## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

# Next Meeting
# Wednesday 5th October 2011
# 7 PM
# Followed by an exchange of information about Computers

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## OPEN Committee 2011

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*Rosenfeldt, Pauline Hardy, Sandra*
*Viney, Janet Headlam*

## CRITICISM UNDESERVED ?

Over the years I have been involved in computing there have always been items of hardware and software that have raised the hackles of computer users at all levels of the industry.

Although I was in a sort of computing 'no man's land' when **Windows Millennium Edition (ME)** was released the very mention of ME is still likely to drain blood from the faces of some people who used it 9 or 10 years ago. Apparently it had a reputation for being unstable, taking almost any opportunity to crash and display the dreaded Blue Screen of Death (**BSOD**).

For me there were (and still are) are some things to like about ME—it was the first operating system that incorporated the System Restore function. And in an era where the now-common USB flash-drive often required special 'driver' software to be installed, you could plug your memory stick etc into a computer running ME and it would be recognised immediately.

Why mention **Windows ME in the year 2011?** Because I've just set up an old computer as my juke-box for playing soothing music in the background when I have trouble sleeping. The hardware does not support Windows 2000, XP or later operating systems and I didn't want to have to go searching for USB drivers for Windows 98 to make things work.

ME goes just fine, but I dare say that 9 or 10 years ago the concept of having 640 Megabytes of RAM in an old computer would have been unrealistic.

Let's move forward a few years now and consider another operating system that got 'bad press'.

Recently I read an article praising Windows 7 for delivering computer users from the '**train wreck that was Vista**'. Harsh words indeed!          (*continued*)

## CRITICISM UNDESERVED ? (*continued*)

But was Vista really that bad? Certainly it infuriated me in the way that the first version spent 5 minutes calculating how long it would take to copy some files—instead just getting on with it and doing the copying, but some of the early problems were cured by the subsequent Service Packs 1 and 2.

Rather than blame Vista itself for poor performance perhaps some criticism could be directed at the people who made the hardware that was used to run Vista. I can recall that OPEN's first Vista computer was supplied with just 512 Megabytes of RAM (memory) and that just wasn't enough. I have had to upgrade the Windows XP computers of many members to 1 Gigabyte of RAM to get them to perform half–decently, so to expect the Vista operating system to function well with 512MB was unrealistic.

About 5 years ago I bought my first brand new computer since 1986. It was a reputable brand with Vista Home Basic installed and 1 GB of RAM. But it was never quite right—the graphics display was slow, music often became distorted when I tried to run another program at the same time and even doubling the memory didn't solve the problems.

After a couple of years I had to reinstall the operating system, but using a standard disk not the manufacturer's software.

It was like having a new computer. Everything worked well. I can only assume that all the self-indulgent software installed by the manufacturer had compromised the system. Without all the unnecessary background programs running it works just fine.

And I can tell you that buyers on eBay are still snapping up Vista system disks at every opportunity.

*Dennis Murray*

# NEWSTREAM

## OPEN NEWSLETTER — October 2011
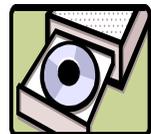
### Launceston Computer Group

October          2011

### 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  larger than  140 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.

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*PLEASE NOTE*
*An extra Family History*
*Class will be held*
*On the afternoon of October 12*

### FAMILY HISTORY ON-LINE

September 28 — 10 am to noon
October 12—10 am to noon
October 19—10 am to noon

Some students will be working on their Family Tree Programs during SENIORS WEEK so that onlookers can Look and See what it entails.

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.**

**Don't forget to Register on the board near the front desk for classes you are eligible for.**

*A get well soon message to all sick members*.

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## 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.

### GRAPHICS

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

The dates for the next classes are :

**Graphics Workshop November 2**
**10 am to 12 noon**

**Basic Graphics October 12 November 9 10 am to 12 noon**

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

**Wednesday October 19  1:00  to 3.30 pm**

**Paint Shop Pro XI class on October 26**

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

## 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 | General & Beginners |
| | 1 pm – 3 pm | **Basics and Beyond** |
| Tuesday | 10 am –12 | O-Learn & Beginners [all day] |
| | 1 pm – 3 pm | Mac [all day] |
| | 7 pm—9 pm | Basics (Night Class) |
| Wednesday | | Special sessions or Meetings |
| | | As for mornings (see rosters) |
| Thursday | 10 am –12 | General & Beginners |
| | 1 pm – 3 pm | General & Beginners |
| Friday | 10 am –12 | General & Beginners |
| **Additional afternoon sessions as shown at right ——–>** | | |

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

| Date | Time | Topic | Details |
|------|------|-------|---------|
| October 5 | All Day | Seniors Week | Graphics and Family History by students & tutors tutorsbbb |
| October 12 | 10 am—noon | Basic Graphics | Karia, Sandra & Laraine |
| | 1 pm—3 pm | **Family History Online** | Margaret, Sandra, Laraine, Iris |
| October 19 | 10 am—12 noon | Family History Online | Have fun searching for "lost" ancestors |
| | 1 pm—3.00 pm | **Level 2 –3 Graphics** | **Eleanor, Karia, Sandra, Laraine** |
| October 26 | 10 am—12 noon | Family History | Either Online or using the club C D's to search for records of immigration or convictions. |
| | 1 pm—3.00 pm | **PSP X1 Graphics** | **Advanced Graphics using PSP Corel** |
| November 2 | 10 am—12 noon | Graphics Workshop | **Catch up with what you have learned.** |
| | 1 pm—start | **OPEN MEETING** | **Getting close to Christmas…have a say!** |
| EXTRA AFTERNOON SESSIONS **Classes for members on the Waiting List** | | **Additional classes are being held on Monday, and Thursday afternoons from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm and on Friday afternoon from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.** | |

## "NTOTL"

No Folks, this column is not about a Mexican walking fish (axolotl) or active volcanoes (Popocatepetl) NTOTL stands for **Never Too Old To Learn!**

In the last few weeks I have helped a couple of members overcome frustrations caused by their computers and in the process I have learned a couple of new techniques.

