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Next Meeting
Wednesday 7th May
7PM Short Committee meeting followed by Vinyl to CD
Julie Hjort

General Information

Position	Name
President	Iris Meek
Vice President	Robert Tierney
Treasurer	Dennis Murray
Assistant Treasurer	Karia Wicks & Don Cooper
Secretary	Joel Harbottle
General Committee	
Library MAC	Ivan Turmine & Joel Harbottle
Newstream Editor	Ron Baker
Publicity & Promotion	Karia Wicks
Assistant Publicity	Vacant
PC Library	Julie Hjort
Assistant PC Librarian	Judy Hall
Public Officer	Judy Hall
OPEN Chair/Coordinator	Robert Tierney
WebMaster	Vacant
Web Content	Tom Olsen
General Committee	Glen Gilpin Reinhard von Samorzewski
	Harvey Taverner. Judy Hall. Janet Headlam
Victor Coordinator	Robert Tierney

Ron's Ramblings

Well it must be a record!! I haven't had a breakdown in my computer for at least three months!!..

That tells me that I should back up My Documents, Downloads and emails so that I can start again if and when the dreaded crash occurs.

In this edition are some good instructions on this subject. (No I am not going to tell you where they are. You will have to read the lot to find out!!)

I thank those people who pointed me in the direction of articles of interest (Even if most of the Mac people indicated articles that said Mac is better than Windoze.

I have been using Windows XP SP3 the Release Candidate 1 (RC1) for some time. The main benefit to me was to bring my computer up to date with the patches, which previously would download but would not install.

Thanks to the Internet, you can get hopelessly in debt without ever leaving your house.

Ron Baker

OPEN NEWSLETTER – MAY 2008

ROB'S BITS AND BOBS.

Hello everyone ... First of all some general housekeeping this month.

As a group we need to watch what we download and how we use our Bigpond Internet allocation of 12 Gigabytes per month. Now that sounds like a lot and generally speaking it is, but if used unwisely we could use all of our allocation and end up with a bill for excess usage, or a slower Internet connection.

NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DOWNLOAD ANY PROGRAMS WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE SENIOR TUTOR OF THE DAY.

I don't know how much I can stress the fact that not every new program that comes out is the next best thing.

We have been having some problems recently with viruses and toolbars that are being attached to computers through not 'un-ticking' certain programs to be installed. (*See Dennis's explanation in his Editorial on page 4)* We really need your help to keep our computers as safe as possible. The grim reality is that if we have no computers there is no club.

With National volunteers' week coming up this month we are hoping to have an activity or two to thank our tutors for all the hard work they do. So keep an eye out on the notice boards for more information.

On Friday the 23rd of May the VICTOR program will be sponsoring an "Australia's biggest morning tea" at OPEN. There will be no official class on that day but between 11am and 1pm we are inviting everyone to come for a morning tea to help raise money for the Cancer Council. with a gold coin donation being required for entry.

Feel free to bring friends, relatives, cats, dog, or even budgies for a time of catching up and raising money for a worthy cause. Food will be provided, but if anyone wants to bring a plate, please see me at the centre so we don't all bring plates of the one thing. (*Laugh!)*

On the VICTOR side of this article, with Jenny recuperating after her surgery the call-out program will be scaled right back for the next 4-6 weeks. Until then limited vacancies will be available. If people have issues with lap-tops a VICTOR session can be arranged to be held at the centre.

For Windows Vista users this month saw the release of SP1 (Service Pack 1). This will show up in the Windows Update. Microsoft are advising that the online 'update-download' of the version your computer needs could be anywhere up to 65MB. However if the entire Service pack is downloaded from the Microsoft website they say it could be anywhere up to 450 MB. We are hoping that we will be able to get SP1 on a CD some time down the track.

So beware - if your Internet usage 'spikes' for no apparent reason it could be due to SP1. If you're not sure please ask.

Till next time

Happy Computing

Rob Tierney

VICTOR PHONE NUMBER 0408 174 235

Contact the Coordinator Rob Tierney for assistance with computer problems at home

(Bookings are subject to availability of tutors.)

OPEN MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Will be held at 1 pm on May 7, 2008.

All members, both old and new, are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. Please take this opportunity to have an input into the way the club operates into the future.

LAUNCESTON COMPUTER GROUP MEETING & MONTHLY WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY MAY 7th AT 7.15 PM

There will be a short committee meeting at 7 pm followed by

"MUSIC WORKSHOP"

This month's demonstration by Julie Hjort shows you how to convert music from Vinyl records and cassette tapes to a format that can be transferred to CD.

EMBROIDERY GROUP

The **Friday afternoon Embroidery Group**

will meet on a **MONTHLY** basis this year. The next meeting will be on June 6 2008 at 1 pm.
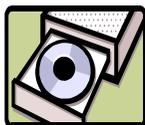

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Launceston Computer Group
SOFTWARE LIBRARY
Dated 4th May 2008

DISK 2000 - Your Library on Disk

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

AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARY

At present the Shareware Library is only available during the club's opening hours.

Speak to one of the tutors at the venue - Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Road, South L'ton.

Email: opencomputing@bigpond.com

OTHER CLUB RESOURCES

In addition to the 'physical' library OPEN and VICTOR may be able to provide members with a variety of freeware programs as an alternative to downloading from the Internet. Free antivirus programs such as AVG can now be as large as 37 Megabytes and would take hours to download for someone who only had a dial-up Internet connection.

There are also quite a few video tutorials and ASCCA teaching material on our server and these can be quite helpful in explaining how certain programs and utilities work.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN 2008 ALL OF JUDY'S MORNING CLASSES WILL START AT 10 AM AND NOT 9 AM AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS

FAMILY HISTORY ON-LINE

May 14 — 1 pm to 3.30 pm

May 28 — 10 am to 12 noon

Join Judy, Robin and the Family History group to help trace your ancestors.

New information is being added to our resources on an on-going basis to help you trace your family's origins. Contact the club for more information

Classes are limited to 8 people.

