INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Next Meeting
Wednesday 1st December 2010

PIZZA NIGHT

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

LCG Committee 2009/10

President: Iris Meek

Vice President: Janet Headlam

Minutes Secretary: Larraine Rist

Treasurer: Dennis Murray

Ass. Treasurers:

MAC Librarians: Joel Harbottle

PC Librarian: Julie Hjort

Ass. PC Librarian: Judy Hall

Newstream Editor: Ron Baker

Publicity Officer: Karia Wicks

Ass. Publicity Officer: - open -

OPEN Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney

Webmaster/Content: Tom Olsen

Auditor: Ron Baker

"VICTOR" Liason: Robert Tierney

General Committee: Mike Armes, Sue Armes, Glenn Gilpin, Harvey Tavener, Reinhard von Samorzewski,

OPEN Committee 2009/10

Chairperson OPEN: Robert Tierney. *Chair all meetings of OPEN and ensure that they run smoothly*

Vice Chairperson OPEN: June Hazzlewood. *Chair meeting when the Chairperson is unavailable.*

Secretary: Margaret Carrington *Handles all incoming and outgoing communications Responsible for the documentation and distribution of all meeting minutes*

Assistant Secretary: - open -. *Help the Secretary where necessary*

Treasurer: Dennis Murray. *Responsible for all monies and banking*

Assistant Treasurer: . *Help the Treasurer where necessary.*

Publicity Officer: Karia Wicks. *Responsible for all advertising*

OPEN Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney. *Responsible for the smooth running of Centre on a daily basis*

Membership Co-ordinator: Karia Wicks.

Keep Membership database up to date.
Beginners Project Co-ordinator: Eleanor Horder.

Tutor Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney. *Keep regular contact with Tutors to bring ideas and concerns to meetings*

Assistant Tutor Co-ordinators: Eleanor Horder and Janet Headlam.

Newsletter Editors Assistant: Dennis Murray. *Collates and produces the OPEN Newsletter for inclusion in LCG monthly 'Newstream'*

Technical Co-ordinators: Dennis Murray (PC's) and Joel Harbottle (Mac). Responsible for the maintenance and repairs to all computer equipment

Co-ordinator of "VICTOR": Robert Tieney.

Webmaster/Content: Tom Olsen. OPEN Committee: Iris Meek, Harvey Tavener, Robin Walker, Barry Symons, Laraine Rist.

Coordinators Corner

Hello everyone,

Where has the year gone, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students and tutors a very happy and joyful Christmas and a prosperous 2011.

Following is the important dates for the rest of 2010 and 2011.

O.P.E.N meeting Wednesday 1st December 1pm

O.P.E.N Christmas Lunch Friday 17th 12pm at Sunny Hill Hotel Ravenswood.

O.P.E.N Closed from Friday 17th December 2010-Monday 3rd January 2011

Summer School from Monday 3rd January-Friday 21st January 2011(No Wednesday classes during January)

Normal O.P.E.N classes resume Monday 24th January 2011

O.P.E.N Annual General Meeting Wednesday 2nd February 2011 1PM

Beginners Class Resumes Monday 7th February 2011

A big thank you to all the members and tutors who have made 2010 a great year.Just a note to let people know who currently have Windows XP, Microsoft has stated that they will keep updates going for XP to 8th April 2014. XP is still the most used operating system in the world, with 60.3 percent of the market followed by Windows 7 with 17.10 percent and Vista with 13.35 percent. Windows 7 share of the market is growing by 2-3 percent a month.

In regards to the V.I.C.T.O.R program there will be no callouts available from Friday the 17th December till Monday the 7th February

Starting Internet Explorer with all add-ons disabled.

If you are having problems with Internet Explorer and you think that they might be caused by add-ons, you can start Internet Explorer with all add-ons turned off. By following the steps below, you can temporarily turn off all add-ons. The next time you start Internet Explorer, the add-ons will be turned on again. If you find that disabling all add-ons solves the problem you were having, you might want to disable the add-ons permanently. To learn how to do that, click **Related Topics**.