**Windows 7**—one of members was working on a Word document and checking her e-mail at the same time. She found that every time she 'strayed' just outside the e-mail program window it would minimise and the Word document would take over.

Why? In the **Control Panel >Ease of Access** area there is a tick-box setting that says '**Activate a window by hovering over it with the mouse**.' So each time our member strayed slightly outside the e-mail window she was activating the Word window underneath. Solution? Un-tick the tick-box.

**Accidental shortcut ?** Mozilla Thunderbird e-mail was showing all the e-mails in the **Inbox** as 'tabs' across the screen rather than in a vertical list. After a bit of Google-ing we discovered this was called Wide View and after a bit more research we discovered how to turn it off.

But the question remained, how the heck did it get turned on? When we went to menu we found that there was a keyboard shortcut sequence to turn the feature off and on—CTRL+SHIFT+E. Our best guess is that instead of pressing SHIFT or CRTL with the 'E' key individually our member accidentally pressed all three keys together and activated the unwanted shortcut.

*continued ——>*

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NEVER TOO OLD (OR TOO CLEVER) TO LEARN

Do you ever open up a program window and wish it was maximised instead of half-size? Or conversely, you open another window and it fills the screen rather than just the small portion that you might prefer?

To control the size of the program window when it is opened do the following.

1.   Open the window - if it is less than full screen click the maximise button in the top right of the window.
2.   **Go the File Menu, hold down the SHIFT key on the keyboard and click on Close or Exit.**

Next time you open that window it should be automatically maximised.

To open a window in less than full screen do the following.

1.   Open the window—use the resizing handles to make the window the size that you require
2.   **Go the File Menu, hold down the SHIFT key on the keyboard and click on Close or Exit.**

Next time you open that window it should automatically open to the size you have set.

Thanks a lotl.

*Dennis*

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday | Oct 1 | | Forum cancelled due to AFL Grand Final |
| Monday | Oct 3 | 10 am to noon | How to buy a computer |
| | Oct 3 | 1 pm to 3 pm | "Come and See" |
| Tuesday | Oct 4 | 10 am to 11 am | Kate Smith from Carers Tasmania |
| | | 11:10 to noon | Macintosh computers |
| | Oct 5 | 1 pm to 3 pm | Skype—phone calls via the Internet |
| Wednesday | Oct 5 | 10 am to noon | "Come and See" |
| | Oct 5 | 1 pm to 3 pm | "Come and See" |
| Thursday | Oct 6 | 10 am to noon | Internet Safety |
| | Oct 6 | 1 pm to 3 pm | Skype (2nd session) |
| Friday | Oct 7 | 10 am to noon | Tablet computers—Android and other funny names |
| | Oct 7 | 1 pm to 3 pm | E-Bay for beginners (buying) |
| PARTY TIME | Oct 7 | 6 pm to 8 pm | Celebrate OPEN's 10th Birthday |

## OPEN NEWSLETTER – October 2011

### PROBLEM REPORTING OPTIONS

When a problem occurs on your computer it is quite likely that an error message will be displayed on the monitor screen. Often these messages can be complex and trying to remember exactly what they say is difficult.

To provide 'technical people' with the best problem–solving information you can do a screen-print of the problem and paste it into a Word document . If the problem occurs in an area that can't be screen-printed why not use a digital camera to record the error message?

**Tutor Coordinator Eleanor is hoping to hold another tutors meeting shortly.**

**"Watch the Notice Board!"**
**This is the best way to get to meet all the Tutors who do so much to support OPEN during the year.**

**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.)**

### Yes Yes Yes

It's our birthday and we're having a party.

To finalise SENIORS WEEK and celebrate the clubs 10th anniversary.
The club will be open for a friendly get to-gether between  6 and 8 pm
Friday October 7.

### JUST SOME OF THE MEMBER BENEFITS

A friendly atmosphere to learn how to use computers.
Some only want to use the email services, others hope to learn to save old and treasured photographs, certificates and records.
We carry stock of CD's and DVD's so no-one needs to buy a huge amount of them.
The club also carries some programs on disk for members. Clipart, Family History and Game CD's are popular purchases.
Occasionally there are Printer Ink Cartridges which can be purchased cheaply.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF WARNING RE SCAMMERS.

THESE PEOPLE DELIGHT IN CAUSING YOU ANGUISH ALONG WITH TRYING TO EMPTY YOUR BANK ACCOUNTS.

DENNIS HAS PUT SEVERAL WARNINGS IN THE NEWSLETTER AND ROBERT MAKES REGULAR ANNOUNCEMENTS, BUT THE MESSAGE IS STILL NOT

GETTING THROUGH.

COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CLUB AND CAN BE EMAILED TO THE INTERESTED

# LAUNCESTON COMPUTER GROUP
Inc Mac Users Group

Minutes of Meeting at 1 Pipeworks Rd September 7 2011

Meeting opened  2.12 pm President Ivan Turmine in chair.

Present:  Ivan Turmine, Laraine Rist, Janet Headlam, Harvey Tavener, June and Bert Hazzlewood, Pauline Hardy, Ron Baker, Iris Meek, Dennis Murray, Eleanor Horder, Bruce Dineen, Irmgard Rosenfeldt, Jenny Napier, Heather Loffell, Kay Dawson and Tom Olsen.

Apologies:, Judy Hall, Julie Hjort, Ted Bramich, Barry Symons.

Minutes of August meeting accepted as read: Confirmed Harvey/ Laraine.

Business arising:  This meeting followed what was set down as a combined meeting and most of the members present attended both OPEN and LCG meetings.

Dennis explained that it was not necessary to purchase a new server, as the present server is quite capable of handling our requirements.

Correspondence: New card from My State.

Financial Report: Laraine presented the Financial Report and Victor Report. All accounts for payment were passed at the OPEN meeting and ratified at this one. Moved: Laraine – Seconded: Ron.
A copy of treasurer's report in Minute Book.

Tom requested the financial report be projected for notice of members at each meeting.

General Business:
OPEN has Seniors Week organised. Rob is still after some volunteers for various tasks.
June was disappointed in the notice in this year's magazine and also suggested we think about a name change. It is difficult to combine Older persons with Seniors in name changes, but she felt there were benefits to be had if this could occur.

