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**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday 3rd September**  
**Brian Belchor**  
**Web Chat Rooms etc**

### Newstream Articles

Deadline : 10 Days before Meeting

Editors Contacts:

Address: 8 Cadorna Street Mowbray Heights 7248 Phone 6326 5824

email address editor@lcg.org.au

### Correspondence

Address all Correspondence to: Launceston Computer Group Inc PO Box 548  
Launceston 7250

### Membership

**Single \$15, Family \$20 (Includes Email edition Newstream)**

**Printed & Posted Newsletter \$20 extra**

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## **LCG Committee 2008/9**

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**Vice President:** Robert Tierney

**Minutes Secretary:** Joel Harbottle

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**Asst Treasurers:** Karia Wicks and Don Cooper

**MAC Librarians:** Ivan Turmine and Joel Harbottle

**PC Librarian:** Julie Hjort

**Asst PC Librarian:** Judy Hall

**Newstream Editor:** Ron Baker

**Publicity Officer:** Karia Wicks

**Asst Publicity Officer:** - open -

**OPEN Co-ordinator:** Robert Tierney

**Webmaster/Content:** Tom Olsen

**Auditor:** Ron Baker

**VICTOR Liaison:** Robert Tierney

**General Committee:** Glenn Gilpin, Harvey Tavener, Reinhard von Samorzewski, Judy Hall

## **OPEN Committee 2008/9**

**Chairperson OPEN:** Robert Tierney.

Chair all meetings of OPEN and ensure that they run smoothly

**Vice Chairperson OPEN:** (to be clarified)

Chair meeting when the Chairperson is unavailable.

**Secretary:** Marny Poole.

Handles all incoming and outgoing communications Responsible for the documentation and distribution of all meeting minutes

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

**Treasurer:** Dennis Murray.

Responsible for all monies and banking

**Assistant Treasurer:** Karia Wicks and Don Cooper.

Help the Treasurer where necessary.

**Publicity Officer:** Karia Wicks.

Responsible for all advertising

**OPEN Co-ordinator:** Robert Tierney.

Responsible for the smooth running of Centre on a daily basis

**Membership Co-ordinator:** Karia Wicks.

Keep Membership database up to date.

**Beginners Project Co-ordinator:** Eleanor Horder.

**Tutor Co-ordinator:** Jenny Napier.

Keep regular contact with Tutors to bring ideas and concerns to meetings

**Newsletter Editors Assistant:** Dennis Murray.

Collates and produces the OPEN Newsletter for inclusion in LCG monthly 'Newstream'

**Maintenance Co-ordinators:** Dennis Murray (PC's) and Joel Harbottle (Mac).

Responsible for the maintenance and repairs to all computer equipment

**Co-ordinator of "VICTOR":** Robert Tierney.

**Webmaster/Content:** Tom Olsen.

**OPEN Committee:** June Hazzlewood, Marny Poole, Iris Meek, Janet Headlam, Don Cooper, Barry Symons, Tom Olsen.

## OPEN NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2008

### FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

#### "THE USUAL SUSPECTS"

Often when I sit down to write this column I have no idea what to write about, but then along comes a real-life problem with someone's computer and I am presented with the opportunity to rant about pet hates.

It was a classic situation ... someone's computer spent hours displaying the 'hourglass' icon as if some program was trying to load up. Attempts to perform simple, usually instantaneous, functions such as displaying the Control Panel or Windows Explorer, or trying to open up a graphics file resulted in lengthy delays.

I suspected some sort of spy-ware infection and ran the free-ware program Spybot Search and Destroy. Before continuing with the case study it is interesting to note that Spybot now tests for nearly 300,000 'nasties' ... compare that to the 40,000 it used to search out just a couple years ago. Do you need anymore convincing that there are nasty people out there in Cyberspace?

Now back to the problem. As it scanned merrily away Spybot began detecting the spy-ware that we warn members about on a continuing basis—MyWebSearch, FunWeb Products, etc. Eventually the computer locked up but not before detecting 144 items of spy-ware, all of which had made changes to the System Registry, the 'holy-of-holies' that controls the computer.

Where does this rubbish come from? Often from seemingly harmless things such as free screensavers and cute animated e-mail icons. My advice? If you want cute animations on your computer do yourself a favour and go to your local video store and hire a cartoon DVD.