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY CLASSES

May 21 10 am to 12 noon WORD 2007

Microsoft Word 2007 is significantly different to earlier versions, both in the way it looks and the way it works. This class will help you get to grips with the changes.

May 28 1 pm to 3.30 pm Paint Shop Pro 11

Explore the latest version of the popular graphics enhancement program.

VENUE TELEPHONE NUMBER

Don't forget that the club telephone is available during class hours**.**

***** 6343 4928 *****

Members and tutors can be contacted at the clubrooms **during class hours** by telephoning the number shown above.

Monday to Friday 10am – 3pm

Tuesday evenings 7pm—9 pm

GRAPHICS

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

The dates for the next classes are :

Extra Class May 7 - 10 am to 12 noon

Basic Graphics May 14 - 10 am to 12 noon

During the year additional 'catch-up' and practice classes will be held so please keep in touch with your tutor and check notices for details.

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

Wednesday May 21 1 pm to 3.30 pm

This class is designed for people who have completed the Basic Graphics classes, and involves more advanced features of the Paint Shop Pro graphics programs.

Numbers are limited to 8 people. Please check the notice-board or contact the club for details.

OPEN Session Times

At Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

Standard Sessions $5.00

[Some special tutorial materials may incur additional charges]

Monday	10 am –12	E-Learn & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	**Basics and Beyond**
Tuesday	10 am –12	E-Learn & Beginners [all day]
	1 pm – 3 pm	**Mac [all day]**
Wednesday		Special sessions or Meetings
		As for mornings (see rosters)
Thursday	10 am –12	E-Learn & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	E-Learn & Beginners
Friday	10 am –12	E-Learn & Beginners
1st Friday	1 pm – 3 pm	**Embroidery Group**
In Abeyance		**Northern Tas.Camera Club**

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SPECIAL WEDNESDAY SESSIONS
Please register on the sheets – numbers may be limited

Date	Time	Topic	Details
May 7	10 am—12 noon	Graphics Workshop	An additional class to utilise the skills learned earlier in the Basic Graphics course.
	1 pm onwards	OPEN's Monthly meeting	**Meet the new committee .** **All members are invited to participate.**
	7.00 pm onwards	**LCG Monthly Workshop Music—Vinyl to CD**	**A short committee meeting will be held at 7 pm followed by the music conversion demo**
May 14	10 am—12 noon	Basic Graphics	Judy Hall and the Graphics team continue the course on all aspects of graphics manipulation.
	1 pm—3.30 pm	**Family History**	**Judy Hall and the Family History tutors will assist you in tracing your Ancestry.**
May 21	10am—12 noon	Word 2007	Find out what is different in Word 2007 and how to use the new features of the program.
	1 pm—3.30 pm	**Level 2 and 3 Graphics**	**Advanced graphics techniques using the Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8 programs.**
May 28	10 am—12 noon	Family History	Trace your Family History using the various resources available at the club.
	1 pm—3.30 pm	**Paint Shop Pro 11**	**Graphics Class using the most recent version of the popular Paint Shop Pro program.**
Date To Be Advised	A sheet has been placed on the notice – board near the kitchen to find out how many people would be interested in learning more about digital cameras, how to transfer your photos to your computer and how to work with the photos using graphics programs. This will possibly be a Saturday class.		

OPEN NEWSLETTER – MAY 2008

FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

In his 'Bits and Bobs' column Rob Tierney mentioned two extremely important points …

(1) that the latest version of a program may not necessarily be the best in every aspect, and

(2) installing new programs should be treated with care and caution.

As an example of the first point we need look no further than the program I am using to write this Newsletter—Microsoft Publisher. The first version I used (Publisher 98) had the entire Clip-Art gallery of 13,000-plus images installed with the program—later versions often only contain a sample gallery of 800-odd images and require you to link to the Internet to access the full Clip-Art catalogue. The same procedure applies for later versions of MS Word.

The old version of the free program AdAware enabled you to check for and eliminate pop-up advertising at a time convenient to you. The latest version, AdAware 2007, automatically scans your computer when you start-up each day, and in doing so 'helps itself' to a sizeable chunk of your computer's memory. That might be a reason why your computer may have slowed down in performance recently.

And if someone suggests that you might like to download the "Greatest Program Since Sliced Bread" do a little bit of research before you make a decision.

Our friend "Mr. Google" has a wealth of information on a huge variety of subjects, including reports and comparisons of software programs.

On the subject of unwanted toolbars that can often be a 'back-door' for viruses being installed even many of the free programs that we've come to know and love over many years can catch us unaware if we are not paying attention.

My 'friend' Irfanview will take over all graphic files on your computer, and install the Google Desktop search and Google Updater if you don't pay attention to the tick-boxes. The latest version of FreeRip (which is less friendly than the older version in my opinion) will install the My Search toolbar, and even our commercial anti-virus program VET will install the Yahoo toolbar - if you let it!

Picasa2 will add icons to the Quick Launch bar and the System Tray, and Open Office will dump 214 Megabytes of installation files on the Desktop, add startup programs for itself and the Sun Java Updater – if you let it!

And even installing a printer or scanner may add as many as five (5) unnecessary desktop icons and/or startup programs (*usually related to registration and updating processes*).

Keeping the 'nasties' out of our computers is a constant battle, and we all have a part to play in that battle.

Dennis Murray

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are advised that as from March 1st, 2008 the annual membership subscription was increased by $5.00.

For **single membership the fee will now be $15.00 per year and for couples $20.00 per year**.

COMBINING "TOOLS"

Several weeks ago I was present at OPEN during a Family History session when one of the class members asked if anyone knew in which English county a particular town was located. Almost instinctively I suggested that the person "Ask Mr. Google" .

It's a phrase I use regularly during my tutoring sessions at the Westbury Community Centre when one of the clients needs information e.g. one word-game, "Hangman", requires you to find the identity of a mystery person, place, company or movie etc. but often the solution will turn up an unfamiliar name.

