infected with adware and spyware, according to one study, it turns out that nearly every anti-adware application on the market catches less than half of the bad stuff.

That's the conclusion of a remarkably comprehensive series of anti-adware tests conducted recently by Eric Howes, an instructor at the University of Illinois.

Howes, a well-known researcher among PC security professionals, collected 20 different anti-adware applications. He then infected a fresh install of Windows 2000 SP4 and Office 2000 SP3 with several dozen adware programs in separate stages. Finally, he counted how many active adware components were removed by each anti-adware product.

(Note: I use the single term "adware" in this article to refer to both "adware" and "spyware." Since it's not necessary for a spyware program to "call home" to be disruptive, the distinction between adware and spyware is meaningless. All such programs display ads or generate revenue for the adware maker in some other way.)

Howes's tests were conducted over a period of weeks in October 2004. His results were mentioned at the time in several places, including Slashdot and eWeek.

Unbelievably, however, none of these commentators bothered to print a simple chart showing which anti-adware application did the best job at removing the unwanted components. Even Howes himself hasn't posted such a summary. In a telephone interview, Howes exhibited both modesty and perfectionism, implying that his work wasn't yet done to his satisfaction — despite the fact that his tests are some of the most extensive I've ever seen.

Howes's test results sprawl over six long Web pages, with no overall totals or summary of the figures. It's a daunting body of data, but its bottom line is explosive. Adware seems to be evolving much faster than anti-adware, and the battle is so far being won by the adware side.

For this issue of the Windows Secrets Newsletter, therefore, I've complied Howes's figures into a straightforward chart, shown below. I removed five products that didn't complete all of Howes's tests for a variety of reasons. What's left is a revealing rating, from the top to the bottom of the anti-adware heap.

Each anti-adware application, according to Howe, removed a certain percentage of "critical" adware components. These are executable .exe and .com files, dynamic link library (.dll) files, and Windows Registry entries (autorun commands and the like).

Almost all the anti-adware programs that were tested removed fewer than half of the hundreds of adware components Howes cataloged. The best at removing adware was Giant AntiSpyware, but even that program removed less than two-thirds of a PC's unwanted guests.

Giant AntiSpyware catches 63%, tests say

Howes's tests were conducted before the Microsoft Corp. announced in December that it was purchasing Giant Company Software outright. For that reason, the tests use the version of Giant AntiSpyware that was available in October and not the newer Microsoft beta version that's currently available.

Even so, with Giant's application removing 63% of a PC's adware components, and its nearest competitor, Webroot Spy Sweeper, removing less than 50%, it's clear that Microsoft has a potential winner on its hands.

In the following table, which was reviewed by Howes himself before its publication here, the **Adware Fixed** column represents the percentage of critical components successfully removed, not just detected, by each product (higher percentages are better). The **False Positives** column shows the number of benign Windows files that were incorrectly reported by a product as adware (lower numbers are better):

Product	Adware Fixed	False Pos.
Giant AntiSpyware	63%	0
Webroot Spy Sweeper	48%	0
Ad-Aware SE Personal	47%	0
Pest Patrol	41%	10

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SpywareStormer	35%	0
Intermute SpySubtract Pro	34%	0
PC Tools Spyware Doctor	33%	0
Spybot Search & Destroy	33%	0
McAfee AntiSpyware	33%	9
Xblock X-Cleaner Deluxe	31%	1
XoftSpy	27%	3
NoAdware	24%	0
Aluria Spyware Eliminator	23%	3
OmniQuad AntiSpy	16%	1
Spyware COP	15%	0
SpyHunter	15%	1
SpyKiller 2005	15%	2

Howes didn't test the anti-adware programs in the above list against a program called CoolWebSearch (CWS). This little bugger mutates every few days, it seems. CWS actually requires a completely separate anti-adware program, CWShredder, which is constantly evolving along with the nuisance. This is explained in more detail later in this article.

The fact that anti-adware products fail to remove all or even most adware components has been an open secret among security professionals for some time. For this reason, tech writers often say, "You should install two different programs and run both of them for maximum protection."