*Dennis Murray*

### FILE ASSOCIATIONS

"File association" is the term that defines which program will open a particular type of computer file.

For instance, we might expect that a file with the letters 'doc' at the end would open with some version of Microsoft Word, or that another file with the letters 'jpg' would open with some type of graphics program.

So what if the unexpected happens?

Some time ago a member found that their 'jpg' photo-files were being opened by an embroidery program instead of the desired program, Paint Shop Pro, while more recently a couple of our tutors were 'less than pleased' when double-clicking a Word file resulted in it being opened by the free-ware program, Open Office.

Situations such as this can be resolved fairly simply by changing the 'file association' so that the correct program opens the document, graphic file or whatever.

To do this right-click the file and half way down the menu that appears you will see the option 'Open With', and go to Choose Programs on the sub-menu. In most instances the desired program will be on the list, so choose it and then tick the Always Open With box. Performing this operation should ensure that every file of that type will open with correct program in the future.

In conclusion, a word of warning ... some file-types such as 'dat' may be used by various programs, but not all 'dat' files will be compatible with each other.

So be careful if you are not sure.

### OPEN MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Will be held at 1 pm on September 3 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

WEDNESDAYS SEPTEMBER 3  
7:00 to 9:00 PM

Following a short committee meeting there will be a presentation at 7:30 pm by :

#### Guest Speaker : Brian Belcher

Brian will provide an insight into the 'Web' and how to get the best out of it.

### EMBROIDERY GROUP

#### The Friday afternoon Embroidery Group

will meet on a MONTHLY basis this year. The next meeting will be on September 5 2008 at 1 pm.

(subject to school holidays)

Contact Eleanor Horder via the club for details.

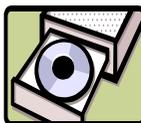
### REMINDER

Seniors Week will be held from Wednesday October 1, to Tuesday October 7, including a session from 5 pm to 7 pm on Saturday,

## OPEN NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2008

### Launceston Computer Group

1st September 2nd August 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](mailto: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 free-ware programs as an alternative to downloading from the Internet. Free antivirus programs such as AVG can now be as large as 45 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

September 10 — 1 pm to 3.30 pm

September 24 — 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 CLASS

September 17

10 am to 12 noon

"How We Perceive Colours"

Due to the popularity of this topic at the Launceston Computer Group's August meeting it has been decided to conduct a day-time session.

"Why does printed material look different from on-screen colours? Are you really seeing what you think you are seeing?"

#### 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

#### BASIC 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 September 3 - 10 am to 12 noon

Basic Graphics September 10 - 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 September 17 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]
	7 pm–9 pm	Basics (Night Class)
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 of each month	1 pm – 3 pm	Embroidery Group

## OPEN NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2008

### SPECIAL WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Please register on the sheets – numbers may be limited

Date	Time	Topic	Details
September 3	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	Come along and contribute your views. All members are invited to participate.
	7.00 to 9.00 pm	LCG Meeting and Monthly Workshop	Guest presenter Brian Belcher will present "An insight into the Web (I(n)ternet)"
September 10	10 am–12 noon	Basic Graphics	Judy Hall and the Graphics team continue the course on
	1 pm–3.30 pm	Family History	Judy Hall and the Family History tutors will assist you in tracing your Ancestry.
September 17	10am–12 noon	Special Class	"How we perceive colours."
	1 pm–3.30 pm	Level 2 and 3 Graphics	Advanced graphics techniques using the Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8 programs.
September 24	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.
Coming up In October	Seniors Week October 1 to 7	OPEN and LCG Meetings October 1	The OPEN meeting may start later due to Seniors Week activities being held from 1pm to 3pm
Judy Hall will be on leave to prepare for the Deloraine Craft Fair.			



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To shut off notifications about a particular update in Windows Vista, take these steps:

**Step 1.** Click the Windows Update icon in the taskbar tray to open the Windows Update control panel.

**Step 2.** Choose **View available updates** below the Install Updates button.

**Step 3.** Find the update you don't want installed and uncheck its box.

**Step 4.** Right-click the update name and choose **Hide update**.

**Step 5.** Click the close box in the upper-right corner to close the window.

**Step 6.** To see this and other hidden updates in the future, reopen the Windows Update control panel and click **Restore hidden updates** in the left pane.