So we "Ask Mr.Google" and lo and behold we learn that Roger Staubach (for example) was an American grid-iron football player.

Google will even do metric conversions for you—type in "252 pounds in Kilograms" and you will be given the answer.

Another instance of combining tools is when you want to import an image file into a document. In many cases you can simply go to the folder where the image is located, *Copy* it, return to the document and *Paste* the image. A situation in which I regularly suggest this is when people want to use a Print Artist Graphic in another program. Of course you need to know where the Print Artist graphics are located so you may need to use another 'tool' ,Windows Explorer (*or My Computer*), to assist you.

Many of the tools and commands we use in our early word-processing exercises are 'global commands'. That is they will work as well outside Microsoft Word as they do within the program.

Just as the keyboard shortcut CTRL + A will select all the text in a Word document it will also select all the files in a folder if you need to copy or move several files at once.

Dennis

Get yourself an XP system while you still can

By Scott Dunn

With Windows XP scheduled to disappear from store shelves on June 30, time is running out to buy a computer with that venerable OS preinstalled.

As manufacturers stop producing XP drivers, finding hardware that still supports XP is becoming a challenge, but I've produced one last shopping guide for you before the clock runs out

An approach to tackling the XP shopping dilemma

Microsoft's widely used Windows XP operating system had a stay of execution a few months ago, when the Redmond company announced <http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/b39fdfh/?url=www.microsoft.com%2Fpresspass%2Ffeatures%2F2007%2Fsep07%2F09-27xpsalescycle.mspx> that it would continue sales of that OS through June 30, 2008. Sales had previously been scheduled to end in January 2008. But the new, June deadline doesn't leave much time for those who don't like Vista, but need to buy new hardware and want XP as their operating system.

To be sure, your license to use XP does allow you to remove the OS from an old machine and install it on a new one. But, as hardware manufacturers direct more resources to Windows Vista, it may be harder to find drivers for video, audio, and other computer components that support the older OS.

In addition to extending the XP sales deadline, Microsoft has also stated that buyers of Vista Business and Vista Ultimate can "downgrade" to Windows XP Professional, XP Professional x64 Edition, and Microsoft Windows XP Tablet PC Edition, as reported in a Computerworld article <http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/aeb70ah/?url=www.computerworld.com%2Faction%2Farticle.do%3Fcommand%3DviewArticleBasic%26articleId%3D9040318> and elsewhere.

When you buy a new computer, participating companies may (a) include a copy of XP in the box, (b) include a special "downgrade disk," which I'll describe below, or (c) make you buy XP through a completely separate ordering process. It's the manufacturer's choice, not yours.

For the moment, however, you do still have some options if you want XP instead of Vista. You can buy a computer with XP preinstalled or make sure that a Vista computer you buy comes with an XP downgrade disk.

How to buy a system with XP preinstalled Believe it or not, most major computer manufacturers still offer systems with XP preinstalled. (The only exception, as seen in Table 1, is Gateway.) If XP comes standard on a new machine, you're pretty much guaranteed to have a system with all the necessary XP drivers up and running.

If you choose this option, here are some tips I uncovered during my research:

Online shopping offers you a better chance of finding an XP system (or a system that comes with an XP downgrade disk) than going to your local superstore.

It's getting harder to find desktop computers that come with XP preinstalled. You'll have a greater variety of choices if you shop for an XP notebook instead.

In general, a Web site's home-user or small-office computers will not offer the best selection of XP machines, if the site shows any models at all in this market segment. It's very likely that you'll want to shop in the business division of a manufacturer's site.

How to use the 'downgrade disc' option For the best of both worlds, consider buying a system that has Vista preinstalled but comes with a downgrade disc, often called an XP recovery disc. Using a recovery disc wipes out a PC's existing operating system and everything else that was on

(Continued from page 7)

the boot partition, but that's exactly what many people with Vista aversion want.

This is not the same as a manufacturer simply tossing a copy of Windows XP into the box a PC comes in. A truly useful XP downgrade disc is a recovery disc of XP, complete with all the necessary drivers. (Such a recovery disc will probably include some crapware programs, too, which is par for the course.)

In many cases, a PC with an XP downgrade disc will also include another disc with an image of the Vista operating system, in case you want to switch from XP back to Vista. If a Vista disc isn't included, make an image backup or a Vista recovery disc before downgrading, as described in a recent TechRepublic article <http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/ebf2a1h/?url=blogs.techrepublic.com.com%2Fwindow-on-windows%2F%3Fp%3D622>.

I recommend avoiding Vista systems that merely come with a vanilla XP install disc (or the option to order one). This is the most you can expect from Dell systems, for instance.

Simply having an XP license does not guarantee that drivers are available for all the devices in your new computer. Even if working drivers can be found online, you'll have to go looking for them, as Dell notes on its instruction page <http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/6d065bh/?url=support.dell.com%2Fsupport%2Ftopics%2Fglobal.aspx%2Fsupport%2Fdsn%2Fen%2Fdocument%3Fc%3Dus%26dl%3Dfalse%26l%3Den%26s%3Dgen%26docid%3D3A7C20B8B68CF344E040A68F5B286605%26doclang%3Den%26cs%3D%232> for its manual downgrade process. Fortunately for Dell fans, the company still sells a wide variety of machines with XP preinstalled.

Some systems — like those from Acer, Fujitsu, HP, and Sony — include a downgrade disc in the box for some qualifying systems. Others, like Lenovo, expect you to order the disc separately for an additional charge.

Because downgrade discs that include drivers are specific to a computer system or model series, these discs are generally available only for specific models. Don't expect a company that has downgrade discs to supply them for just any system they sell.

Finding out which systems come with a downgrade disc isn't always easy. A few sites, such as Fujitsu's, have a page listing the model numbers that come with upgrade discs. In the case of Acer, you'll have to make an educated guess. You then contact either Acer or an Acer reseller, state the model number you're interested in, and inquire whether a downgrade disc is included.

The following table 1 (next page) shows the availability of XP on various machines:

Be aware that the information in this article is subject to change by the computer manufacturers at any time. Confirm your desired options before making a purchase, and remember: the clock is ticking.