As it is the 10th birthday of OPEN this year a get together about 6ish on Friday October the 7th is being arranged. Everyone asked to bring something to eat.

During Seniors Week there will be a talk on Linking Seniors – using the mobile phone – at the Punchbowl Christian Centre.
Also through LTS some members are purchasing Microsoft Office 2010 software for the club at much lower prices than through stores.

Ivan said MAC operating system Lion is available on line, but only through Apps Store. The matter has been left in abeyance.

Tom asked why some of our free advertising has been left out of the Examiner. Iris to follow up with Examiner. Bruce will approach City Park Radio.
Iris was also asked to make a note of the Christmas Luncheon at Sunny Hills (tentatively booked for) Monday December 19 at noon. in the OPEN Newsletter giving time, date and venue details to those who read the newsletter.

Iris thanked Dennis for putting the August Newsletter together.

Dennis also asked "if a message comes up on a computer screen.. either Print Screen or Photograph the message" rather than try to explain what was there. It will make life easier for out Tech people.

June mentioned the coming ASCCA Conference November 16-17, giving some details and asking members to take part in the competitions this year.

<u>Next Meeting</u>: October 5 at 7pm.

<u>Meeting closed:</u> 2.50 pm.

Committee members chatted over a drinks and afternoon tea.

**Tell all your family/ friends/ business acquaintances - in fact tell everybody about this!**

For all Australian respondents..

Telstra Phone book For anyone contemplating using the Sensis directory service number, 1234, DON'T!

Sensis, as you may or may not know, is a subsidiary of Telstra.

The 1234 number is replacing the Telstra 12456 directory assistance number, but this time with outrageous costs attached: 40c to call the number, then 4c A SECOND!

By law, Telstra must provide a FREE directory assistance number.

They choose however not to pass this number on to the public.

The free number is 1223 Thumbs down to Telstra for finding a way to 'charge', for a service that is supposed to be provided for free.

Of course, feel free to forward this on.

Ben Hardwick Lawyer Commercial Litigation Department Slater & Gordon GPO Box 4864VV Melbourne, Vic, 3001

# CRASH COURSE IN INTERNET PRIVACY

Wikipedia describes Internet privacy as "the desire or mandate of personal privacy concerning transactions or transmission of data via the Internet. It also involves the exercise of control over the type and amount of information revealed about a person on the Internet and who may access said information."
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_privacy

There are those that claim that Internet privacy is a myth and that we must get over it. And then there are those that sell you identity protection kits to profit from the loss of privacy. However, there are things that you can do to protect your privacy, right from the comfort of your own home... imagine that?

The Privacy Rights Clearinghouse is a nonprofit consumer organization with a two-part mission -- consumer information and consumer advocacy. Two of its main goals are to raise consumers' awareness of how technology affects personal privacy and empower consumers to take action to control their own personal information by providing practical tips on privacy protection. It is well worth your while to visit their site.
https://www.privacyrights.org/

The Federal Trade Commission has a number of guides on how to protect the privacy of you and your family. Additionally, they have a very comprehensive site devoted to identity theft. It is a one-stop national resource to learn about the crime of identity theft. It provides detailed information to help you deter, detect, and defend against identity theft. Consumers can learn how to avoid identity theft - and learn what to do if their identity is stolen. Businesses can learn how to help their customers deal with identity theft, as well as how to prevent problems in the first place. Law enforcement can get resources and learn how to help victims of identity theft. It is a very comprehensive web site.
http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/

Privacy.Org is the site for daily news, information, and initiatives on privacy. This web page is a joint project of the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) and Privacy International. This site has anything and everything to do with your privacy from body scanners to Facebook.

http://privacy.org/

I found a very interesting site created by California Attorney Timothy Walton who states on his site: "The United States Supreme Court has stated that American citizens have the protection of the Fourth Amendment (freedom from search and seizure absent warrant) when there is a reasonable expectation of privacy." That's where it starts to get tricky. You can check out his site here:
http://www.netatty.com/privacy/privacy.html

So to answer our question about how private is private? It would seem not very private at all. But you can do things to protect yourself, your family and your information.

# UNDER THE HOOD: USER ACCOUNT CONTROL IN VISTA AND WINDOWS 7

If you're still using Windows XP, you might not be familiar with the security feature called User Account Control (UAC). It was introduced in Windows Vista, and became one of the main "pain points" that caused the OS to be the most maligned Microsoft operating systems in history. Although the intent was good - to protect you from malware running with administrative privileges - it was far too "in your face" for comfort. Consequently, many Vista users turned it off, negating the security benefits. In response to the complaints, Microsoft made UAC much more user-friendly in Windows 7 and more easily configurable by the user. But what's really happening under the hood with UAC, and how can you control its behavior? That's what we'll look at this week.

In XP and earlier operating systems, you logged on with a particular account (administrative or standard user) and programs ran in that context. User were advised to log on with standard user accounts unless they absolutely needed to perform administrative tasks, but many always logged on as admins so they wouldn't be restricted in what they could do. Malware, then, could run with these elevated privileges and do much more harm. UAC lets the same user account run with standard privileges until administrative privileges are needed, and then elevates privileges without logging off and back on with a different account (or using the "Run as" command).

Since user privileges are granted based on tokens assigned to an account, admin accounts get two different tokens, one with standard privileges and one with administrative. User applications are started with the standard privileges token. If an application needs higher privileges, you're prompted for permission to continue. In Windows 7, fewer routine tasks prompt you for permission by default. You no longer get hit with UAC prompts when you use most Control Panel applets. Internet Explorer 7 and above work together with UAC to run in Protected Mode, whereby it can't write to any files other than those in the Temporary Internet Files folder without requesting elevated privileges via UAC. Protected Mode doesn't work if UAC is turned off.

The Secure Desktop is a function of UAC that can still be annoying. When you get a UAC prompt, the whole desktop goes dark and you can't interact with any of its elements until you respond to the prompt. While the Secure Desktop is in effect, most processes won't run (only trusted ones that run as System). This prevents malware from being able to respond to the prompt and elevate privileges for itself. You can disable Secure Desktop without disabling the rest of UAC, but that leaves you open to spoofing of the UAC prompts.