To test this assertion, I compiled Howes's raw data into a new table showing the removal rate of the best app, Giant AntiSpyware, with every other tested product. According to this analysis, combining Webroot Spy Sweeper with Giant AntiSpyware did the most to remove unwanted components. But the combination of the two apps increased Giant's 63% success rate only 7 percentage points, to 70%:

Giant AntiSpyware plus...	**Total Adware Fixed**
Webroot Spy Sweeper	70%
Ad-Aware SE Personal	69%
PC Tools Spyware Doctor	68%
Pest Patrol	67%
Spybot Search & Destroy	67%
Spyware Stormer	67%
Spyware COP	66%
Aluria Spyware Eliminator	65%
Intermute SpySubtract Pro	65%
NoAdware	65%
XsoftSpy	65%
McAfee AntiSpyware	64%
OmniQuad AntiSpy	64%
SpyHunter	64%
SpyKiller 2005	64%
Xblock X-Cleaner Deluxe	64%

Finally, the computer press often recommends that the two anti-adware products that should be used together are Ad-Aware SE Personal and Spybot Search & Destroy. That preference may have become the conventional wisdom because both of these products have low-end, freeware versions. PC World, PC Magazine, and other publications have recommended this combination as recently as June and August, respectively.

Ad-aware and Spybot may have been a great combo back then. But adware apparently moves much faster than these two companies do. According to Howes's data, the two programs together barely removed half the adware components on an infected PC:

Ad-Aware SE Personal plus...	**Total Adware Fixed**
Spybot Search & Destroy	54%

I found no combination of any two anti-adware programs that removed more adware components than Giant AntiSpyware and Webroot Spy Sweeper, based on Howes's data. Removing only 70% of adware, unfortunately, isn't good enough. A much better strategy is to prevent adware from getting into your systems in the first place. I'll cover that next.

How to defend yourself against adware

First, let me make my opinion clear: The installation of adware should be illegal

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and harshly punished. Adware has exploded because it offers big economic incentives for its sponsors. They'll never adequately inform PC users about their software before it's installed. This troubling aspect of adware will never be wished away.

Only software that a PC user specifically consents to should legally be able to install — and "end-user license agreements" that stretch off the screen should never be counted as consent. (This isn't a knock on "ad-supported software," such as the Opera browser. Such legitimate software is clearly integrated with its advertising and makes it easy to shut off the ads by registering.)

In reality, today's tech-illiterate legislatures will never ban adware — if they could even think of an effective legal approach to do so. We need to engage the battle on a technical level instead.

To understand adware, you first need to know how PCs get it. The ways that Howes obtained the adware he used in his tests provide us with some perfect examples:

- **Software downloads.** For one group of tests, Howes downloaded and installed Grokster, a popular peer-to-peer file-sharing program, from CNET Download.com. Installing Grokster and clicking OK in its subsequent dialog boxes loaded 15 separate adware programs, containing 134 "critical" executable components, by Howes's count. This source of infection would compromise even Windows XP with its new Service Pack 2 (SP2).
- **Drive-by downloads.** To set up another group of tests, Howes used Internet Explorer to visit the following Web locations: 007 Arcade Games (a games site), LyricsDomain (a song lyrics site), and Innovators of Wrestling (yup, a wrestling site). This resulted in 23 different adware programs being installed, carrying 138 components, Howes says. Drive-by downloads such as these are now less of a problem for users who've installed XP SP2.
- **You can't step into the same river twice.** For yet another test, Howes visited the wrestling site again, but on a different date. The makers of adware must have signed a lot of distribution contracts with the site in the interim. Howes says his PC picked up 25 adware programs and 153 components on that one visit alone. (You'll notice that I didn't link to the examples I cited above, and I strongly recommend that you avoid trying any of them.)

It's not enough to say "PC users should be more careful." Computer professionals, instead, have a duty and an obligation to prevent adware from infecting their PCs or anyone else's. Here are some steps to take:

- **Use Giant AntiSpyware (or install the MS beta), Webroot Spy Sweeper, and CWShredder.**
  At the moment, this is the short list of programs that appear to remove the largest number of adware components. I recommend that you buy the registered versions of these applications and keep them constantly updated. The few dollars involved are well worth it, compared to the damage that can be done by a rogue program controlling your PC.

  Microsoft hasn't yet announced whether its version of the Giant application will cost money or be free after the beta period is over — stay tuned. (Note: The MS beta is incompatible with the MS Media Center Extender and has other 0.9-type issues.)

  See Giant AntiSpyware download, Microsoft AntiSpyware beta, Webroot Spy Sweeper, CWShredder.