1. To start Internet Explorer without add-ons In Windows, click **Start**, click **All Programs**, and then click **Accessories**. Click **System Tools**, and then click **Internet Explorer (No Add-ons)**.Note

• To allow add-ons to run again, close Internet Explorer and restart it normally. You can also start Internet Explorer with out add-ons by right-clicking the Internet Explorer icon on the desktop and then clicking **No Add-ons**.
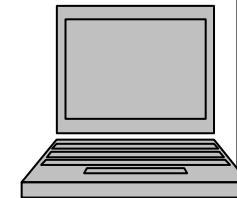
OPEN NEWSLETTER — DEC 2010–FEB 2011

The Trojan Horse is still galloping around..

This "someone" purporting to be from Microsoft is still annoying people with calls saying they had detected a Trojan Horse on their computer and they should follow the prompts they give to solve the problem.

Several students and friends have been phoned, but most have woken up since the several warnings which have been issued.

Please be alert. Microsoft do not call you...and they do NOT send messages like this.

Believe it or not....our first poor victim has been scammed again.

Victor Phone No. 0408 174235

FAMILY HISTORY ON-LINE

November 24 - 10—noon
December 8 — 1pm—3pm
January 26 –10—noon
February 9 - 1pm—3pm
February 23 —10—noon

Judy, Margaret and Sandra will guide you through the processes used to research your ancestr
Contact the club for more information

Classes are limited to 8 people.

GRAPHICS

Please check the registration sheets at the club to find out if there are places available.

The dates for the next classes are :
December 1— Christmas Theme—10am—non

December 8 Scrapbooking 10-noon

February 2 Workshop 10—noon

February 9 Basics—10—noon

LEVEL 2 & 3 GRAPHICS
With Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8

December 15 — 1:00 pm to 3.00 pm

February 16 — 1 pm—3 pm

Advanced Graphics for students who have already completed Basic Graphics classes.

It involves more advanced features of the Paint Shop Pro graphics programs.

Numbers are limited to 8 people. Please check the noticeboard or contact the club for details.

Happy Xmas

& a
Happy
New Year

NEWSTREAM

OPEN Session Times

At Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

Standard Sessions $5.00

Monday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	**Beginners & PC Support**
Tuesday	10 am –12	P C Support & Beginners + Mac
	1 pm – 3 pm	**As above**
	7 pm—9 pm	PC Support (Night Class)
Wednesday	10 am—noon	Special sessions or Meetings
	1.pm—3 pm	As for mornings (see rosters)
	3.30—5.30	P C Support
Thursday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	General & Beginners
	3.30—5.30	Absolute Beginners
Friday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm—3 pm	Beginners

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Please register on the sheets – numbers may be limited

Date	Time	Topic	Details
December 1	10 am—noon	Graphics Workshop	With Karia, Laraine, & helpers
	1 pm -	**OPEN MEETING**	**Important last for the year.**
December 8	10 am—12 noon	Scrapbooking on Computer	Presented by Eleanor Horder
	1 pm— 3 pm	**Family History**	**Margaret, Robin, Sandra & Iris**
December 15	10 am—12 noon	Make your own Gift Cards	Personalise your gifts this Christmas.
	1:00—3 pm	**Level 2—3 Graphics**	**Using PSP 7 and 8**
January 26	10 am—noon	**Family History**	Judy and helpers research family history Online
	1 pm— 3.00	**PSP Xl (may be changed)**	**Advanced Graphics with Judy Hall.**
February 2	10 am –noon	Graphics Workshop	Getting ready for the new Classes for 2011
February 9	10—noon	**Basic Graphics**	

OPEN will be closed December 17 - 2010 until January 3 - 2011

OPEN NEWSLETTER — DEC 2010–FEB 2011

LCG Committee 2010

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IMAC TUTORIAL LINKS

HOTMAIL   GOOGLE   HOME PAGE   BEGINNERS PAGE FAMILY HISTORY LINKS   MAC TUTORIAL LINKS

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR IMAC

http://howto.lycos.com/lycos/topic/1,,5+26+35991+76,00.html

MACWINDOWS TUTORIAL

http://www.macwindows.com/tutorial.html

FREE TUTORIALS

http://www.techtutorials.com/

VENUE TELEPHONE NUMBER

The club telephone is available
during class hours.

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Both OPEN and LCG will be conducting the AGM's February 2 –2011, electing new office bearers for the coming year and presenting Reports for 2010.

All positions become vacant and it is hoped some interested members will think about taking on a role..

Next LCG Meeting

December 1
Followed by Speaker or Workshop
and the usual pizza supper.

PSP XI Graphics January 26
1-3 pm

Advanced graphics with
Judy & Margaret

NEWSTREAM

THIS GOES WITH THAT AND THAT GOES WITH THIS ....