Before you make any changes to the default UAC settings, be sure you understand the security implications. If you still want to do it, it's much easier in Windows 7 than in Vista (which required you to use Group Policy or edit the registry). In Control Panel, open the Action Center and in the left pane, click "Change User Account Control settings." You'll see a slider bar with four settings. Select the top notch if you want to always be notified (with a prompt) when programs try to install software or make any changes to the computer, including when you make changes to Windows settings. Select the second notch from the top if you want to be notified when programs make changes, but not when you make changes to Windows settings (this is the default). Select the third notch to get the prompt when programs make changes, without dimming the desktop (this disables Secure Desktop). The bottom notch, which is definitely not recommended, is for the "never notify" option and disables UAC.

If Secure Desktop isn't disabled in Control Panel but the desktop isn't dimming when you get the UAC prompts, the registry key that controls this setting might have become corrupted. This TechNet article explains what to do:
http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ee844168(WS.10).aspx

'Til next week,
Deb Shinder, Contributing Editor
*From Vipre News*

## ᵃ Using Windows 7's XP Mode — step by step

By Fred Langa

**Looking for a sure-fire way to keep your oldest Windows applications alive while living in a Windows 7 world?**

You'll find it with Win7's XP Mode, a free and fully functional version of XP Professional SP3 that runs entirely inside Windows 7. And even if you don't have ancient apps to support, you gotta admit: keeping XP around for those times you want to indulge in a bit of nostalgia is pretty cool.

XP Mode is a free add-on for Windows 7 Professional, Ultimate, and Enterprise — Win7 Home Premium and Starter don't qualify. For those versions, or in any case where Microsoft's XP Mode doesn't work, there are other alternatives I'll discuss at the end of this article.

Windows 7's XP Mode runs within a virtual PC (VPC). It's not a dual-boot setup, which lets you run only one OS at a time; a VPC lets you run a second operating system *within* your current OS, giving you access to both *simultaneously.*

In a VPC, all the hardware (video boards, hard-drive controllers, etc.) an OS needs is emulated or moderated by the VPC's software. In Win7's XP Mode, the virtual hardware boots and runs XP Pro SP3 within a Win7 window (see Figures 1 and 2). It's sort of like having a second monitor, but on your Win7 desktop



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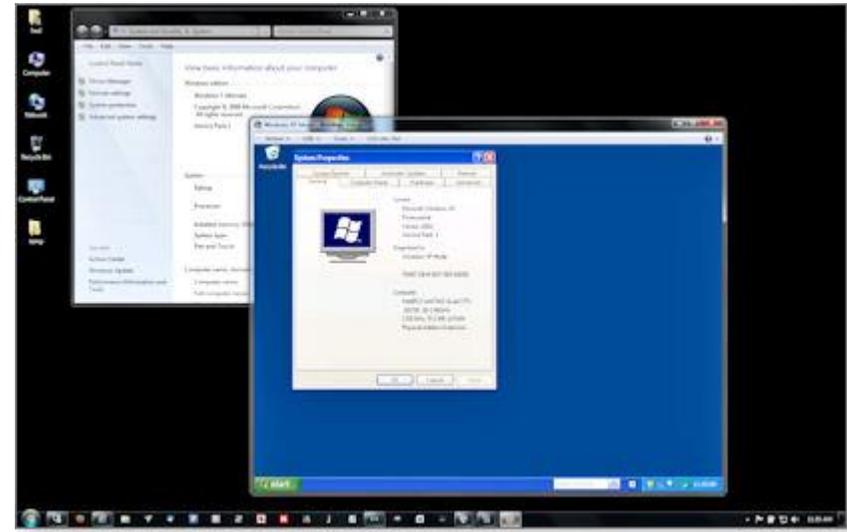
**Figure 1. In this example, the large black area is the Win7 desktop. (Note the Win7 Properties dialog in the background.) The blue foreground area is XP — with its own start button, taskbar, and other standard XP features.**
**Figure 2. An enlarged view of the XP Mode System Properties window (seen in Figure 1) shows the emulated hardware under *Computer.***

Let's walk through the download, installation, and first use of XP Mode so you can see what it is and how it works. I strongly recommend reading through the entire article before starting.

### Setting up XP Mode for the first time

Follow these four steps to get XP Mode up and running:
**Step 1: Download and run XP Mode's core files.** To start, go to Microsoft's Windows Virtual PC Help & How-to download page. There, you can select the files for Windows XP Mode with Virtual PC — or download what you need for

a Virtual PC only (useful if you want to run some other OS within Windows 7). Use the page's pull-down menus to pick your version of Win7 and your preferred language. You'll see a window pop up, similar to the one in Figure 3.



[a] **Figure 3. Although it does not provide much information, this page downloads *all* the necessary files.** (You can skip Step 1 on that page; I'll cover everything you need to know.) Moving on to Microsoft's Step 2, click the **Windows XP Mode Download** button. Choose either Run or Save (the download file): it's up to you. Select Run, and the XP Mode setup will start automatically after the download finishes; click Save, and you'll have to manually double-click the downloaded file to start setup. The Microsoft site runs a validation check to ensure you're running a legit copy of Windows 7, before it allows the download. Just follow the prompts. When the download starts, you might as well take a few minutes to stretch your legs — XP Mode is about a 500MB-file. When the download is finished, you'll see the usual Win7 permissions dialog boxes (yes, you do want to run the file you just downloaded) before XP Mode will install its core files. When this initial setup ends, XP Mode is on your system. But before you can use it, you have to install the Virtual PC software.

[a] **Step 2: Set up a virtual PC.** Go back to the Microsoft download page and click the **Windows Virtual PC Download** button under Microsoft's Step 3. The download process might revalidate your PC yet again, and you'll have to accept another round of download permissions — just follow the prompts — before the VPC software (a relatively small 15.3MB file) downloads and installs. After VPC is installed, you'll need to reboot your PC. You should see several "Configuring updates …" screens, because Microsoft's Virtual PC software is packaged as a Windows Update (KB 958559).