- **For prevention, install IE-SPYAD and Spyware Blaster.** IE-SPYAD is a list maintained by Eric Howes of approximately 8,900 Web sites that are known to do things like install adware, hijack your browser home page, etc. Merging the list into your Windows Registry puts these sites into IE's Restricted Sites zone. They can't do much of anything to you then. The list, as of this writing, requires manual updating, but Howes hopes to automate the process soon.

  Spyware Blaster is freeware by Javacool Software that Howes recommendeds to guard against adware installs. A registration fee of $9.95 USD enables the auto-update feature of the software, which Howes encourages. Javacool also makes a related program, SpywareGuard.

  As commercial anti-adware programs develop their own always-on defenses, they may conflict with alternatives such as Spyware Blaster. Check the maker's documentation for possible incompatibilities before

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installing multiple products.

See IE-SPYAD, Spyware Blaster.

- **Read up on Eric Howes's site.** Aside from Howes's postings about his anti-adware test suite, linked to below, a particularly good read is his analysis of so-called anti-adware programs that are actually Trojan horses. People are so desperate to get rid of the adware that's slowing their systems to a crawl, Howes says, that too often they grasp at anything that promises a fix. See his list of rogue/suspect anti-spyware.

- **For big problems, consider stronger tools.** HikackThis, for example, is a deep-analysis utility that examines the Registry and sectors of hard disks where adware often lurks. It's not a tool for novices, but a serious scalpel for those who are faced with major surgery on their PC. It produces log files that can be analyzed by experts, many of whom help PC users by volunteering their time in online forums. HijackThis quick start

- **Keep your security baseline updated.** In this issue of the Windows Secrets Newsletter, we've begun a regular section on the six elements needed to protect your PC. This section appears below.

It's absolutely absurd that PC users must download, install, and update multiple programs just to keep their machines from silently accumulating crapware from morally-challenged Web sites. It's criminal that the leading ISPs and software giants of the world didn't move earlier to prevent these nuisances from taking over the majority of consumers' PCs.

The underlying reason that adware has compromised the entire Internet is that there's big money to be made. The best analysis of this I've seen is by Benjamin Edelman, a Harvard Law School student. He's documented almost $140 million in recent investments by Silicon Valley venture capitalists in just four of the largest adware makers. See list of adware angels

For those who are interested in deeper research on adware, links to Eric Howes's raw data on his comparative tests are posted on his anti-spyware testing page.
From "Windows Secrets" replaces Woody's Windows Watch

NEW DRUGS IN THE MARKETPLACE:

D A M N I T O L
Take 2 and the rest of the world can go to hell for up to 8 full hours.

ST. M O M M A'S W O R T
Plant extract that treats mom's depression by rendering preschoolers unconscious for up to two days.

E M P T Y N E S T R O G E N
Suppository that eliminates melancholy and loneliness by reminding you of how awful they were as teenagers and how you couldn't wait till they
moved out.

P E P T O B I M B O
Liquid silicone drink for single women. Two full cups swallowed before an evening out increases breast size, decreases intelligence, and prevents conception.

D U M B E R O L
When taken with Peptobimbo, can cause dangerously low IQ, resulting in enjoyment of country music and pickup trucks.

F L I P I T O R
Increases life expectancy of commuters by controlling road rage and the urge to flip off other drivers.

B U Y A G R A
Injectable stimulant taken prior to shopping Increases potency, duration, and credit limit of spending spree.

J A C K A S S P I R I N
Relieves headache caused by a man who can't remember your birthday, anniversary, phone number, or to lift the toilet seat.

A N T I-T A L K S I D E N T
A spray carried in a purse or wallet to be used on anyone too eager to share their life stories with total strangers in elevators.

N A G A M E N T
When administered to a boyfriend or husband, provides the same irritation
level as nagging him.
Now, send these to any woman who needs a good laugh, and any man who can handle it.

A PLETHORA OF PATCHES

OFFICE 2002 AND WORKS PATCHES

But a new vulnerability is patched - it is yet another buffer overrun problem which could allow a baddie to run a program on your computer without your knowledge. Because of the potential risk and wide range of products involved, Microsoft has rated it a Critical problem.

It is now patched for users of the following:

- Office XP with Service Packs 2 or 3
- Word 2002
- Powerpoint 2002
- MS Works Suite 2002
- MS Works Suite 2003
- MS Works Suite 2004

See http://woodyswatch.com/kb/index.asp?873352 for details on the patch

The same problem affects these products - but require separate patches.