It's a real shame that ladies clothing maker Sussan's isn't involved with the computer industry.

Do your remember the advertising jingle? "This goes with that and that goes with this at Sussan's." I'm not into ladies' clothing fashions but the jingle was based on the notion that a customer could 'mix and match' certain items of apparel.

Unfortunately it's not always quite that easy in the computer game as I found out during a recent class demonstration.

The aim was to demonstrate how the slides in a Powerpoint slide-show could be burned to a DVD so that the images could be played on a DVD player that you might find in the average lounge room.

The idea had started some months before when one of our members asked how a friend without a computer could view the graphic images of the famous Melbourne Hail Storm that had occurred earlier in the year.

Our first efforts were rather labourious—we opened up the Powepoint presentation, right-clicked each 'slide' and saved the images as picture files. Performing this operation for 20-odd slides took quite a bit of time, but after a couple of Tuesday night sessions we had compiled a folder of photos.

We then fired up Nero Vision Express, added the images to our movie project, threw in some background music just to show off and burned the DVD. As far as I am aware our member's 'computer-less' friends were able to watch the show on their home DVD player.

continued next column

THIS GOES WITH THAT etc etc

Wouldn't you know it? Just a couple of weeks after going through the painstaking process of creating all those individual images along comes a program to do it all automatically—to convert a Powerpoint slide-show into an AVI movie file within a few minutes. How easy life would be from now on!

I had rehearsed the demo and it had all proved to be quite straight-forward, with the exception of having to split a large Powerpoint file into two sections.

What I hadn't reckoned with was that the conversion program would only work with the 2007 version of Powerpoint , a revelation that only became apparent after nearly an hour of frustration.

It was also discovered that not every version of the Nero CD/DVD burning program contained the video-editing functions that were needed to a home-viewable DVD.

Eventually, after turning on several of OPEN's computers we found one that had all the required versions of the programs necessary to complete the demonstration. Or had we?

Inexplicably, the Powerpoint file that I has split into two sections would not open on the computer that had all the programs required for the demo. It had worked on Powerpoint 2000 at home, it had worked on Powerpoint 2010 on OPEN15, why not on Powerpoint 2007 on OPEN10?

My New Year's resolution will be to conduct all future demonstrations at a nearby hotel!

Dennis Murray

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

When buying new software you may need to check to see if your computer has the specifications required to allow the software to run properly.

For instance, on some older computers the animation in a game may have appeared 'jerky' because the computer did not have enough memory, or the graphics system did not have the necessary capacity to process the images smoothly.

So how do you check your computer's specifications? The majority of the information can be found in the System Properties - right-click 'My Computer' (*or just plain Computer in Vista and Windows 7*) click Properties, and the system's specifications will be displayed.

The usual considerations will be :
- Operating system version
- CPU speed in Gigahertz (e.g. 3.2 GHz)
- Memory(RAM) in Gigabytes (e.g. 2.0 GB)
- Graphics resolution (e.g. 1024 x 768)
- Is a CD or DVD drive fitted, so that you can run the installation disc?
- Is there enough space on the hard disk to hold the program files?

That's usually enough, but as a member and I found recently sometimes there is an additional requirement that doesn't become apparent until you start the installation.

Who would have thought that a Family History program would require an updated version of Microsoft's .NET Framework utility. If you want to find out exactly what that is, 'Ask Mr Google'.

OPEN COMPUTTING

MINUTES OF MEETING

WED 3RD NOVEMBER 2010

MEETING OPENED

1PM

PRESENT:

June Hazzlewood (Vice Chair) , Rob Tierney, Iris Meek, Sandra Viney, Janet Headlam, Eleanor Horder, Tom Olsen, Harvey Tavener, Margaret Carrington, Gail Wilson.

APOLOGIES:

Laraine Rist, Kaye Dawson, Kathleen Bugg, Judy Hallall

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Iris moved the minutes be accepted. Seconded by Karia

BUSINESS ARISING:

O.P.R.G. (Older Persons Reference Group) June said she would attend their meeting next Monday.

The leaking tap problem was discussed and it was finally decided that the kitchen hot water tap was no longer a problem as it had had a new washer installed with the result that it had finally stopped dripping. As for the wash room tap it was decided that the best solution was to render it unusable with sticky tape with the appropriate wording carefully written on it directing patrons to use the other basin. This mission has since been accomplished with outstanding results. As only one basin is ever used at a time, this should not cause too much inconvenience to members.