[a] **Optional Step 3: There's one more download for non-SP1 Win7 systems.** If you've already installed Service Pack 1 for Windows 7 (info/download), skip this step and go on to *my* Step 4, below. If you're not running SP1, you'll need to return to the download page and run the **Windows XP Mode Update** listed under Microsoft's Step 4.

[a] **Step 4: Set up XP Mode for first use.** Although you now have all the XP Mode pieces in place, it's not ready to run just yet. Navigate to Win7's Start / All Programs / Windows Virtual PC and then select **Windows XP Mode,** as shown in Figure 4.



[a] **Fig-**

**ure 4. Launch the final XP Mode setup by drilling down to *Windows XP Mode* in the Win7 Start menu.** When XP Mode first launches, you'll see an abbreviated series of setup screens, very similar to what you see when you first turn on a preconfigured, store-bought PC. There'll be dialogs to accept the licensing, establish a user password, permit Automatic Updates, and so on. The setup also shows a brief tutorial (see Figure 5).



**Figure 5. The information in XP Mode's short tutorial slide show isn't deep, but it's worth reading for general background.** It's all very straight-forward — just follow the prompts. I usually just accept all the offered defaults. When setup's done, you're ready to run XP on your Win7 system. But wait! It's not required, but I ***strongly*** suggest you now shut everything down. Close the XP Mode Window (it'll say it's ***hibernating***) and restart your main system to make sure no loose ends are left hanging. When your system restarts, click back to the Win7 All Programs menu and relaunch Windows XP Mode — you'll hear the familiar XP startup sound, and your virtual XP PC will open in a window on your Win7 desktop.

Congratulations! Your Windows 7 is now running a virtual PC with a complete copy of XP. You're running two OSes at the same time! How cool is that?

## Important first steps with your new XP Mode

Running one operating system inside another obviously creates new opportunities for confusion, so read this through section carefully before trying any of the described actions or commands.

First, take note of the extra toolbar across the top of your XP Mode virtual PC window (shown in Figure 6).
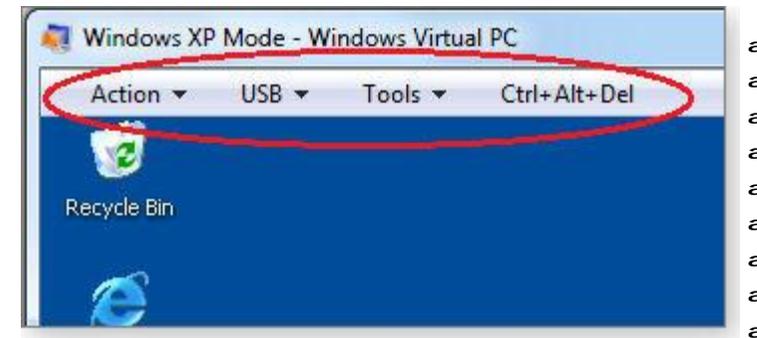


**Figure 6. An XP Mode window adds a special toolbar across the top to help manage the VPC and its operating system.**
Here's what these new tools do:
The toolbar's **Action** item offers options to switch to full-screen mode (don't click it yet!) or to restart, sleep, or close (exit) the XP Mode virtual PC.

The **USB** item lets the virtual XP Mode PC connect to USB devices that are, in reality, connected to your real Win7 computer.

The **Tools** item offers advanced control over the VPC features. You won't normally have to do anything with this.

The **Ctrl+Alt+Del** item sends that keystroke combination to the XP Mode virtual PC, bringing up XP's Task Manager — not Windows 7's.

You can resize, drag, maximize and minimize the XP Mode window — all that works normally, with one exception: when you maximize the XP window, you can't see any part of your Win7 desktop. So how do you get back to Win7? When in full-screen, XP Mode places a small, fly-out toolbar at the top center of

*(Continued from page 13)*

the screen (see Figure 7). It lets you control the VPC or minimize the VPC window and return the Win7 desktop.

If or when the fly-out toolbar retracts, you can always make it reappear by placing your mouse cursor anywhere on the top-center edge of the screen.
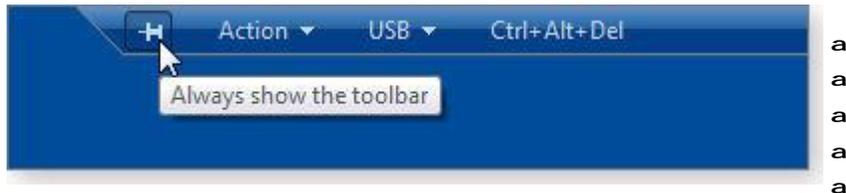


**Figure 7. When set to full-screen, XP Mode puts a small, fly-out toolbar at the top of the screen.**

The fly-out toolbar offers the same Action, USB, and Ctrl+Alt+Del options described earlier, and it adds a pushpin icon to *pin* the toolbar in place so it's always visible. I recommend you pin the toolbar in place; it helps avoid any "which OS am I using now?" or "how can I get back to Win7?" confusion.

If you're an avid XP user, just now switching to Win7, you may be tempted to load up XP Mode with all your old apps and leave it set to full-screen. But that's not the best use of XP Mode or your apps — if you let it, Windows 7 will give you *seamless integration* with all applications running in XP Mode.

This is easiest to understand when you see it in action.

## Installing and using software in XP Mode

You install software onto an XP virtual machine just as you did on your XP-based PC. For this example, I dug out the oldest mainstream software I could find — a decade-old copy of Microsoft Office XP. That software doesn't actually need XP Mode (it runs fine inside Win7 natively), but let's pretend that it runs only on XP.

Win7 lets XP Mode have controlled, but easy, access to the system hardware. I put the Office XP setup CD in my Win7's optical drive and then, inside the XP

Mode window, clicked on XP's Start button, opening XP's My Computer. The Office XP setup disc was displayed there, ready for use on the virtual PC.

