

Japan may track defense officials with GPS phones



Japan's government wants to use mobile phones with GPS--often used by parents to keep track of children--to keep tabs on senior defense officials, prompting ire from some of the bureaucrats.

The idea was raised after the former No. 2 at the defense ministry admitted this week that he had been treated to hundreds of expensive rounds of golf by a

defense contractor.

Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba said he wanted to prevent a rerun of the scandal by keeping track of officials' whereabouts, but the plan has sparked a volley of protest.

"We're not children," the Sankei Shimbun daily quoted one unidentified official as saying.

"They are ignoring our privacy," another anonymous bureaucrat told the paper.

The mobile phones would only be issued to senior staff required to report for duty in the case of a security emergency, the newspaper said. "The defense ministry has responsibility for the country's independence and peace," the defense minister told reporters when asked about the complaints by ministry staff. "If they are saying their privacy is more important, that's fine. They should say so publicly."

Submitted by: Greg.

Microsoft sees Vista growth phase under way



Microsoft's Windows Vista is starting to see mass adoption from businesses nearly a year after it was released, the company said while

predicting a strong first holiday season for the product.

"We feel like we are starting to hit our stride not only in demand, but in deployment in business," Kevin Johnson, president of Microsoft's platform

and services group, said in an interview.

Microsoft delivered quarterly results last week that eclipsed Wall Street's most bullish forecasts, helped in part by strong demand for Vista, the latest upgrade to its flagship Windows operating system. Vista was introduced to consumers in January.

Vista's success was not always a foregone conclusion. Early Vista buyers complained about the lack of compatibility with existing devices and software programs.

Microsoft also buckled to PC manufacturer demands that the company delay the scheduled transition to Vista and extend sales of its previous Windows operating system, Windows XP, for another five months because some customers preferred XP.

In a note to clients on Wednesday, Bernstein Research analyst Charles Di Bona said he thinks Vista's upgrade cycle is "underappreciated" and expects growth at the Windows business to be stronger than market expectations.

Di Bona forecasts Windows revenue to grow by 15 percent in this fiscal year ending in June versus Microsoft's own estimate of an increase of 12 percent to 13 percent. Each percentage point of growth represents about \$150 million in revenue and roughly \$110 million in operating profit, based on previous results.

Windows runs on more than 90 percent of the world's computers and Microsoft makes about 75 cents in profit for every dollar in Windows sales. The Windows client business generated \$15 billion in revenue in fiscal 2007.

Premium and piracy Revenue in that segment, Microsoft's largest and most profitable unit, rose 25 percent in the September quarter, boosted by a PC market growing around 15 percent.

In addition, improved measures to curb piracy and greater adoption of higher-margin, premium versions of Vista helped push the segment's sales above PC market growth, Johnson said in an interview this week.

Microsoft executives have said for years that being able to crack down on pirated versions of its software will help drive significant increases in sales. Chief Executive Steve Ballmer has said that more than 20 percent of its software running around the world is pirated.

Vista comes with a new authentication program that sends security updates and improves service to users of genuine copies of Windows. Johnson said the company has made progress in educating consumers to the advantages of buying more expensive, non-pirated versions.

As consumers use their computers more for home entertainment, Microsoft has boosted the percentage of higher-end versions of Windows. Premium versions accounted for about 75 percent of all Windows copies in the first quarter, compared with about 59 percent a year earlier, Di Bona said in his report.

Microsoft's Johnson said the company should see a pick-up in corporate deployment of Vista after the release of Windows Vista Service Pack 1, the first major update to the new operating system.

A sign of business customers' intent to upgrade was a 27 percent increase in unearned revenue in the Windows business during the past quarter, Johnson said.

Unearned, or deferred, revenue reflects long-term contracts on the balance sheet that have been signed but not recognized as income until the product is delivered. In this case, it is when the customers start deploying Windows Vista.

Submitted by: Greg.

INSTALLING HUSBAND

Dear Tech Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct slow down in overall system performance --

Particularly in the flower and jewelry applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5 and then installed undesirable programs such as NFL 5.0, NBA 3.0, and Golf Clubs 4.1. Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and Housecleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. I've tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail.

What can I do?

Signed, Desperate

Dear Desperate:

First keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an Entertainment Package, While Husband 1.0 is an Operating System. Please enter the command: "http: I Thought You Loved Me.HTML" and try to download Tears 6.2 and don't forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update. If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5.

But remember, overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0 or Beer 6.1. Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download the Snoring Loudly Beta.