A.I.R. (Aust Independent Retirees) Conference at Grand Chancellor. 8th to 10th November. Open is to share a display table with Another Computer Store. June will be attending each day and Margaret is to assist on Wednesday the 8th from 10am – 4pm. Rob moved we put in $100 towards expenses, seconded by Iris.

Janet is to get quotes for roller blinds for the windows as the light coming in makes it difficult to see the display on the over head screen when it is in use on a sunny day.

Rob said over 75's are not covered by insurance. QBE may be able to extend to 85 years.

We must contact Armstrong as the deadline is 19th November2010

Policy cover to 85 years would cost $145.

Rob: With regards to our break up Christmas Lunch, he has contacted several venues, some were not big enough, too dear etc. so a tentative booking has been made at Sunny Hill at Ravenswood. Bookings will close on Friday 3rd December There is a register on the desk at Open and all who wish to come, must put their name in it. Transport from OPEN will be provided for those who feel they would like a lift with someone.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

ASCCA-Newsletter

Carbill Tax Invoice

Armstrong's-Volunteer Insurance

Tasmanian Printer Cartridge Company-Account

Examiner-Seniors Week Advertisement

My State-Statement

Another Computer Store-Invoice

Karen Hill-Sunny Hill menu for Christmas Lunch

Big Pond Account

Department of Premier and Cabinet-commending us on our involvement in Seniors Week.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

Department of Premier and Cabinet Seniors Week-Event Organizer Survey

Community Development Division-Community Capacity Building Grants Program 2010 Final Report

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Moved by Iris that the financial report be accepted and seconded by Gail.

Tom objected to the way the financial reports are presented and suggested that a monthly balance sheet showing not only how money was spent but also details of incoming finances would give an all over view of each month's performance.

The monthly figures could then be compared and the ebb and flow of money be monitored. Tom's thought was that by showing the incoming money from class fees, subscriptions and grants etc. together with accounts paid/or to be paid, would show how the club was faring each month.

VICTOR REPORT:

The report was read by Rob.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The Co-ordinators' report on Seniors Seek shows that it was as a most successful event.

We spent $600 in rent,

Advertising $400,

Refreshments $263,

Consumables $320.50

$1,583.50

We received a letter from the Department of Premier in appreciation of what we do for the elderly in our community.

Eleanor, Margaret and Tom expressed their admiration and thanks to the way our co-ordinator (Rob Tierney) organized Seniors Week and for the tireless work he and his helpers did in order to keep the program running smoothly each day. A big thank you Rob. (Take a bow)

Karia said that the bank has suggested because we have a big amount in the bank we could invest some in a term deposit account. Karia to find out more information.

It was agreed not to hold a Tutors' Meeting before

(Continued from page 9)

Christmas.

Renew subs forms will be available next week.

Rob is to obtain a quote on a carpet sweeper.

Meeting Closed 2.20PM

Next meeting

Wednesday 1st December 2010

A Girls' Night Out

A group of 15 year old girlfriends discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it was agreed upon that they should meet at the Dairy Queen next to the Ocean View restaurant because they only had $6.00 between them and Jimmy Johnson, that cute boy in Social Studies, lives on that street and they might see him and they can ride their bikes there.

10 years later, the group of 25 year old girlfriends discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it was agreed upon that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the beer was cheap, they had free snacks, the band was good, there was no cover and there were lots of cute guys.

10 years later, at 35 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it was agreed upon that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the cosmos were good, it was right near the gym and if they go late enough, there wouldn't be too many whiny little kids.

10 years later, at 45 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it was agreed upon that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the martinis were big, and the waiters there had tight pants and nice buns.

10 years later, at 55 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally it was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the food there was reasonable, the wine list was good, they had windows that open in case of a hot flash, and fish is good for your cholesterol.

10 years later, at 65 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally it was agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because lighting was good and they have an early bird special.

10 years later, at 75 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally it was agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because food was not too spicy, the restaurant was handicapped accessible and they even had an elevator!

10 years later, at 85 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally it was agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they had never been there before.

Making PowerPoint files smaller

While it's not the problem it was a few years ago, there's still a need to reduce the file size of a PowerPoint presentation to something more portable for transport or even use on older machines which may have trouble dealing with large file sizes.