Still inside XP Mode, I clicked the CD to launch the Office XP setup — and it ran to completion just as it should. (See Figure 8.) As far as Office XP knew, it was running on a completely standard XP box. (Software on an XP Mode PC doesn't *see* the Win7 environment that's really running the show.)
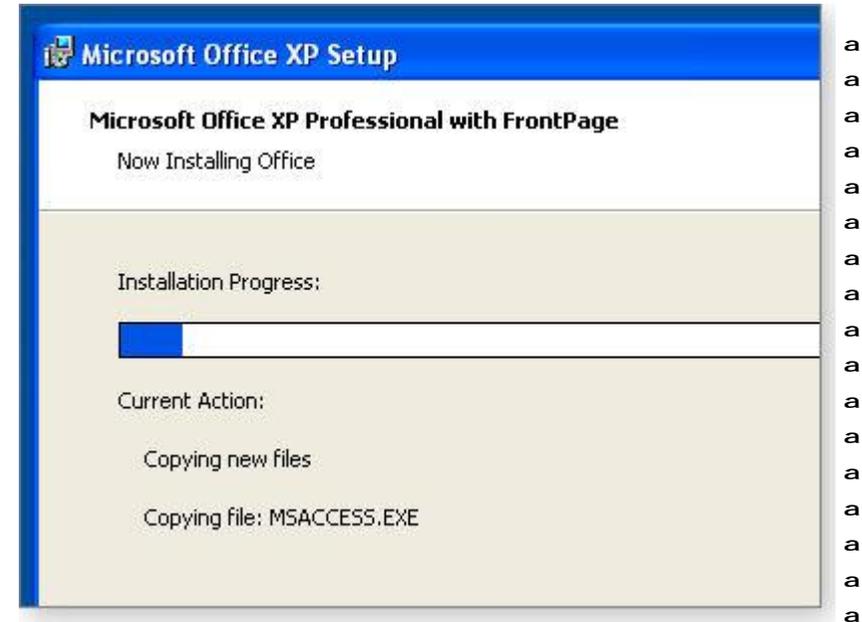


**Figure 8. I had no difficulty installing Office XP on the XP Mode virtual machine.**

With Office installed, I now have two ways to run it — or any other XP Mode app. In XP Mode, I can launch it the same way I would on any standalone XP PC (click on XP's Start button, click to All Programs, and select Microsoft Word). That works fine, but it's a lot of clicks.

Windows 7's seamless integration reduces that all to *one* click! As Figure 9

shows, Win7 adds your installed XP Mode apps to its own Start menu. This gives you one-click access to your XP Mode apps instead of having to first launch XP Mode and then manually launch the app.



**Figure 9. XP Mode apps are automatically placed in Win7's All Programs directory under the heading "Windows XP Mode Applications."**

Launching XP Mode applications directly opens them on your Windows 7 desktop — just like any Win7-based app (see Figure 10).
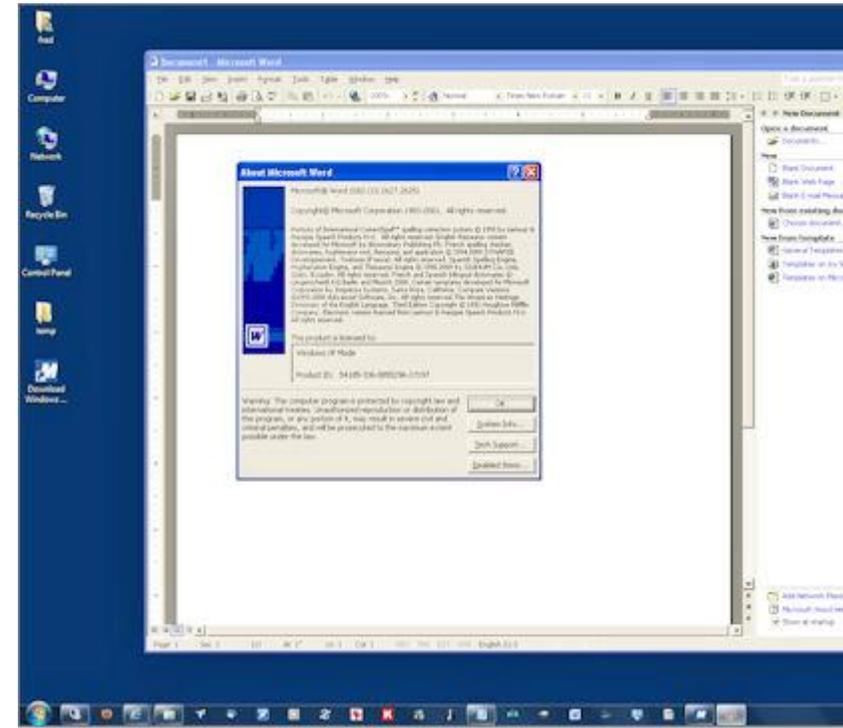


**Figure 10. Win7's seamless XP Mode integration hides the VPC's underpinnings.**

Not only does this integration allow quicker access to XP Mode apps, it helps reduce any potential confusion arising from multiple desktops (one for Win7, one for XP) open at the same time.

And when you do want access to the full XP virtual machine, it's no problem — just click Win7's **Windows XP Mode** menu item, and XP Mode launches normally in its own window.

## Gotchas? Of course there are gotchas!

Running a complete OS inside another OS isn't a trivial task. It takes a lot of

*(Continued from page 15)*

CPU effort and other machine resources.

a  For example, XP Mode's virtual hard drive lives as a **.vhd** file in the **Appdata** folder on your for-real drive. A basic XP Mode installation will occupy between 8–10GB of drive space. Install XP Mode apps, and the **.vhd** file grows accordingly. And, of course, all XP Mode disk activity is really carried out by Win7 on your real drive. There's an inevitable performance hit.

For these reasons, XP Mode shouldn't be your first choice in running older software.

Instead, try to install your older software normally in Windows 7. (Most programs run fine.) If you do have trouble, try Win7's compatibility mode to see whether you can get the software working directly, without the overhead of launching an entirely separate operating system. (See the Microsoft Help & How-To, "Make older programs run in this version of Windows.")

a  XP Mode is best reserved for those few programs that simply can't be made to work in Win7 by other, simpler means. (Note: XP Mode won't help keep older, Win7-incompatible hardware working.)