My settings have been set up to recently notify me of updates but don't install them. To my surprise the other day Windows started updating without my permission. I only noticed this since I read this article.

The main thing is don't be alarmed, just be more aware. If you have had strange amounts of downloading and your usage is more than normal then an automatic sneaky update maybe the issue.

Till next month

Happy Computing (????)

Rob Tierney



### Choose how Windows can install updates

When your computer is online, Windows can automatically check for important updates and install them using these settings. When new updates are available, you can also install them before shutting down the computer.

#### Understanding Windows automatic updating



**Install updates automatically (recommended)**

Install new updates:

Every day at 3:00 AM

Download updates but let me choose whether to install them

Check for updates but let me choose whether to download and install them



**Never check for updates (not recommended)**

Your computer will be more vulnerable to security threats and performance problems without the latest updates.

Figure 1.

Windows Update may automatically install some executable files, even if you set auto-update configuration to require permission.

## Newbie Club Tutorials

### "How To Unclog Your System Tray"

So you have 25 icons in your system tray. So what? So they're eating your computer's memory like rats chewing through Internet cables.

System Tray: That area "down there" in the lower right corner of your screen where the clock sits.

Each icon represents a program that's running silently in the background. A "TSR"... Terminate and Stay Resident. A "TSR" is a program that starts up when you turn on your computer, then terminates (you don't see it) but stays resident in memory.

And it uses up resources! (A resource is a special place in memory that is easily wasted.)

Check your resources now. Right click on My Computer, choose "Properties", then click the "Performance" tab.

What is the percentage of free resources? 45? 65? 80? If your computer is like most folks, you'll have maybe 45 percent free.

Which of course means over half of your system's brains are being clogged. And that's why your system may freeze up, lock up, fall apart, or collapse. No amount of CPR or Advanced Computer Life Support will cure it.

The only way to "fix" your computer's resource problem is to reboot... that is, restart.

*(Editor's Note. The performance tab in XP is included in the Advanced Tab but does not show the information on resources used!!)*

*The information of available and total physical memory is found in All Programs/Accessories/System Tools/System information)*

### "Protect Yourself Or Forever Regret"

With all the email viruses that are spread on a daily basis, there's got to be some way to protect yourself. Some kind of filtering mechanism that strains these things out of the ether ... and keeps them at bay.

But of course there's not really such a device. So what do you use? A good anti-virus program? A lot of people don't use anything at all. Until they're suddenly and rudely awakened to the fact that THEY'VE been spreading a virus, and by then, it's too late!

One of the best free virus killers can be downloaded from <http://www.freeavg.com> Viruses are spread primarily by file attachment. They ride in on the wings of messages and invite you to click them.

There's a powerful psychological force called curiosity that may cause you to do what you know you shouldn't.

Then there are worms, trojans, and other critters you should be aware of.

Learn more here ==> <http://newbieclub.com/viralhome.php> Nobody will force you to take care of your computer. Nobody will pass a law stating you have to install an anti-virus gizmo on your computer. But just wait till you catch one! (I hope that doesn't happen.)

Finally, there's no substitute for a fire wall if your computer is connected by cable modem or DSL. Learn more about the fire wall, and why you should think seriously about having one installed. The article is short and easy to read. Read it here==> <http://newbieclub.com/firewall.php> Better safe than \*extremely\* sorry!

### "How To Avoid A Downloading Disaster"

There's no reason why you CAN'T do this... but there \*is\* a reason why you should NOT.

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When you download, DO NOT try to download directly to a CD-ROM, or if you have one, a floppy disk. Download to your computer's hard drive - usually your C:drive.

Why?

Your hard drive is MUCH faster than your A: drive (floppy drive). And it holds a lot more than a little 1.44 megabyte floppy could ever think of holding.

Many of our customers have tried downloading our products to their floppy disks, or to a CD. We always tell them to download to their hard drive, or "C: drive" then to make a COPY of the program onto their CD. We only have one program that is small enough to fit on a floppy disk: Keyboard Magic. It is about half a megabyte in size... which means you could fit two of them on a floppy! (See what Keyboard Magic is all about by visiting: <http://newbieclub.com/keyboard>) CDs are usually created by going through your CD software that lets you "burn" a CD. We don't have tutorials on this process, as it differs greatly, depending on the manufacturer of the software and player you have installed.