Here are some tips for reducing PowerPoint file sizes.

File Format The Office 2007/2010 PPTX file format gives much smaller files that the earlier PPT format. Simply converting a PPT to PPTX/PPTM will, almost always, reduce the file size.

Remember that the Office Compatibility Pack (for Office 2000/XP/2003 versions of Office) or the free PowerPoint viewer will open or display PPTX files.

Failing that, any PowerPoint 95 format PPT file can be made smaller by File | Save As to the PowerPoint 97 version of PPT. The PowerPoint 97 and later version of PPT automatically compresses image files.

We strongly suggest you compress a COPY of the presentation, leaving the full resolution version available in case you need to revert to it for more editing.

Images Most of the presentation file size is used up with images or video so that's what we'll focus on here. There are other tricks to do with embedding fonts etc but they rarely make enough difference to be worth the trouble.

Many images are imported into Office documents in a higher resolution than is needed for daily use.

Since Office 2002 you're able to reduce the quality of the images in a PowerPoint presentation. Right-click on any image, choose Format Picture then the 'Compress' button on the picture tab. Your quality options are Web/Screen or Print. There is also an option to remove the cropped parts of images. You can then choose to compress only that image or all the pictures in the presentation. This is the same option as in Word.

In PowerPoint 2007/2010 you can compress images automatically from the Tools| Compress Pictures menu in the Save dialog. Look for 'Automatically perform basic compression on save'.

Insert don't Embed It's tempting to 'drag and drop' an image into a presentation but there's a price for that convenience. Office converts the image to an OLE Object which can be larger than if you choose Insert | Picture to do the same job.

Copy don't re-insert PowerPoint is smart enough to know when the same image is used multiple times in a presentation. When that happens a single image is stored in the file and used as required.

If you want to use the same image multiple times, insert the image once then copy it between slides. If you insert the same image multiple times, Powerpoint will probably store multiple copies (ie it's not smart enough to realize the second imported image is the same as one already in the presentation).

There are third-party tools to reduce PowerPoint file sizes. PPTMinimizer is well regarded and maybe useful if your need is great or you have many files to deal with. There is a free trial version.

Windows XP: Looking back, looking forward

Fred Langa By Fred Langa On October 22, Microsoft pulled the plug on sales of Windows XP, ending the operating system's spectacular nine-year run.

With no new copies being sold, support for XP will start to decline. Fortunately, XP's long run has produced a ton of collected wisdom: everything you need to keep your copy going strong and — when ready — to help you move on.

The end of XP is a watershed moment. It's truly the most successful operating system in the history of personal computers. Windows 3.x was great in its day; it gave mass-market, affordable PCs the graphical prowess Microsoft needed to compete with the more expensive Macintosh computers. But it lasted only five years, from 1990 to 1995. XP's reign was twice as long!

The Windows 9x family (95 and 98) were also stellar OSes. Windows 95, released in 1995, introduced Windows Explorer for file management and was the first Windows to exploit the power of 32-bit hardware. And it added TCP/IP networking as an integral (not bolted-on) component of the OS.

Windows 98, delivered in 1998, was the first Windows to integrate Internet Explorer. Because it was essentially free, IE quickly ignited industry controversy and ensuing legal battles for Microsoft. But as part of the Windows package, it helped with the explosive growth of the Web and the dot-com boom of the late '90s.

In 2000, five years after the launch of Windows 95, Microsoft — late getting its next operating system out the door — released the stopgap kludge Windows ME (short for Millennium Edition; it was soon given less-charitable labels). It landed with a resounding thud. Even Vista was more popular than ME.

So Windows XP's near-decade reign is impressive. Rolled out in 2001, it blended the familiar interface conventions of Windows 98 with the heavy-duty, business-oriented underpinnings of Windows NT (New Technology). The result was a hybrid operating system that looked good, was easy to use, and — most important — was far more stable than its predecessors.

Microsoft originally planned a five-year life span for XP. But delays and missteps with XP's successor products (Vista, for example) plus huge upgrade resistance from users forced Microsoft to extend XP's life again and again. Now, with Windows 7 proving itself a worthy replacement, Microsoft finally has the opportunity to retire its aging, war-horse operating system. The October 22 end for XP occurred almost exactly one year after Win7 rolled out.

XP is going out on top. According to NetMarketShare.com (home page) — which tracks operating systems actually in use online — XP still holds a commanding 60.03% market share, as shown in Figure 1.