Another gotcha: XP Mode isn't *set and forget* — it's a whole separate operating system, and it needs to be kept up-to-date and otherwise maintained just as if it were installed on a standalone system. For example, it should have its own malware protection. (I installed Microsoft's free Security Essentials [info/download].)

Your well-developed XP skills should make setting up and maintaining your XP VPC a breeze. But if you run into snags or find your XP know-how getting rusty, you can search the Windows Secrets archives for a wealth of information on almost any XP-related question you might have.

It's not every day you get a free, 100-percent legitimate copy of Windows to use. Enjoy your new XP virtual PC! These additional sites can help with other questions that might come up:

Windows 7 Help & How-to , "Install and use Windows XP Mode"

a  Windows 7 features page, "Windows XP Mode"

a  Windows Help & How-to, "Windows Virtual PC"

a  Third-party, virtual-PC software that works on all Windows versions: Oracle's free VirtualBox

VMware's free and commercial VPC products

# TALKING TECH: THE EVOLUTION OF SYSTEM RESTORE

Those of us who have been using Windows since the early days remember (none too fondly) when there was no such thing as System Restore. Install software that made a mess of your computer? If we were running Windows NT 4.0 or Windows 2000, about the best hope we had was "Last Known Good" - an option on the startup menu that you accessed by pressing the F8 key during the countdown in the boot menu. That would restore the previous configuration information to the CurrentControlSet subkey of HKLM\SYSTEM in the registry and roll back to previous drivers. However, if you logged on successfully before using Last Known Good, you were out of luck (unless you'd logged on in Safe Mode). And if you were using Windows 9x, you didn't get the "Last Known Good" option.

If you weren't able to correct your problems with LKG or by making changes in Safe Mode, it usually meant formatting your hard disk and reinstalling the operating system. Ouch! Many of us got quite proficient at reinstalling Windows. The only up side to that was that periodic clean installs cleaned out the clutter and made Windows faster and more stable. The down side was that we spent a lot of time installing and configuring the OS and reinstalling our programs when we could have been doing more productive work (or play) and sometimes, if we weren't smart, we even lost data in the process. If we *were* smart, we used Ghost or some other disk imaging solution to create a "clone" of our hard drive that we could restore after reformatting the disk, instead of manually reinstalling and re-configuring everything.

The System Restore feature in later versions of the Windows client OS lets you create restore points that are like snapshots of the state of your system (core system files and registry settings) at a particular point in time. You can roll back to any of your saved restore points to "undo" damage caused by the installation of software or manual changes you might have made to the system. Even better, the restoration itself can be undone. System Restore does not back up user data.
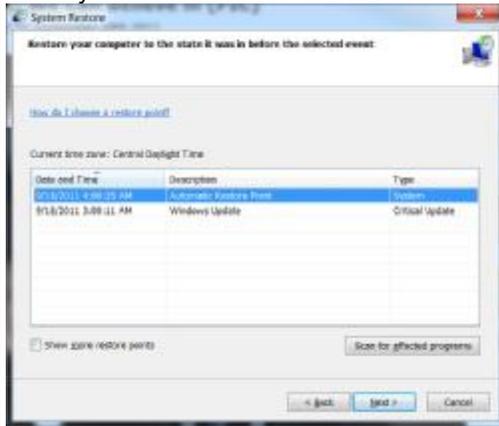
Here's a trivia question for you: In what version of Windows did System Restore first appear? My guess is that most folks would say Windows XP, but it actually came out in Windows Millenium Edition (the only version that I never used as my primary OS). That first implementation was pretty imperfect and a little clunky to use. The System Restore data store in was limited to no more than 12 percent of the partition on which the operating system was installed, and when it reached 90 percent of that size, it began to purge old restore points. Windows ME created a new restore point every 10 hours; this was increased to every 24 hours in XP. XP put restore points in hidden folders on every partition or volume (including external drives and some flash drives); this is the System Volume Information file. Restore points were still limited to 12 percent of each drive.

A number of changes were made to System Restore in Vista. For one thing, it used 15 percent of each drive's space by default, and you could change that by editing the registry or using a command line tool (Vssadmin.exe). In Vista, System Restore backs up everything in the Windows folder and certain file extension types in other folders. A big change was the ability to use System Restore from the Recovery environment when you aren't able to boot into Windows - this made System Restore far more useful. In XP, if you weren't able to at least boot into Safe Mode, you couldn't use System Restore. This is the System Volume Information file. In Vista and Windows 7, System Restore is based on the Shadow Copy feature. This feature was formerly known as the Volume Snapshot Service or VSS in XP, but it only created temporary snapshots that weren't saved when you rebooted, so System Restore in ME and XP was based on a file-based filter that monitored specific files for changes and copied them. In Windows 7, the feature

used to create and save restore points is called System Protection. You can turn System Protection off (we'll show you how in the Windows 7 "How To" section). Why would you do that? System Restore does entail some overhead. The creation of restore points can affect performance, and if you have a small hard disk (such as a Solid State Drive on a laptop), you might not be able to spare the disk space it uses.

I would think long and hard before disabling it, though. System Restore has saved me countless hours of grief on a few occasions by getting various systems back up and running relatively quickly after what could have been a disaster. If you tried using System Restore in XP and didn't like it, give it a new chance in Windows 7. It really does work more smoothly. It's also far easier to make adjustments to its behavior. For example, you can change the amount of disk space allocated for restore points by using the Control Panel applet described in the "How To."

Here are a few parting caveats: If you happen to be dual booting XP with Windows 7 or Vista, all the restore points that the newer OS makes will be destroyed when you boot in XP. Also, if you create a new user account and then you restore to a point prior to that creation, the new account won't be able to log on. Finally, some programs might have to be reinstalled after you roll back to a restore point. System Restore shows you the programs and drivers that will be impacted by restoring to a particular point so be sure to review that list before you restore.

Have you used System Restore? What do you think of it? A lifesaver or a useless waste of space? What problems have you had with the feature? Do you prefer to use other third party "rollback" software? If so, what's your favorite and why? Please tell us about your experiences and opinions in the Comments section at the end of this newsletter on the website at www.WinNews.com

# One Sunday morning,

A priest decided to do something a little different.