Whatever you do, DO NOT install Mother-in-law 1.0 (it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources). Also, do not attempt to reinstall the Boyfriend 5.0 program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband 1.0.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend Food 3.0 and Hot Lingerie 7.7.

Good Luck, Tech Support

U.K. insurer launches networking site for over-50s



Saga, a British insurance and travel company for the over-50s, has launched a social networking Web site for silver surfers in a bid to emulate the huge popularity of MySpace, Bebo, and Facebook.

Saga Zone aims to attract those aged over 50 to the burgeoning social networking sector currently dominated by younger users.

It will enable users to create their own profiles, contact friends or join online groups and Web forums.

The site has been running in trial mode for four months and has so far attracted 13,000 members.

The oldest "zoner" to date is 87-year-old Thelma Hind, from Bangor in Northern Ireland.

"Social networking sites, like Saga Zone, can be a real lifeline for older people who can sometimes feel cut off and lonely," she said.

Social activism has proved popular on the site so far, with petitions on prostate cancer, disability benefits and food allowances having so far been started.

Forums have been created on subjects ranging from junk food advertisements, cholesterol and weight loss to gardening tips and relationship advice.

The site launch comes after a survey for Saga showed that the grey pound is helping to drive the online economy.

Almost three-quarters of 15,740 over-50s polled said they had bought flights online, almost 60 percent had purchased event tickets and half had bought train tickets.

Books, electrical items, CDs and insurance policies were also popular online purchases.

Saga's site is not the first to attempt to cash in on the social networking craze among affluent older surfers.

Eons, an American site for baby boomers, was developed last year by the founder of job search engine Monster.com but has not proved as popular as was hoped and was forced to lay off employees last month.

Submitted by: Greg.

Apple nukes QuickTime for Java, plugs more code execution holes



Less than a week after its QuickTime media player made the top-ten list of most vulnerable Windows applications, Apple shipped QuickTime 7.3 to patch a total of at least seven vulnerabilities that could lead to code execution

attacks.

The update, available for both Mac and Windows (XP and Vista) users, also includes the removal of QuickTime for Java, a move that significantly reduces the attack surface on the company's flagship digital media player.

Apple also shipped a new version of iTunes but there is no security content associated with that release.

According to an advisory from Cupertino, QuickTime 7.3 provides fixes for seven potentially serious flaws that could open up Mac and Windows machines to denial-of-service, privilege escalation or drive-by malware attacks.

[SEE: Yahoo Messenger, QuickTime top list of most vulnerable Windows apps]

The skinny on the flaws/fixes:

CVE-2007-2395: A memory corruption issue exists in QuickTime's handling of image description atoms. By enticing a user to open a maliciously crafted movie file, an attacker may cause an unexpected application termination or

[Go to the top of this page](#)

(Continued on page 5)

arbitrary code execution.

CVE-2007-3750: A heap buffer overflow exists in QuickTime Player's handling of Sample Table Sample Descriptor (STSD) atoms. By enticing a user to open a maliciously crafted movie file, an attacker may cause an unexpected application termination or arbitrary code execution.

CVE-2007-3751: Multiple vulnerabilities exist in QuickTime for Java, which may allow untrusted Java applets to obtain elevated privileges. By enticing a user to visit a web page containing a maliciously crafted Java applet, an attacker may cause the disclosure of sensitive information and arbitrary code execution with elevated privileges. This update addresses the issues by making QuickTime for Java no longer accessible to untrusted Java applets.

CVE-2007-4672: A stack buffer overflow exists in PICT image processing. By enticing a user to open a maliciously crafted image, an attacker may cause an unexpected application termination or arbitrary code execution.

CVE-2007-4676: A heap buffer overflow exists in PICT image processing. By enticing a user to open a maliciously crafted image, an attacker may cause an unexpected application termination or arbitrary code execution.

CVE-2007-4675: A heap buffer overflow exists in QuickTime's handling of panorama sample atoms in QTVR (QuickTime Virtual Reality) movie files. By enticing a user to view a maliciously crafted QTVR file, an attacker may cause an unexpected application termination or arbitrary code execution.

CVE-2007-4677: A heap buffer overflow exists in the parsing of the color table atom when opening a movie file. By enticing a user to open a maliciously crafted movie file, an attacker may cause an unexpected application termination or arbitrary code execution.

Submitted by: Greg.