XP is still dominant XP use is declining, but based on a recent NetMarketShare.com. chart, it's still the dominant OS by far.

XP is losing about 1% to 2% market share per month; Win7, coming on strong, is currently in second place at 17.10% and is growing at 2% to 3% per month. And because many businesses passed on Vista, there's a huge pent-up market for Win7 upgrades — so its share of Windows users will grow even more rapidly.

NEWSTREAM

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XP will get security patches until April 2014 Now that software development on XP has stopped, the most important question for XP users is future support. Microsoft plans no further Service Packs or feature enhancements for the OS. But given the astounding number of people still using XP, Microsoft says it will provide XP security updates through April 2014 That should give large businesses sufficient time to complete their Win7 migration.

In addition, Microsoft's knowledge base will continue to host XP-related information for at least that long. That's an astounding 13 years after the OS was first released. To my knowledge, that's a record — the longest-supported run of any major personal computer operating system by any company, ever!

XP lifecycle dates A condensed view of Microsoft's XP lifecycle chart shows support for the OS ending in 2014 (circled in yellow).

Microsoft included many keys to XP's success In addition to the ease-of-use and stability enhancements mentioned earlier, XP had other features and innovations that made it a winner.

For example, XP was the first Windows with so-called intelligent taskbar and notification-area behavior. (The taskbar contains the Start button and the icons representing running programs; the notification area, the small block in the lower-right corner of the Windows screen, contains the clock and icons for background tasks and services.) When your taskbar runs out of space, XP intelligently overlays similar icons on top of each other and suppresses inactive notification icons.

That might not seem like a big deal now, but it was a major innovation in its time — one that made using many programs vastly simpler. In fact, XP's overall user interface may be the most imitated ever. If you don't believe me, check out almost any desktop Linux and see how familiar the UI seems.

XP was the first Windows to ship with built-in CD-R burning software; first to include user-configurable power management; first to ship with a built-in backup tool; and first to ship with ClearType, a screen-legibility enhancement — all features we take for granted now.

XP was the first Windows with a complete and genuinely useful Help system that replaced the rudimentary Help in Win9x. It was also the first Windows with Remote Assistance and Remote Desktop built in. And it was the first consumer/desktop Windows to support the advanced NTFS (info page) file system, which avoided the fragility and size limitations of the FAT system used in previous desktop Windows versions.

You can probably add your own list of favorite XP features.

XP's many blemishes are well documented No one who has used XP for any length of time will call it flawless, however. Many of those flaws — and ways to work around them — have been detailed in Windows Secret's weekly reports.

When XP first appeared, many PCs of the day had insufficient power for the new OS, causing it to run painfully slow on those systems. And on all hardware, XP could consume ridiculous amounts of disk space for the recycle bin, Internet Explorer cache, and System Restore.

(Continued on page 14)

It also buried some truly useful features in places where they were hard to find and access.

Just one small example: Window 7's Backup applet is easily found in the Control Panel's top-level menu. XP Professional's Backup app is located deep inside All Programs, in the System Tools menu. In XP's Home edition, Backup isn't even installed by default — users have to dig it out of the \Valueadd\Msft\ folder on the setup CD and perform a manual installation!

Fortunately, after almost a decade of use, nearly all of XP's worst problems and limitations have been addressed in XP's Service Packs, with third-party add-ons and tools, and through a wealth of published tips, tricks, and workarounds.

In the August 12 Top Story, "Preparing Windows XP for the long haul," I provided tips on how to keep XP going for as long as you need it. The rest of this article builds on that: it's a compendium of some of the most useful XP information from the past decade, all in one convenient reference.

You'll also find links to help you upgrade smoothly to Windows 7 when the time comes. And at the end, you'll see how to keep your favorite — and possibly essential — XP software alive and running well inside Windows 7, just as it runs now.

Eyes Only Your Viewpoint on Security Issues
Scam-Ram-A-Ding-Dong These scams sound easy, but there are occasions when you can get caught off guard; here is some advice for people if faced with one of these.

If you really are not sure it is a scam, for instance your friend may well be where they say they are (the bad guys only have to sniff some details using wireless in a public hotspot to actually have this information, so it is possible that they have enough information to make you wonder if it is genuine), do the following:

1. Try contacting them directly, preferably with a different email account (if they have one), or by text or mobile phone. With phone, you may be able to recognize the voice, but with text you don't know if the phone has been stolen.