In the Mar. 6 <http://windowssecrets.com/2008/03/06/02-Get-yourself-an-XP-system-while-you-still-can> issue, I explained how to find a Windows XP system before retail and OEM sales of XP get yanked from the shelves on June 30 of this year.

But system builders who cater to small businesses can still get XP until January 2009, which gives users who want to avoid Vista one more way to get their mitts on a Windows XP system.

- **System builders can license XP 'til Jan. 2009 Alec Demoise, of Computer Guy LLC <http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/af971ch/?url=computerguy-sd.com%2F>,** a small-business IT

Table 1. Most manufacturers still have XP options, at least for now. (• = Yes)

Manu-facturer	Sells XP systems	Downgrade disc	How to find
Acer	•	•	XP is an option on most Veriton and AcerPower desktops and Travelmate and Extensa notebooks. A downgrade disc comes with most Travelmate and some Extensa series; call
Fujitsu	•	•	On Fujitsu's Notebook Overview page, use your browser to search for XP. See question 2 of the FAQ to find systems that include a downgrade disc.
HP/Compaq	•	•	Shop in the small and medium business site for systems with XP preinstalled. For a downgrade disc, look for Vista systems labeled "Smart buy."
Lenovo	•	•	XP is an option on several models in the 3000 family of note-books and desktops, in addition to the ThinkPad family. Downgrade discs are available for Vista Business and Ulti-mate systems; see the Lenovo downgrade page.
Sony	•	•	Avoid looking in SonyStyle.com. Instead, shop in the Sony.com business section. Some systems in the subseries SZ645, BX740, and BX76 have XP preinstalled. Models be-ginning with TX2xx and SZ7xx come with downgrade discs in the box.
Alien-ware	•	—	XP is offered on all systems except the M15X and the Area-51 ALX Crossfire.
Dell	•	—	Enter **windows xp** in the Keyword Search box to find sys-tems with XP. To downgrade manually, see Dell's instruction page.
Toshiba	•	—	Go to the All Notebooks page and enter **xp** in the **Search for laptops** box.
Gateway	—	—	Your only option is to buy a Vista computer and, separately, a copy of XP (which is still available from Gateway). You must then manually reformat the hard disk and reinstall the OS.

small business out there that does custom-build systems can easily put together any computer of any specification with XP Home or Pro edition.

- "As long as the copies of XP are on the shelf, or available through OEM from suppliers, any small-business computer shop can do it. And there are a million of them out there. I don't think you can go anywhere in any city down any block without passing at least one small computer shop.

- "I'd also note that, out of the box, custom-built computers tend to perform better than retail, since none of that bloated manufacturer software is sitting there running in the background and eating all your resources.

"Another option is to build a computer yourself."

Good idea! Although so-called Mom-and-Pop computer shops are a good source of custom-built systems, all such businesses are not created equal. Be sure to check a company's reputation and product warranty when you do your shopping.

Finally, if you decide to build your own system, make sure the components you assemble (video adapters, sound cards, and so on) come with driver software that still supports Windows XP.

Newbie Club Tutorials

Tutorial Pt 1 ... "Be Careful Using Passwords"

These days a single computer user may have dozens of passwords.

If you use computers at your job you may need to access secured databases, local workstations and numerous accounts online and each is supposed to have its own unique password.

Though many people don't require a logon for their home PC, they will definitely have one for email or Websites that they manage.

Here is a guide to assist you in strengthening your passwords and password techniques.

---- How to Make Good Passwords

Choose a password with the following criteria:

-At least 8 characters in length

-At least 1 number

-At least 1 special character

-Upper and lowercase.

Passwords with difficult combinations make it harder for tools like L0phtcrack, Brutus, John the Ripper, Cain and Able and other password crackers to decipher your password.

When creating a password, don't use personal information such as birthdays, children names, or first and last names. Avoid using words or phrases that can be easily guess or cracked with a "dictionary attack." Do not use the same password on the different systems. If you work in a classified environment, passwords should be treated at the same level of classification as the systems they protect.

---- Good Password Practices

Never share your password with ANYONE including your Administrators, Help Desk personnel or System Administrators. IT professionals at your job or Internet Service Provider (ISP) will not normally ask you for your password. If they do need it then you should give it to them in person and ensure you change it as soon as they are done with their task. A common "Social Engineering" tactic used by malicious hackers consists of calling up unsuspecting users and pretending to be from the computer support staff.

Another tactic is to have trusting users email the password or type it into what looks like a legitimate site; this is known as "phishing."

Be aware of your surrounding when you are typing your password.

Watch for "shoulder Surfing" or people watching what you type as you are entering your password.

If you use the web to access critical information (such as online banking, or medical information) ensure that the site uses some type of secured method of encryption. You will know this if the site's URL begins with an "https." SSL and Secure HTTP are sometimes indicated by a tiny lock in a corner of the page. If there is no encryption then it maybe possible for unauthorized users to view and/or capture the data you enter and later access the account using a "sniffer."

A sniffer is a tool that captures all "clear text" or unencrypted data. SSL and Secure HTTP encrypts data so that it looks like gibberish to tools like sniffers.

----Techniques to Manage all of Your Passwords

It is best to memorize your passwords however if you have literally scores of passwords from work, home, online business ventures and the bank and you do not have a photographic memory, you may want to write them down and put it in your wallet. This simple and practical task is what Senior Programmer for Security Policy at Microsoft, Jesper Johannson advised

Using Password Management applications such as Joe Robson's 'Password Keeper' (part of his PC & Internet Security Kit) can help you to effectively manage your passwords.<http://newbieclub.com/security>

Another management technique is to allow Windows (and other Operating Systems) to automatically fill in the data. This is great for trusted SECURE environments such as home systems in which you do not need to hide any account information from anyone, but not such a good idea for the work environment.