But when it comes to downloading, just save the file to your computer's hard drive (C). Then move it later. This will save you a lot of frustration!

## **"How To Turn A Folder Into A Toolbar"**

Here's a very neat trick you can try out. If you experiment with it, you'll find it comes in very handy.

To save cluttering up your Desktop with too many icons, you can save a lot of hunting around for saved stuff by creating a folder and downloading related stuff to it - like all your motoring ebooks, or free marketing ebooks...

RIGHT click on an empty area of your Desktop Select 'New' then 'Folder' A new folder appears on your Desktop. While the name 'New Folder' is still active, type in the name you want - like 'Motoring'.

If your PC won't allow you to do this, then RIGHT click on the folder and select 'Rename' and type in 'Motoring' or whatever.

You can fill this folder with anything already sitting on your Desktop by left clicking on an existing object or folder and while keeping your finger depressed, drag it across into the new folder. Then release the button.

Easy Peasy, but here's the cool part ...

Click your mouse pointer over the new folder and hold the left mouse button down. Now drag the folder to the edge of the screen.

Magically it turns into a taskbar with all the individual folders, ebooks or whatever on display!

Every time you place something into that folder it will appear in your new taskbar.

When you get fed up with it, just RIGHT click anywhere on the toolbar and click the Close toolbar command, or untick the toolbar name.

## **"How To Save Your Email Messages"**

Each and every email message you send is saved in your 'Sent Items' folder. That's usually near the bottom of the 'Folder List' window (on the left of your Outlook Express window).

However, there may be times when you are compiling an email and wish to save it and finish it later, rather than send it immediately. Maybe the kids' feeding trough needs re-filling. Or your Pager beeps. Or your the phone rings - or sings - or jingles - or flashes - or plays the National Anthem!

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Here's how to do it. Open Outlook express, or Outlook, to try it...

Start writing a new email.

Include a title in the subject line so you'll recognize it later.

Click on 'File' in your top toolbar.

Click on 'Save' in the flyout window.

Done!

Easy eh? Yeah but WHERE has it gone?

To retrieve it ...

Click to open your 'Drafts' folder (usually near the top of your 'Folder List' window).

Find and open your draft email message.

Continue writing , then send it off in the usual way.

If you wish, you can save an email to anywhere on your PC - your gardening tutorials or whatever.

In that case ...

Instead of clicking 'Save' click 'Save As'.

You'll be given the choice of exactly where you wish to save it.

Give it a name and click 'Save'.

Do the same if you want to save an incoming email to a folder of your choice. Just open the email and 'Save As' as above

## Windows Secrets Advice & Warnings

### Free tools deactivate unsafe ActiveX controls

By Scott Dunn

**Don't count on Microsoft to shut down ActiveX vulnerabilities when they arise, as Microsoft Access users learned last Patch Tuesday when the company had no fix to offer for a leaky ActiveX plug-in.**

ActiveX security holes appear all the time, so you need these tips and tools to keep your system safe from flawed or malicious Internet Explorer add-ins.

**An explosion in the number of ActiveX exploits Microsoft designed ActiveX back in 1996 as a way to share data, run applications, and display animations in Internet Explorer. While Windows has some ActiveX components of its own, most ActiveX controls must be downloaded separately to access all of the functions on a Web site that relies on them.**

Unfortunately, malware producers make ActiveX controls that spy on you and pull other dirty tricks. Also, otherwise-harmless ActiveX elements are exploited by hackers to attack users' systems. That's what happened with the recent vulnerability in the Snapshot Viewer function of Microsoft Access, as reported in Network World

[http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/946a4dh/?url=www.networkworld.com%2Fnews%2F2008%2F071408-symantec-microsoft-access-activex-attacks.html%3Fts0hb%3D%26story%3Dts\\_rust](http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/946a4dh/?url=www.networkworld.com%2Fnews%2F2008%2F071408-symantec-microsoft-access-activex-attacks.html%3Fts0hb%3D%26story%3Dts_rust).

In recent years, the number of ActiveX vulnerabilities has grown exponentially, according to a study

<http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/78fc5ch/?url=forums.symantec.com%2Fsymment%2Fblog%2Farticle%3Fmessage.uid%3D305906> published last year by Symantec.