2. If unsure as to whether or not the contact is genuine, then use the mutual authentication procedure, i.e. ask a question that it is highly likely that only your friend and you know the answer to e.g. what car did you Dad have when you were both in the final year of high school - you get the general idea

3. If you are still not sure, then use the 6 degrees of separation principle - start by asking a common acquaintance (preferably one who will not panic) some vague questions e.g. "Did you know X was in London?" It all depends on how well you know this person; if they were face to face with you and told you that they had an acute problem and needed to borrow that money immediately,

would you lend it to them? If you wouldn't do it under those circumstances, then rationally you should not lend it on the strength of an email.

If you would, and the steps above have not produced an answer, then start probing your network of contacts. You would be surprised at how short it can be - my daughter is off to Rwanda for 2 years with UNICEF and I have already found that I am just one contact removed from where she will be, despite no contacts for me in the country or any dealings with UNICEF.

Don't forget that networks like LinkedIn can show you if your friend and you have contacts in common or one removed that might at least be in the country.

We might all think that with modern communications, we can track people down instantly. However, on 9/11 I had just returned to the UK from a project meeting in Brussels (ironically an EU/US transport policy project). The US guys were half way across the Atlantic when US airspace was closed and their planes turned around. It took days before we knew where some of them were. Imagine if you received the email on 9/12 - you might have responded. It would have been the one occasion when you might have believed that the US embassy was not responding (it would have been overwhelmed).

Of course, you could be pro-active amongst your friends - decide ahead of time who you would contact in an emergency and agree some mutual authentication - if you really want to plan, have several, which have different meanings, one of which indicates that you are in danger. A simple variation of this is to agree just a simple change to your signature in an email e.g. by adding a non- existent middle initial so that John Smith becomes John M. Smith where the M stands for MAYDAY.

Scams trade on our good nature, and FUD - Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt. With a bit of care, you can at least reduce these - you can reduce the fear (in this case it would be fear of losing a friend by not supporting them in their hour of need) by planning how to separate out a genuine request from a fake one which reduces the uncertainty and doubt. - TG Operations: What You Need To Know Home Security Best Practices A lot has been written about how to best protect your computer and data, so much so that it can become confusing. We thought we would give you a simple guide how to best keep your individual computer or network safe. Consider it best practices for home computer security. At the end there are a few links to provide you with greater detail.

First let's talk about a layered defense. When we use this term for the home user we are talking about multiple layers of defense that you can easily implement to maintain a secure profile. This means your AV/AS

(AntiVirus/AntiSpyware) is one layer, your firewall is another layer to protect your perimeter and we recommend using a couple other programs like Secunia and Malwarebytes to strengthen your defenses.

Job 0: Pay attention. The Internet can be lots of fun and very informative it can also be more dangerous than walking in a minefield.

Job 1: Your antivirus and antispyware programs are properly configured and the signatures are up-to-date. This is vital. There are something like 70,000 new malicious applications released per day (that's right per day). Make your security program is on the ball and loading signatures throughout the day.

Job 2: Make sure you have a firewall. Make sure it is configured properly and of up-dated-as necessary. You must protect your perimeter both with what goes in and what goes out.

Job 3: Keep your Operating System (Windows for the most of us) in running order by applying security updates when they come out. Don't just think because everything is fine that you don't need to update. You do - that is why they are called updates. Go to http://www.windowsupdate.com to check for updates regularly Job 4: Update your applications with newer versions and any security patches. This is a

must as the bad guys have been creeping in through holes in some software. Secunia does a great job at helping you keep your applications up-to- date. Their Personal Software Inspector is free.

http://www.sunbeltsecuritynews.com/1HB475/101110-Software-Inspector Job 5: Put in additional layer of protection with a specialized anti-trojan product like Malwarebytes. Yes it is a bit of a bother as you have to run it manually once a week, but it is worth the effort and it's free.

http://www.sunbeltsecuritynews.com/1HB475/101110-Malware-Bytes Job 6: Stay alert part 2. For goodness sakes don't download stuff from places and people unknown. Don't fall for scams requesting your password or banking information or social security number. Stop. Look. Think Before You Click!

Job 7: Use strong passwords. In fact don't use passwords at all! Use a 'pass phrase' (a whole sentence) to better secure your logins.

If you just do those 7 things all should be good. But understand sometimes, stuff gets through.