It should also be noted that systems without a high level of Internet security (protected with firewalls, updated patches, NAT enabled, etc) should not use the auto fill features as the passwords are many times stored on the system in clear text making it easy for malicious code such as spyware, trojans and worms to steal your passwords and account information.

The greatest thing you can do to protect your password is to be aware that at every moment someone somewhere would love to access some or all of your accounts. It is not always cyber criminals looking for your banking information, sometimes it is just curious people who happen upon your username & password. It may even be someone you know.

Now THAT'S not nice:-)

Tutorial ... "How To Protect Your Kids"

Over and over again we get the same email from Members ......

"My PC says it will NOT allow me to download an ebook I wanted because it is unsafe to do so."

Sheesh, saved from diaster just in time eh?

No really!

They are all from people using Internet Explorer.

Contrary to those who swear it's so, your PC does NOT read the ebook first and then decide it is not suitable reading material for you, or that the software is malicious.

It has to do with your PC security settings, and in some cases it is set too high Medium setting is fine. But you can render your browser incapable of downloading if you want to.

Want to keep your kids from downloading anything? NO problem.

Just do the following:

1. Open Internet Explorer (double click the blue "e" icon)

2. Click Tools, Internet Options, Security Tab. Click the Custom Level button.

3. Scroll down to the Downloads section. You'll see 'Enable' and 'Disable' as options. Click the Disable item. Click OK, then click OK again and you're done.

What this does is tell the browser it can't download any files from the Net.

It's kind of tricky. You can enable and disable a lot of other browser features while you're in there looking around.

Use this to keep your kids from downloading anything to their computers. That way, you have control. At least over one tiny aspect of the Web.

HOWEVER ....

You have to remember to revert back, when you WANT to download something for yourself!

Duh!

Tutorial .... "How To Service Your PC"

What happens if you don't give your vehicle regular oil changes?

What kind of results can you expect if you don't ever change the spark plugs on your lawn mower? How do you think your computer will run if you don't perform regular maintenance on it? The answer in all cases is ...

It won't run very well.

If your computer is running sluggish, if it periodically needs to be rebooted or doesn't boot up as quickly as it used to, it sounds like it's time for a Clean Up. The following instructions below will give you step by step instructions on how to ensure your PC continues to operate at its fullest potential.

These instructions are relevant for machines running Windows XP and using Internet Explorer.

To begin, open up Internet Explorer browser.

Next click on the word Tools up at the top of your screen.

Once open, click Internet Options. In the middle of that box you'll see a

section called Temporary Internet Files.

Click the Delete Files button.

Click the box Delete offline content too, then OK.

Once that is done, click the Delete Cookies button within the Temporary Internet Files section. Click OK.

WARNING - deleting cookies means you will have to re-enter passwords whenever you re-visit a password protected site such as The Newbie Club.

Next click the Settings button.

'Check for newer versions of stored pages' should be clicked to 'Automatically' if it isn't already.

Change the Amount of Disk Space to use to 8MB.

Click OK twice.

Next go to the green Start button in the very lower left corner of your screen.

Click My Programs, Accessories, System Tools, Check 'Disk Clean up', 'Use offline content' or anything else it asks.

It will take a few moments while it is checking how much space it can clean up. When you get the new pop-up window, make sure there are checks in every box. Click OK After running Disk Clean up, go to Ad-Aware, update and run the program. If you don't have Ad-Aware SE Personal, it's a free very comprehensive spyware removal tool and it's remarkably simple to use. You can download it through Lavasoft <http://www.lavasoft.de/support/download/>

 However, my personal preference by far is SpyZooka as it is automatically

updated daily and they guarantee to remove EVERY bit of Spyware. You get a free Spyware scan for but have to pay a nominal sum for the full version which removes all the nasty stuff. I've used if for years and it's a beauty!<http://www.spyzooka.com/90.php>

After running it, reboot your computer.

You should perform the above maintenance about once a week. Then on an as-needed basis, run Disk Defrag, which you can find in Start, My Programs, Accessories, System Tools, Disk Defrag.

By following the above simple steps your computer should continue to run at optimum performance!

Windows XP or Vista?

I've been asked a few times by Members whether or not they should upgrade from Windows XP to Vista.

Vista has had a lot of criticism since its launch and the recent patch to fix some of the problems has apparently created more problems that it has fixed.

My take on it is this ...

Last year I insisted on having XP installed on my new PC because I did NOT wish to pay to be a guinea pig for Microsoft. One year later I still haven't changed my mind because problems with Vista still do not seem to have been fixed, and that is reflected in the relatively poor sales of Vista and Microsoft's recent price cuts.

Yes I know that millions of Vista systems are in use around the world, most of which I suspect are already installed on new PCs.

But those millions are only a small proportion of the hundreds of millions of computers in existence.

As far as computers are concerned I learned the hard way some years ago that you should NEVER upgrade any software unless there are irresistible reasons why you should do so.

Hopefully in a few months I will feel confident enough to change, but until then I'll stick to my motto of ...

If it ain't broke don't fix it!

From Newbie Club Insider

A Stunning Senior Moment

A very self-important yuppie attending a recent football game, took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen sitting next to him why it was impossible for the older generation to understand his generation.

'You grew up in a different world, actually an almost primitive one,' the yuppie said, loud enough for many of those nearby to hear.

'The young people of today grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon, our spaceships have visited Mars.

We have nuclear energy, electric and hydrogen cars, computers with light-speed processing' Pausing to take another drink of beer, the senior citizen took advantage of the break in the student's litany and said, 'You're right, son.

We didn't have those things when we were young....so we invented them; now tell me you arrogant little smart ass, what are you doing for the next generation?'

The applause was resounding…

Mac OS X 'the best OS', says PC Magazine It's true!