In 2006 alone, researcher H.D. Moore identified more than 100 vulnerabilities in the ActiveX components built into Windows XP and nearly 100 others in controls that ship with Microsoft Office and other mainstream applications, according to a SecurityFocus report <http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/9e3297h/?url=www.securityfocus.com%2Fnews%2F11403> written by Robert Lemos. This was just a few months after Microsoft had released ten patches for IE, including one for ActiveX itself.

Just enter activex on the Windows Secrets search page

<http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/36e146h/?url=windowssecrets.com%2Fs>

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[earch%2F>](#) to find numerous examples of ActiveX problems and patches in the past few years.

**Protect yourself against flawed ActiveX controls With new ActiveX risks popping up several times a year, how can you protect yourself from security problems related to this technology? Here are several steps to consider.**

**Switch browsers. Since IE is one of the few browsers that rely on ActiveX, you can easily avoid problems related to the controls by using a different browser, such as the free Firefox 3**

<http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/24acb6h/?url=www.mozilla.com%2Fen-US%2Ffirefox%2Fall.html> or Opera 9.5 <http://www.opera.com/download/>.

These IE alternatives are not free of security issues of their own, of course. But Microsoft's policy of releasing patches only on one Patch Tuesday each month means that when a problem is discovered, a solution may be weeks away.

**Turn off ActiveX. To deactivate ActiveX in IE, choose Tools, Internet Options, Security. Click the Custom level button at the bottom of the dialog and select Disable for every item listed under "ActiveX controls and plug-ins." Click OK twice and restart IE.**

Of course, disabling ActiveX may cause some functions on a Web page not to work properly. Also, some corporate intranets require ActiveX, so you may need to change these settings back to use all the features on those sites.

For additional ways to tweak IE for safety, see Brian Livingston's tips from the Oct. 26, 2006

<http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/b90005h/?url=windowssecrets.com%2F2006%2F10%2F26%2F01-IE-7-needs-tweaking-for-safety>, issue.

**Fine-tune your ActiveX management. Turning off all ActiveX functions in IE is something of a sledgehammer approach. For a more surgical solution, use a product that deactivates only selected ActiveX controls.**

**I took three such utilities for a test drive: Errata Security's AxBan** <http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/23c0f3h/?url=www.erratasec.com%2Fresearch.html> and two programs from Nir Sofer: ActiveX Compatibility Manager <http://www.nirsoft.net/utills/acm.html> and ActiveXHelper <http://www.nirsoft.net/utills/axhelper.html>.

All three programs are free, standalone executables, which means there's no installation required. All three also let you select and disable or enable a given ActiveX component, including the ability to turn off Snapshot Viewer's ActiveX control, which is the unpatched

Access vulnerability I mentioned above.

In addition to checking for the Snapshot Viewer problem, I tested whether the programs let me disable the Flash ActiveX object. AxBan passed this test, as did ActiveXCompatibility Manager. However, I had to manually add the entry to the latter program before I could disable it. ActiveXHelper displayed the Flash object by default but failed to disable it.

Although AxBan uses a format similar to Windows Explorer's Details view, you can't sort its list of controls nor search for specific items. What you see is what you get.

You can disable or enable items by editing the Registry using a technique called a "kill bit," which is described in Microsoft Knowledge Base article 240797 <http://WindowsSecrets.com/links/mrobi86js2jdd/47d47dh/?url=support.microsoft.com%2Fdefault.aspx%3Fkbid%3D240797>. Unfortunately, AxBan doesn't give you granular control over these items: Your only option is to disable all red-highlighted items at once by choosing the KillBit All button.

You can re-enable individual items by selecting one and clicking Unkillbit Selected. Unfortunately, multiple selections aren't allowed, so if you want to disable only some controls, make a note of the ones you want to re-enable later before you click the KillBit All button (which also removes the red highlight).

Despite its clumsy controls and interface, AxBan is the best choice for the average user because it presents a manageable list of known items only rather than overwhelming you with a huge roster of all the ActiveX controls in your Registry.

**A less-exhaustive list of troublesome controls ActiveX Compatibility Manager presents a database of ActiveX components that can be disabled or enabled using the same kill-bit technique as AxBan.**

As in Windows Explorer, you can sort the list by clicking column heads for File Description, Company, Filename, and other categories. Without this capability, it would be difficult to locate just the controls installed on your system (items that are not installed lack these names and descriptions).