Microsoft Project 2002 - patch at http://woodyswatch.com/kb/index.asp?873355

Microsoft Visio 2002 - patch at http://woodyswatch.com/kb/index.asp?873354

Microsoft says that Office 2003 and Office 2000 are NOT affected by this particular problem.

SMART TAG UPDATE

There's an update for the Smart Tags feature in Office 2003 - the update is summarized as being for "increases the reliability of Smart Tags in Microsoft Office 2003 by additionally restricting the way that Web sites are associated with the Smart Tag actions" - which sounds like Microsoft is trying to improve the performance of Smart Tags. But look more closely and you'll see that this is really a bug fix with a misleading facade.

Most seriously, this patch makes a feature in Word 2003 work at all. If you choose to uncheck the box "Save smart tags in e-mail" under Tools | Options | General | E-mail options | General then you would think that smart tags would not be sent. Wrong - until this patch if you send the document as an email message then the Smart Tags are still included despite the setting.

Among the other fixes in this patch are:

The notes:/// link prefix for Lotus Notes will now work properly

There was a conflict between Word 2003 and Hummingbird DM 5.1, a document management program - this patch fixes that.

The rest of the fixes relate to problems with the Word and Excel viewer applications.

Patch the Patch

If you have Visio 2003 or Project 2003 then this patch will cause a conflict in the mso.dll file. You'll have to run the detect and repair option in those programs AFTER applying this patch.

From Office Watch (Previously Woody's Office Watch)10.05

Don't Be Fooled

Hi Fred, Was just surfing the net looking at the [Spybot Search & Destroy] web site and found the following... It could be helpful to the wider audience through your excellent newsletter if they are aware of the problem....

quote from the web site...

"If you search for the keyword Spybot on Altavista or some other search engines, you'll got a bunch of sponsored results. One of them is Spyware Doctor, who seem to be aggressively using our name Spybot to advertise their software. We receive a bunch of emails every week from people complaining to us and asking for a refund. After some mails we usually find out that those people believed they had bought Spybot-S&D, but actually got Spyware Doctor... PC Tools' attorney Darren Sommers sees nothing bad in cheating people that way. We did contact Element 5, the company they use for their payments (and which btw is used by Lavasoft as well) for any help we could give to those people who were cheated and contacted by us. Ms. Schulte- Hoberg from Element 5 reacted by rejecting any help to people who where cheated by PC Tools. Element 5 did even block all our email addresses to avoid any more about this... As there is nothing we can do to help, and Element 5 rejects any cooperation in getting the cheated people refunds, we can only recommend to write letters of complaint to Element 5, and, if you were cheated yourself, contact us at legal@spybot.info so that we can confront them with a huge bunch of cases."

Kind Regards, Rajesh (PS: Excellent newsletter)

Yes, Rajesh, there's a lot of room for confusion out there. While the software we recommend is called "Spybot Search & Destroy," other competing software is called "Spyware Search to Destroy" "Spyware Bot," "Seek and Destroy" and so on. You can decide for yourself whether these very similar names are merely amazing coincidences, or deliberate attempts to confuse and deceive.

URLs are another problem:. For example, the real site for the true Spybot S&D is: http://www.safer-networking.org . A completely different product from a completely different company uses the almost-identical http://www.safer-networking.com/--- the ".org" and ".com" making all the difference. People looking for Spybot S&D's site who accidentally type the "com" form of the URL instead of the "org" may end up downloading a totally different tool from a different vendor.

And, as the quote from Rajesh suggests, some web searches are, ahem, less than helpful in finding what you want, as opposed to finding what they want you to see:

For example, when you search for the word "spybot," good searches like Google and the new (hugely improved!) MSN search keep paid advertising placements very clearly marked and separated from the search results. But other searches such as Altavista minimize the visible differences between true search results and the paid ads, so the latter masquerade as search results (unless you're reading very closely). Maybe there's a purely innocent reason for this, but to me it looks like the site is trying to foster deliberate confusion so users will see the ads and mistake them for high-ranked search results.

You have to be careful with searching and with URLs to ensure you get what you're really looking for. But again, the true, correct link for the Spybot Search & Destroy tool we often recommend is: http://www.safer-networking.org

From LangaList 14/2/2005