The March 2008 edition of PC Magazine compared Mac OS X 10.5.1, **Windows Vista (pre-Service Pack 1), Windows XP SP2 and Ubuntu 7.10 Linux. Comparisons were made on several points, among them ease of installation, interface, networking and security.**
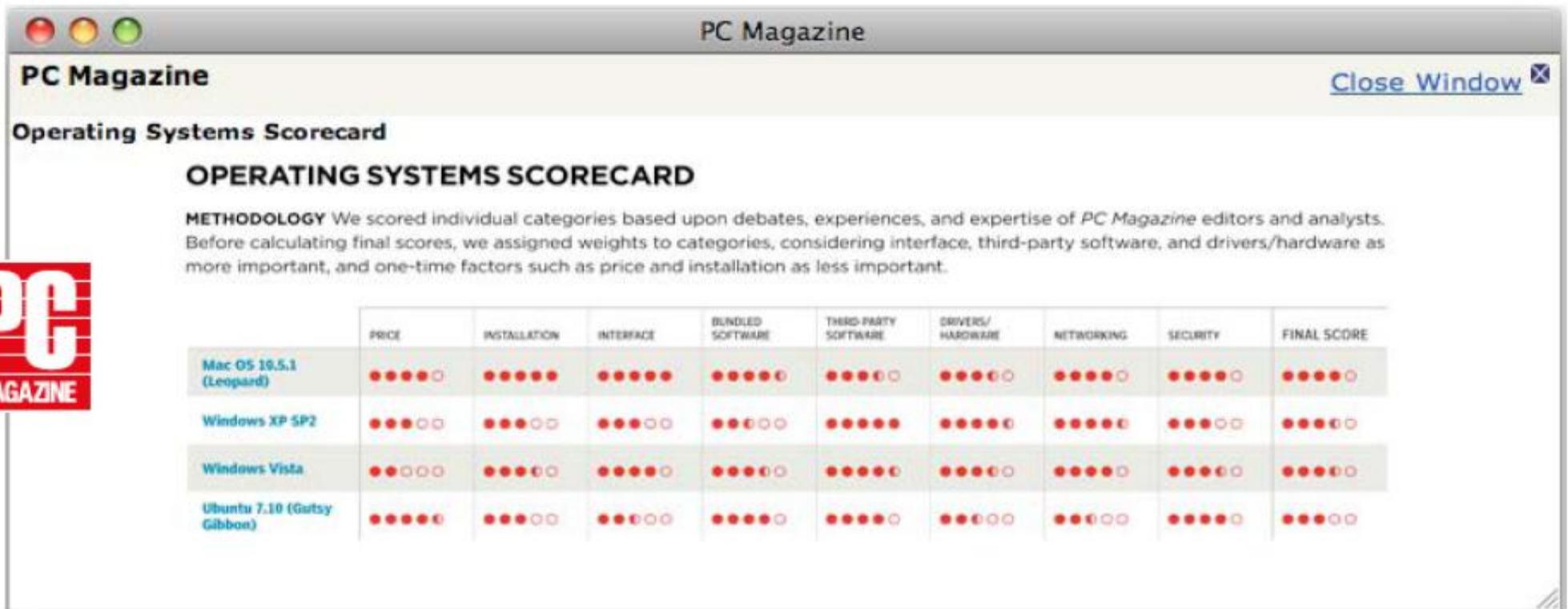
Final scores were OS X: 4/5, Windows XP SP2 and Vista: 3.5/5, and Ubuntu Linux: 3/5.

The judges said OS X was for their mythical user "who wants something [that is] secure, easy to install and easy to master. That you can also run Windows and Ubuntu on today's Intel-based Macs — enabling you to use all these OSs on the same PC — is just gravy." (See it at <www.pcmag.com/ article2/0,2817,2273486,00.asp> –Ed)

A woman was helping her husband set up his computer, and at the appropriate point in the process, she told him that he would now need to enter a password. Something he could remember easily and will use each time he has to log on. The husband was in a rather amorous mood and figured he would try for the shock effect to bring this to his wife's attention. So, when the computer asked him to enter his password, he made it plainly obvious to his wife that he was keying in ...P...E...N...I...S...

His wife fell off her chair laughing when the computer replied:

PASSWORD REJECTED....... NOT LONG ENOUGH

PC Magazine

PC Magazine

Close Window ⊠

Operating Systems Scorecard

OPERATING SYSTEMS SCORECARD

METHODOLOGY We scored individual categories based upon debates, experiences, and expertise of *PC Magazine* editors and analysts. Before calculating final scores, we assigned weights to categories, considering interface, third-party software, and drivers/hardware as more important, and one-time factors such as price and installation as less important.

	PRICE	INSTALLATION	INTERFACE	BUNDLED SOFTWARE	THIRD-PARTY SOFTWARE	DRIVERS/ HARDWARE	NETWORKING	SECURITY	FINAL SCORE
Mac OS 10.5.1 (Leopard)	●●●●○	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●○○	●●●●○	●●●●○	●●●●○	●●●●○
Windows XP SP2	●●●○○	●●●○○	●●●○○	●●○○○	●●●●●	●●●●○	●●●●●	●●●○○	●●●●○
Windows Vista	●●○○○	●●●○○	●●●●○	●●●●○	●●●●●	●●●●○	●●●●○	●●●○○	●●●○○
Ubuntu 7.10 (Gutsy Gibbon)	●●●●●	●●●○○	●●○○○	●●●●○	●●●●○	●●○○○	●●○○○	●●●●○	●●●○○

Incredible quotes from a variety of AFL football players and coaches

"I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father."
(Shane Wakelin).

"Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein." (Mick Malthouse - Collingwood).

"I'm going to graduate on time, no matter how long it takes."
(Peter Bell - Fremantle - on his University Law studies).

"You guys line up alphabetically by height." and "You guys pair up in groups of three, then line up in a circle."
(Barry Hall Sydney Captain at training).

Brock Maclean (Melbourne) on whether he had visited the Pyramids during his visit to Egypt:
"I can't really remember the names of the clubs that we went to."

"He's a guy who gets up at six o'clock in the morning regardless of what time it is."
(Kevin Sheedy on James Hird).

Jonathan Brown, on night Grand Finals vs Day Games "It's basically the same, just darker."