The program's list of ActiveX components is not exhaustive, however, as shown by the feature that lets you add new entries just by entering class IDs in the Registry. Class IDs are a series of numbers and letters, as distinguished from the more prosaic program IDs (for example, ShockwaveFlash.ShockwaveFlash). It wasn't clear to me why Flash and other popular items aren't on the list to start with.

In addition to adding items, you can search, delete, and copy controls to the Windows clipboard. To enable or disable controls, simply select one or more items, click the green (enable) or red (disable) buttons on the toolbar, and restart IE.

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**This control killer is undone by media players ActiveXHelper shares many features with Sofer's ActiveX Compatibility Manager, including the ability to search, sort, copy, enable, and disable controls. Unlike ActiveX Compatibility Manager, however, ActiveXHelper prompts you for the source of items to list each time. The program can list items found in the Registry's HKEY\_CLASSES\_ROOT\CLSID key or show a custom list or text file.**

In my tests, I was unable to use the product to disable Flash ActiveX controls. Clicking the Disable button neither changed the Enabled status listed in the window nor affected the use of Flash in IE. Consequently, I can't recommend this utility.

If you can't bring yourself to give up Internet Explorer or its ActiveX technology, I recommend you (cautiously!) try a tool such as AxBan or ActiveX Compatibility Manager.

But whatever your strategy, always keep your browser and other network-connected software patched with the latest security updates, as recommended here in Windows Secrets.

## *We're all speaking Geek*

**By Ben Macintyre The London Sunday Times, August 13, 2006** The world wide web, which turned 15 this week, has given us a fantastic outpouring of new words FIFTEEN YEARS after the birth of the world wide web, the lines of battle are clear. On one side the still young culture of the internet — anarchic, playful, joyfully (and sometimes wilfully) inaccurate, global and uncontrollable; on the other, a paper-based set of priorities — precise, polite, often national in perspective and increasingly paranoid. The latter seeks to manage, limit and define the culture; the former delights in its resistance to regulation.

The battle rages in the conflict between Wikipedia, the sprawling internet encyclopaedia, and the Encyclopaedia Britannica, the canon versus the loose cannon.

This week it erupted in the nursery, when the child-rearing guru Gina Ford threw a tantrum and launched her bizarre attempt to shut down the Mumsnet website because some of the mums had been rude about her.

But in no area of the culture is the collision more intense than over the English language, for the web has changed English more radically than any invention since paper, and much faster. According to Paul Payack, who runs the Global Language Monitor, there are currently 988,974 words in the English language, with thousands more emerging every month. By his calculation, English will adopt its one millionth word in late November. To put that statistic another way, for every French word, there are now ten in English.

That claim has enraged traditional lexicographers.

The 20-volume OED has 301,100 entries, and purists point out that Mr

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Payack has little in the way of method and few criteria to define what really constitutes a word. But that, of course, is the point.

He found the remaining 687,874 words by scouring the internet. Every digital English dictionary was combed, before adding in the emerging words, the hybrids, Chinglish (Chinese-English), the slang, the linguistic odds and sods, and even Hollywords, terms created by the film industry. If a word is used in English, it was acceptable.

The nearest rival to English in sheer fecundity is Chinese, and with 1.3 billion Chinese now being officially urged to learn English, the result is no-mogamosis (It is on the list: “A state of marital harmony; a condition in which spouses are well matched.”) and many, many offspring, some of them rather sweet. Drinktea, for example, is a sign on a shop door meaning closed, but also derives from the Mandarin for resting.

The so-called tipping point may have come in the mid-1990s at the same time as the invention of the first effective web browser, for ever since the web has served as a seedbed for language, for the cross-fertilisation and rapid evolution of words.

So far from debasing the language, the rapid expansion of English on the web may be enriching the mother tongue. Like Latin, it has developed different forms that bear little relation to one another: a speaker of Hinglish (Hindi-English) would have little to say to a Chinglish speaker. But while the root of Latin took centuries to grow its linguistic branches, modern non-standard English is evolving at fabulous speed. The language of the internet itself, the cyberisms that were once the preserve of a few web boffins, has simultaneously expanded into a new argot of words and idioms: Ancient or Classic Geek has given way to Modern Geek.