Only Your Viewpoint on Security Issues

Opting Out of Opt-Ins How do I block the McAfee and Norton downloads. I consider them Trojans installed as a byproduct of installing legitimate downloads. Sometimes I forget to "opt out" of the "free download" and have to uninstall these "security" applications. I am concerned that they leave trash in my registry or services running, a painful reminder of why I switched to VIPRE. - GH Editor's Note: I hate it when that happens, and have not found any sure way of elimination other that staying aware when I am downloading anything.

Forwarding Virus Warning Emails Would you comment on forwarding virus warning emails? A friend sent me (and everyone else in her address book) a warning for the "here you have" virus. She got the warning from a knowledgeable friend. Snopes listed it as 'True' although it had been essentially disabled several weeks before. Is it ever appropriate to forward a virus warning email?

Editor's Note: I think it is better to make sure friends have the latest up to date anti-malware software rather than sending this stuff out. That would at least be useful instead of spreading panic.

Worries about Being Carefree Online I am a senior, age 70; who knows blessed little about computers and different applications. Actually I feel very satisfied with what little I do in cyberspace, but...I wonder sometimes. My mainstay is communication with friends and family via email. No Facebook, thank you. I love reading my science and medical e-letters. I Google a lot for information. I make occasional purchases and interact with Netflix. And I pay my EZPass and TMobile bills online too. While I do have protection from VIPRE I do occasionally wonder if I should be so carefree when I hear about the latest virus scares. Is it really necessary to change my passwords? Just thinking about it gives me the "willies" and I know I would need help from the kids. Bottom line is I trust VIPRE to protect me! -

DD Editor's Note: Just be aware of your computing environment, online or off. Just like the old adage, don't take candy from strangers; the same is true about attachments. Don't open attachments that you receive from strangers or for that matter even from friends if they are not expected. Use strong passcodes or phrases. It is a dangerous environment unfortunately, but with good security practices, you should be fine.

Hijacked Email Thanks for the article on hijacked email accounts. I had the same experience a couple of weeks ago. My email address was hijacked in October when I was in Holland and used RogersYahoo webmail at a hotel conference room. The hackers stole my password and sent a scam email to all people in my webmail address book asking for EUR 2300 because I was mugged in Madrid, etc. Besides the address book, they also cleaned out all my webmail folders and set up a forwarding address to which all replies to the scam message were sent. I noticed this when sud-denly all incoming emails stopped which was coincident with a few phone calls I got checking if I was ok. The problem was sorted out when Rogers deleted the forwarding address the scammers had set up and I changed my email password (but left my email address unchanged). My home computer was not affected. - JP Flash Updates In the last issue of Sunbelt Security News "VIPRE Can Rescue Your Computer" there was feedback from a user that insists that Adobe Flash has a problem with updating since he continues to get update offers from Adobe.

Any users of Secunia's PSI utility need to know that unless they close the PSI application before updating that since the PSI uses Flash it leaves the old FlashXX.ocx in the "c: \ windows \ system32 \ macromed \ flash" directory. To remedy this situation the users can sometimes simply close all instances of their browsers and make sure there are none running in Task Manager Processes and delete the old FlashXX.ocx file, other times the file is locked and they have to restart their computer, completely quit the PSI.exe process and delete the old OCX file.

Secunia PSI even has the odd habit of detecting the old version when the .log file exists in the Flash directory and since it "sees" the old version number in the log it will not indicate that the threat is gone until you delete the log file which is inert anyway. - FD Operations: What You Need To Know A Word about a Worm In our Malware Hit Parade (below) you will see a particularly vicious item called. Worm.Win32.Downad.Gen (v). This piece of malware is known as a worm because it reproduces itself and sends its progeny throughout a computer network and it does so without even getting your okay. In many cases this worm gets through because the target computer does not have its defenses in place or does not have enough protections (firewall, AV). They are harmful, consume bandwidth at the very least and corrupt files and the system hosting it.

In this case with Worm.Win32.Downad.Gen (v), the situation is especially heinous. It is a VIPRE detection for the Downadup worm, also called Conficker and Kido. It's a worm that spreads across a network by taking advantage of a vulnerability in Windows Server service which allows remote code execution when file sharing is enabled. Worm.Win32.Downad.Gen (v) also spreads through removable drives and weak administrator passwords. It commonly turns off some system services and anti-malcode protection. Just thought you should know.