Ron Barassi talking about Gary Cowton
"I told him, 'Son, what is it with you. Is it ignorance or apathy?' He said, "Barass, I don't know and I don't care."

Barry Hall (Sydney) when asked about the upcoming season:
"I want to kick 70 or 80 goals this season, whichever comes first."

"Luke Hodge - the 21 year old, who turned 22 a few weeks ago"
(Dermott Brereton).

"Chad had done a bit of mental arithmetic with a calculator."
(Mark Williams).

"We actually got the winning goal three minutes from the end but then they scored." (Ben Cousins, West Coast Eagles).

"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body." (Luke Darcy).

"That kick was absolutely unique, except for the one before it which was identical." (Dermott Brereton).

"Sure there have been injuries and deaths in football - but none of them serious." (Adrian Anderson).

"If history repeats itself, I should think we can expect the same thing again." (Andrew Demetriou).

"I would not say he (Chris Judd) is the best centreman in the AFL but there are none better." (Dermott Brereton).

"I never comment on umpires and I'm not going to break the habit of a lifetime for that prat."(Terry Wallace).

Garry Lyon:" Have you ever thought of writing your autobiography?"
David Swartz: "On what?"

"Well, either side could win it, or it could be a draw."
(Dermott Brereton).

"Strangely, in slow motion replay, the ball seemed to hang in the air for even longer." (Dermott Brereton).

(Continued from page 15)

Be Careful Out There

IDIOT SIGHTING:

We had to have the garage door repaired. The Sears repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a minute, and said that we had the largest one Sears made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower. He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.' I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4. He said, 'NO, it's not. Four is larger than two.' We haven't used Sears repair since.

IDIOT SIGHTING

My daughter and I went through the McDonald's take-out window and I gave the clerk a $5 bill. Our total was $4.25, so I also handed her a quarter. She said, 'you gave me too much money.' I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar bill back.' She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the quarter, and said "We're sorry but they could not do that kind of thing.' The clerk then proceeded to give me back $1 and 75 cents in change. Do not confuse the clerks at McD's.

IDIOT SIGHTING:

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road. The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.' From Kingman, KS

IDIOT SIGHTING IN FOOD SERVICE:

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce. From Kansas City

IDIOT SIGHTING:

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?' To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?' He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.' Happened in Birmingham , Ala.

IDIOT SIGHTING:

The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged co-worker of mine. She asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?!' She was a probation officer in Wichita , KS

(Continued from page 16)

IDIOT SIGHTING:

I work with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the sake of her life, couldn't understand why her system would not turn on. A deputy with the Dallas County Sheriffs office, no less.

IDIOT SIGHTING:

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the technician, 'its open!' His reply, 'I know. I already got that side.' This was at the Ford dealership in Canton, Mississippi

STAY ALERT. They walk among us... and the scary part is that they VOTE and they REPRODUCE

Maybe I shouldn't give you some of these, but here goes:

Investment tips for 2008... For all of you with any money left, be aware of the next expected mergers so that you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG bucks. Watch for these consolidations in 2008.

1. Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W.R.Grace Co.

Will merge and become: Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.

2. Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and Zesta Crackers join forces and become: Poly, Warner Cracker.

3. 3M will merge with Goodyear and become: MMMGood..

4. Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become: ZipAudiDoDa.

5. FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become:FedUP.

6. Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become: Fairwell Honeychild.

7. Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become: Poupon Pants.

8. Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become: Knott NOW! And finally !

9. Victoria 's Secret and Smith & Wesson will merge under the new name: Titty Titty Bang Bang

More Newbie Club Tutorials

Crash, Bang - Now What?"

Take my word for it - it's not a question of IF, its just a matter of time before you experience a hard drive problem. Are you prepared to loose your data? If your hard drive crashed right now do you have an action plan to follow?

Most people only think of backing up their data after they experience a problem. Don't set yourself up for a data loss disaster.

Your data integrity action plan should consist of the following:

1) How often you will back up your data

2) What data you will back up

3) What back up procedure you will use How often you back up your data can only be determined by how important you feel it is. Answer this question "If my hard drive crashed right now, I would be alright if I had the data from at least (time) ago".

Of course you would want everything but if you could have the data from 1 month, or 6 months ago would that be sufficient?

Whatever time is sufficient mark it on your calendar both a hard copy and set up a meeting on your PC to remind you.

You change your smoke detector batteries when you turn your clock back and when you turn it ahead right? Well back up your data then too.

If you don't change your clocks then pick some holidays or special dates that happen close to the timeframe you want to back up your data so you won't forget.

What data you back up depends on how you use your PC. Some of the key

directories, if you are using Windows, are the My Documents, Favorites and Desktop directories.

Remember if you are using multiple profiles on your PC then the three directories above can be different for each profile and each one would need to be backed up.

You will also want to include your email data. Don't forget to write down the email accounts you have. You should also write down any username and passwords so they are not lost. You should look at every directory to see if it has information that you would need.

Make a list of all the software programs you are using. If you have the physical CDs put them all together in a safe location.

Don't forget the CDs for your peripherals like your scanner, digital camera, PDA etc. Collecting these CDs may remind you of additional data that you need to back up.

If you are running software that you installed from downloaded files, burn them to a CD-R and add it to your collection. If you use a CD-R or DVD-R you can update it as you download and install new applications.

What procedure you use to back up your data can be determined by the amount of data you want to back up. Your data might fit onto a CD or DVD in which case you just need to burn it and you're done.

If it spans multiple DVDs then you might want to consider getting a second hard drive to copy your data onto. If you are not comfortable with adding a second internal hard drive or you are using a laptop then you can purchase an external hard drive to back up your data.

There are software solutions out there specifically designed to help you backup your data. We have tested many at the Newbie Club but make your

own mind up by typing in Backup Software at <http://google.com> The information you have on your hard drive could disappear in a flash. If you don't want to spend up to $3,000 to have a data recovery company retrieve what information they can from your hard drive, then take a few minutes right now and create your back up action plan.

If you ever have a data emergency your action plan will be your insurance policy. If you adhere to it, your valuable data will adhere to you!