The web has revived the possibilities of word-coinage in a way not seen since Shakespearean times, when the language was gradually assuming its modern structure but was not yet codified into dictionaries (the first comprehensive English dictionary appeared in 1730). Then, as now, the lack of control, and the rapid absorption of new terms and ideas through explora-

tion, colonisation and science, enabled a great flowering of words. Of the 24,000 words used by Shakespeare, perhaps 1,700 were his own inventions: besmirch, anchovy, shudder, impede.

Thanks to the internet, we are witnessing the second great age of the neologism, a fantastic outpouring of words and phrases to describe new ideas or reshape old ideas in novel forms of language. Today, a word does not need the slow spread of verbal usage or literature to gain acceptance. If a word works, the internet can breathe instant life into it.

You do not have to be Shakespeare to forge words.

George Bush is constantly evolving new words, but no one should underestimate the ability of lesser wordsmiths to do likewise. So many words that ought to exist inexplicably do not. There should be a term for that momentary flash of embarrassment when a cell phone rings and you wonder if it is yours; and for the vague disappointment you feel when you think you are about to sneeze, take a deep breath and then don't. (National Public Radio in the US recently held a competition to name this proto-sneeze and came up with “sniff-hanger”.)

Why is there a word for *déjà vu*, but nothing to describe the opposite experience, far more common, of knowing something perfectly well but being quite unable to remember it?

Last year this newspaper reported the existence, in the Bantu language Tshiluba, of the long-needed word *ilunga*, meaning “a person who is ready to forgive any abuse for the first time, to tolerate it a second time, but never a third time”. Subsequent investigations suggested that the word may not exist in Tshiluba, but it exists now in English, as thousands of entries on the web attest, and the language is better for it.

Rather than fight the word loans and word borrowings, the strange hybrids and new coinages, we should welcome them. New words expand our world. They can even change it. If *ilunga* is the thrice-repeated offence that cannot be forgiven, then its opposite is an Arabic word, *taraadin*, meaning “I win, you win”, the face-saving way to end an argument. As

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bombs fall on southern Lebanon and missiles on northern Israel, the world could profit from learning a new language, in which ilunga is solved by ta-raadin.

[http://www.languagemonitor.com/Global\\_English.html](http://www.languagemonitor.com/Global_English.html)

*From ACTApple August 2008*

This was a real memo sent out by IBM to its employees in all seriousness. It went to all field engineers about a computer peripheral problem. The author of this memo was quite genuine.

The engineers rolled on the floor! Especially note the last couple of sentences.

'If a mouse fails to operate or should it perform erratically, it may need a ball replacement. Mouse balls are now available as FRU (Field Replacement Units).

Because of the delicate nature of this procedure, a replacement of mouse balls should only be attempted by properly trained personnel. Before proceeding, determine the type of mouse balls by examining the underside of the mouse. Domestic balls will be larger and harder than foreign balls.

Ball removal procedures differ depending upon the manufacturer of the mouse. Foreign balls can be replaced using the pop off method. Domestic balls are replaced by using the twist off method. Mouse balls are not usually static sensitive. However, excessive handling can result in sudden discharge.

Upon completion of ball replacement, the mouse may be used immediately.

It is recommended that each person have a pair of spare balls for maintaining optimum customer satisfaction. Any customer missing his balls should contact the local personnel in charge of removing and replacing these necessary items.

Please keep in mind that a customer without properly working balls is an unhappy customer.'

My mouse has a red eye and no balls!

## Etymology 101 Sharon Zardetto and Andy Baird

**bug** A mistake in the design or programming of an application. Many people mistakenly report **the origin of this term as a 1947 incident in which a (pre-transistor) computer error was caused by a moth trapped in a relay.** However, the log entry at the scene of the crime, the Harvard Computation Laboratory, states, "First actual case of a bug being found."; so, it's obvious that the term 'bug' predates the incident. In fact, the word 'bug' for a design error or problem was used in the engineering field a hundred years before the personal computer was born; even Edison wrote of dealing with bugs in his inventions in the 1870s.

**The Harvard log has been preserved for posterity, with the desiccated insect still taped to the page. (It is safe to say that this is the only entry that mixes etymology and entomology.)**

[ei.cs.vt.edu/~history/Bug.GIF](http://ei.cs.vt.edu/~history/Bug.GIF).