He said 'Today, in church, I am going to say a single word and you are going to help me preach. Whatever Single word I say, I want you to sing whatever hymn that comes to your mind --

The pastor shouted out 'CROSS.'

Immediately The congregation started singing in unison, 'THE OLD RUGGED CROSS.'

The pastor hollered out 'GRACE.' The congregation began
To sing 'AMAZING GRACE, how sweet the sound.'

The pastor said 'POWER.' The congregation sang 'THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD.'

The Pastor said 'SEX' The congregation fell into total Silence. Everyone Was in shock. They all nervously began to look around at each other afraid to Say anything.

Then all of a sudden, way from in the back of the Church, A Little old 87 year old grandmother stood up and began to sing
'MEMORIES.'

Pass This along and make someone smile today (I just did).

Gotta Love Little Old Ladies.

Laugh... It burns calories!!

**Hint for the day**

An old man, a boy & a donkey Were going to town. The boy rode on the donkey & the old man walked.

As they went along they passed some people Who remarked "What a shame the old man Is walking and the boy is riding."

The man and boy thought maybe the critics were right, so they changed positions.

Later they passed some people who Remarked "What a shame.... He makes that little boy walk."
So they then decided they'd both walk!

Soon they passed some more people Who remarked "They're really stupid to walk when they have a decent donkey to ride."

So, they both rode the donkey. Now they passed some people Who shamed them by saying "How awful to Put such a load on a poor donkey."

The boy and man figured they were probably right, So they decide to carry the donkey. As they crossed the bridge, They lost their grip on the animal And he fell into the river and drowned.
The moral of the story?

If you try to please everyone, You might as well...
Kiss your ass goodbye!
Have A Nice Day And Be Careful With Your Donkey

# How to perform computer maintenance

The computer is a device that make part of our daily life, we us it every day for several tasks, work, game, entertainment etc. More than any other device computer need a good and continues maintenance, to keep it running well and fast, doing all the tasks we need. Actually there are several menaces that can harm our computer. The most of them are coming from the internet, when we connect to the internet we are a target of virus, adware and malwares that can harm our computes, the majority of people that have basic skills in computing thinks that installing an antivirus resole all problems, this is false, even with the best antivirus out there we still in risk.

The proper functioning of any computer depends on the software installed, the memory used and the user itself.

Before talking about the problem of the internet and the virus, we need to know that even without internet we can have problem with our computer. In order to keep your computer healthy and fast you need to do some basics step periodically, if you have programs that you never use uninstall theme.

When you use your computer don´t open a lot of windows, people like let a lot of windows open even they don´t make use of theme, all open windows consume memory so if your computer have a enough memory this can slow down your machine. It is a good practice to defragment your disc to make the file system reorganized for simplifying file access and make it fast when you shut down your computer shut it down with the proper shutdown program and not with unplugging the energy cable, because this can damage your system file and generate a no starting of the system.

Before connecting to the internet it is important to install antivirus to protect your system and your data.

Configure your antivirus to scan your computer periodically; instead you can do it manually on running the antivirus scan. Some sites on the internet are harmful and install a malware script in your computer, it is better to no open this kind of sites (pornographic sites are an example).

Browsers like Google Chrome and Internet Explorer advise you about bad sites.

Internet is not the only place you can get a virus, if you are in a network or you use unknown pen drive or external disk you risk to get your computer infected, so before e connecting any external device to your computer it is recommended to scan it with your antivirus first.

If you are a beginner or do not give winds to your curiosity, don´t try to configure, delete, or change system file (for example register editing) Don´t forget to search for upgrades to keep you system with the last fixes, it is better to set automatic upgrade.

Before Installing any hardware (like camera, mouse or other devices) read the manual and be sure that the device you are installing is compatible with your computer. The use of the computer is personnel; this is why the PC means Personnel computer, so if you let other people use your computer the risk to your computer is damaged is higher.

Periodically it is a good practice to delete temporary and unused files.

If your computer run several services that you never use in the startup, it is better to deactivate those services or programs, this make your computer startup faster. On installing new software read carefully the instruction during the installation, because some software comes with third party plugin

like browser toolbars that are checked by default and that will be installed with the software even you will never use them.

It is not recommended to install toolbars in the browser if you do not use theme for any purpose. When you navigate on the web do not install downloaded programs if you done know the publisher.

Following these steps you will keep your computer healthy for a long time without any problem, and if you have trouble with your computer download this tool and let it fix your computer for you automatically.



Inbred Cat

### A Police Officer in the UK

**Question:**

How do you tell the difference between a British Police Officer, an Australian Police Officer and an American Police Officer?

Answer:

First - Lets pose the following question:

You're on duty by yourself walking on a deserted street late at night.

Suddenly, an armed man with a huge knife comes around the corner, locks eyes with you, screams obscenities, raises the knife, and lunges at you. You are carrying a Glock .40, and you are an expert shot, however you have onlya split second to react before he reaches you.  What do you do?

**BRITISH POLICE OFFICER:**

Firstly the officer must consider the man's Human Rights.

1) Does the man look poor or oppressed?

2) Is he newly arrived in this country and does not yet understand the law?

3) Have I ever done anything to him that would inspire him to attack?

4) Am I dressed provocatively?

5) Could I run away?

6) Could I possibly swing my gun like a club and knock the knife out of his hand?

7) Should I try and negotiate with him to discuss his wrong doings?

8) Does the Glock have appropriate safety built into it?

9) Why am I carrying a loaded gun anyway, and what kind of message does this send to society?

10) Does he definitely want to kill me, or would he be content just to wound me?

11) If I were to grab his knees and hold on, would he still want to stab and kill me?

12) If I raise my gun and he turns and runs away, do I get blamed if he falls over, knocks his head and kills himself? .

13) If I shoot and wound him, and lose the subsequent court case, does he have the opportunity to sue me, cost me my job,      my credibility and the loss of my family home?

AUSTRALIAN POLICE OFFICER:

BANG

AMERICAN POLICE OFFICER:

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! 'click'....

(Sergeant arrives at scene later and remarks: 'Nice grouping!')