Tips and Shortcuts"

This section contains all the ways you can browse the web, and I hope you discover something that will make your own experience even more fun than ever. These tips apply to Internet Explorer and you can try them with other browsers if you want, but results may vary!

Understanding the WWW addressing method.

A typical address looks like this:

<http://host.domain/directory/file.name>

 Now here's the breakdown...

host.domain: The domain name of the host computer where the page resides.

directory: The host computer directory where the page resides.

Usually a folder on the host computer.

file.name: The name of the page. Most web pages use the file extension .htm or .html.

The HTTP part tells the computer to communicate using the Hypertext Transfer Protocol, which is a standard for web pages.

Other standards are HTTPS (the S stands for Secure - used in financial transactions) and FTP, which stands for File Transfer Protocol, used for downloads.

Surfing web pages is so easy. Once the browser is open, you just click click click click click. But here's a review of your options to open a page.

You can type a URL into the Run dialog box. Select Start, Run, type the URL and click OK.

Type any URL in the Address bar. IE and the various folder windows have address bars. It's freaky, really, because you can type a URL into Windows Explorer, and it'll display the web page for you. Then type C:\, and it'll display the contents of your hard drive. This tip assumes you are connected to the Net while doing any of this.

Internet Explorer has an address bar that contains 25 of the last sites you've visited. You can select a site from that list and surf. Just click the one you want to revisit.

Use the Open dialog box. Press Ctrl+O (Oh, not zero) to display the box, type the URL, and click OK.

Open web pages on your computer with the Open dialog box. Yes, your computer has dozens of web pages already in it. You can browse your computer from within this Open dialog box for pages.

Use the Links bar button. The buttons can be customized. Just right click on any button for the context menu options, and select from the list. This is almost intuitive - once you see the options appear, just follow the instructions.

Hacker

Interviewee for the Interview column in the12 April issue of New Scientist was Richard Stallman, one of the driving figures in the open-source software movement, and promoter of freedoms in general.

New Scientist asked 'What does "hacker" mean to you?' Stallman replied:

'A hacker is someone who enjoys playful cleverness. I know many people think it means security breaker, but since "hacker" is what we call ourselves in my community, I won't accept a derogatory meaning. If you want to refer to security breakers you should call them "crackers".

You can be a hacker in a lot of different media, it doesn't have to be with computers.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology there's an old tradition in which people "hack" buildings and public spaces, by putting up the famous "Nerd Crossing" road sign, for example. It didn't involve any security and it was playful and clever.' The New Hacker's Dictionary (<www.catb.org/~esr/jargon/html/go01.html>) defines hacker thusly:

'hacker: n. [originally, someone who makes furniture with an axe] '1 A person who enjoys exploring the details of programmable systems and how to stretch their capabilities, as opposed to most users, who prefer to learn only the minimum necessary.

RFC1392, the Internet Users' Glossary (<www.faqs.org/rfcs/rfc1392.html>), usefully amplifies this as: 1 A person who delights in having an intimate understanding of the internal workings of a system, computers and computer networks in particular.

'2 One who programs enthusiastically (even obsessively) or who enjoys programming rather than just theorizing about programming.

'3 A person capable of appreciating hack value.

'4 A person who is good at programming quickly.

'5 An expert at a particular program, or one who frequently does work using it or on it; as in 'a Unix hacker'. (Definitions 1 through 5 are correlated, and people who fit them congregate.)

'6 An expert or enthusiast of any kind. One might be an astronomy hacker, for example.

'7 One who enjoys the intellectual challenge of creatively overcoming or circumventing limitations.

'8 [deprecated] A malicious meddler who tries to discover sensitive information by poking around. Hence password hacker, network hacker. The correct term for this sense is 'cracker'.

'The term 'hacker' also tends to connote membership in the global community defined by the net (For discussion of some of the basics of this culture, see the How To Become A Hacker FAQ: <www.catb.org/esr/faqs/hacker-howto.html>. It also implies that the person described is seen to subscribe to some version of the hacker ethic.

'It is better to be described as a hacker by others than to describe oneself that way.

Hackers consider themselves something of an elite (a meritocracy based on ability), though one to which new members are gladly welcome. There is thus a certain ego satisfaction to be had in identifying yourself as a hacker (but if you claim to be one and are not, you'll quickly be labelled bogus).

'This term seems to have been first adopted as a badge in the 1960s by the hacker culture surrounding the Tech Model Railroad Club (<tmrc.mit.edu/>) and the MIT AI Lab. We have a report that it was used in a sense close to this entry's by teenage radio hams and electronics tinkerers in the mid-1950s.' In contrast, Joseph Weizenbaum was less than impressed by the hacker culture. He wrote:

'The compulsive programmer spends all the time he can working on one of his big projects. "Working" is not the word he uses; he calls what he does "hacking." To hack is, according to the dictionary, "to cut irregularly, without skill or definite purpose; to mangle by or as if by repeated strokes of a cutting instrument." I have already said that the compulsive programmer, or hacker as he calls himself, is usually a superb technician. It seems therefore that he is not "without skill" as the definition would have it. But the definition fits in the deeper sense that the hacker is "without definite purpose": he cannot set before himself a clearly defined long-term goal and plan for achieving it, for he has only technique, not knowledge.

He has nothing he can analyse or synthesize; in short, he has nothing to form theories about. His skill is therefore aimless, even disembodied. It is simply not connected with anything other than the instrument on which it may be exercised.

His skill is like that of a monastic copyist who, though illiterate, is a first-rate calligrapher.

His grandiose projects must therefore necessarily have the quality of illusions, indeed, of illusions of grandeur.

He will construct the one grand system in which all other experts will soon write their systems. '(It has to be said that not all hackers are pathologically compulsive programmers.

Indeed, were it not for the often, in its own terms, highly creative labour of people who proudly claim the title "hacker," few of today's sophisticated computer timesharing systems, computer language translators, graphics systems, etc., would exist.)' Computer Power and Human Reason, p 118