**Ogg Vorbis, .ogg** A type of audio compression sometimes used as an alternative to MP3. iTunes and iPods can't play .ogg files, but audio programs such as Amadeus can read them and convert them to MP3 format.

**The name, in case you're wondering—and how could you not be?—comes from Exquisitor Vorbis, a character in Terry Pratchett's science fiction novel Small Gods, plus the slang term 'ogging', meaning a kamikazestyle attack, that was used in the online game Netrek. What did any of this have to do with audio? Search us!** [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exquisitor\\_Vorbis#Vorbis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exquisitor_Vorbis#Vorbis).

**pixel** From pictures (pics) element: a single dot on your screen, or on a digital camera's image sensor (in which case you're usually talking about megapixels, or millions of pixels).

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**quarter** Joking jargon for two bits of information. In the 18th century, Spanish gold coins were **sometimes cut into eight pieces, referred to as bits (which is where the phrase ‘pieces of eight’ comes from); since the Spanish coin was about equal in value to the American dollar, two bits equalled a quarter.**

**spam** The bane of email, annual spam-related costs are estimated in billions of dollars (that **includes all the time you waste wading through nonsense about Nigerian bank accounts and ‘personal performance’ enhancers**). In fact, it’s estimated that two thirds of all email traffic is spam!

The term originates from a 1970 Monty Python sketch wherein everything on a café menu includes Spam™ and all conversation is drowned out by a background chorus of ‘Spam, Spam, Spam, Spam, lovely Spam, wonderful Spam.’

**Wi-Fi** We have it on good authority— the first president of the Wi-Fi Alliance, via Take Control author Glenn Fleishman—that Wi-Fi does not stand for ‘wireless fidelity’, or for anything else: it was chosen on a recommendation from a naming firm (an industry that should hire someone to come up with a better name for its companies).

Wi-Fi, although often used generically to refer to wireless setups, is a set of standards that includes data formats, security protocols, reliability, and a guarantee that devices will play well with others. It’s also a registered trademark of the Wi-Fi alliance, whose logo can go on only totally compliant equipment.

**wiki** WICK-ee · A reader-editable Web page: the famous Wikipedia being the foremost example. Wiki comes from the pidgin (not standard Hawaiian) word wikiwiki, meaning quick, and the original name for this type of site, a wikiwikiweb.

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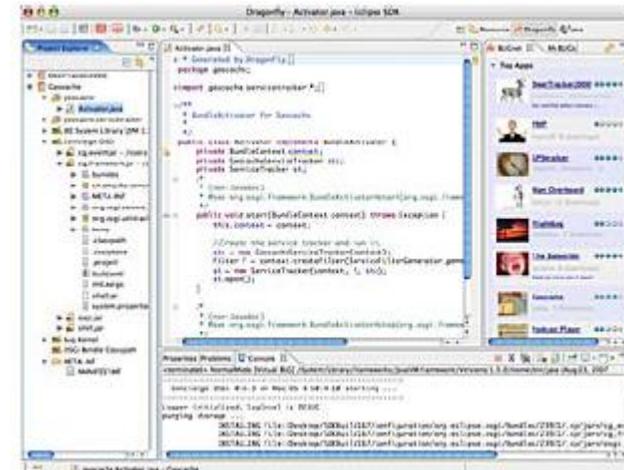
Take Control: The Mac OS X Lexicon is an ebook available at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/maclexicon.html>.

User-group member discount, 10% on all Take Control titles: coupon code

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Excerpt files for user group publications: [http:// www.33thingsbooks.com/XLex.html](http://www.33thingsbooks.com/XLex.html). Queries:

xllex@33thingsbooks.com. Email Sharon (sharonLex@33thingsbooks.com) or Andy (Andy@33thingsbooks.com) about the Lexicon.



**Bug** of a different sort **BUG** is a collection of easy-to-use electronic modules that snap together to build any gadget you can imagine. Each **BUG** module represents a specific gadget function (e.g. a camera, a keyboard, a video output, etc). You decide which functions to include and **BUG** takes care of the rest, letting you try out different combinations quickly and easily. With **BUG** and the integrated programming environment/ online community (**BUGnet**), anyone can build, program and share innovative devices and applications. We don’t define the final products: you do.

The **BUG** software development kit (SDK) running on a Mac: yes, it’s open-source

Read more at [buglabs.net](http://buglabs.net).

The **BUG** base, into which other modules plug