My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

[Go to the top of this page](#)

Michael Barrett on Web 2.0: This stuff scares the hell out of me



When Michael Barrett (CISO, Paypal) heard the Eric Nolin was putting on Defrag, he called up and said "I'd like to come and talk because this stuff scares the hell out of me." His key messages: (a) we're doomed to repeat history if we ignore it and (b) security is hard. Not exactly earth shattering news—but one we're inclined to ignore in our giddy rush to new uses for the Web.

Michael puts up a rogue's gallery of protocols that have missed security: telnet, SNMP community strings, Kerberos, and WEP. He says of WEP: "What were they thinking?" WEP cost TJ Maxx somewhere in the \$200 million dollar range. He adds OpenID to the list. When it's used outside specific use cases, OpenID is open to phishing attacks.

The Web 1.0 standards are broken: You can't write a safe Unicode webapp. Most Web sites are vulnerable to cross site scripting. It's impossible to write software that fully validates it's inputs and screens it's outputs. DNS poisoning is a threat on any network—especially open ones. How can you build secure eCommerce when 30% of the endpoint PCs on the Internet are compromised?

What's worse, nothing in Web 2.0 has done anything to fix the Web 1.0 issues—it's simply given us more poorly executed protocols and standards to worry about. A couple of examples:

"XML DSig doesn't work" (PDF)

"WS-Security is like running with scissors" (PDF)

The problem is exacerbated the fact that even well-designed protocols get implemented poorly by programmers who don't fully understand them.

Of course, there's no silver bullet. A very reliable source recently told Michael that the take from electronic crime is now higher, worldwide,

(Continued on page 6)

than that from illegal drugs! The bad guys are extremely well funded and the take is huge. As a result, the problem is likely to get worse—especially if we ignore it.

Submitted by: Greg.

HP starts taking orders for its Windows Home Server systems



On November 5, Hewlett-Packard — the biggest and best known of the Windows Home Server (WHS) OEMs — began taking orders for its HP MediaSmart Servers.

Microsoft is positioning WHS as a “stay-at-home” server that delivers the benefits of powerful server technology

used by many people at work within a simple, easy-to-use solution for the home.”

Customers can order the HP MediaSmart systems on Amazon.com, BestBuy.com, Buy.Com, CircuitCity.com and CompUSA.com. The systems will be shipped to customers and be available via “other leading retailer Web sites” some time later this month, according to Microsoft.

HP originally was slated to begin shipping the MediaSmart Server on September 15. It postponed the launch of its systems to wait for an update to the final code from Microsoft. Microsoft delivered the first WHS update, which included a number of fixes and a few pieces of new functionality, to customers and OEM partners in September.

The MediaSmart servers are not the first WHS units available to customers. Now shipping are the Tranquil PC T7-HSA Tranquil Harmony Home Server and the Velocity Micro NetMagix HomeServer, as well as a number of different configurations from system builders, such as Ace Computers, Advantec, PC Club and Universal Systems Inc. A number of other OEMs, including Gateway, Fujitsu Siemens and Intel, are slated to ship WHS platforms in the coming months.

Microsoft already is working on the next couple

[Go to the top of this page](#)

of WHS releases — a “minor” build known as UR1 and a “major” release some time after that. The next collection of fixes/updates for the existing WHS build is due out later this month

Submitted by: Greg.

Microsoft releases details on Vista activation



For nearly a year, Microsoft has refused to release technical details of the changes it made to its Product Activation technology in Windows Vista. The company was more than willing to speak

in broad terms about the program and how it works, but it kept the details confidential, classifying them as trade secrets.

Until last week, that is. A newly released Technical Market Bulletin entitled Product Activation for Windows Vista and Windows Server 2008 unexpectedly appeared on Microsoft’s Download Center last week. Curiously, the document was dated September 2007, but the Date Published field indicates that it was kicking around internally for more than a month before being officially released.

The document is similar in many respects to the Technical Market Bulletin: Microsoft Product Activation for Windows XP (Word .doc format), released in August 2001, before the launch of Windows XP, and updated in 2002 after Microsoft made some activation changes in XP Service Pack 1.

Historically, the underlying principle of Product Activation has been simple: You can reinstall Windows on the original hardware as many times as you like and activate it automatically over the Internet. You need to reactivate over the phone if the hardware is substantially changed. That’s been the hard-and-fast rule for more than six years.

With that history in mind, I was surprised (to put it mildly) when I read this sentence on the next-

(Continued on page 7)

to-last page of the Vista activation bulletin:

Reinstallation of Windows Vista or Windows Server 2008 on the same or similar hardware and a subsequent reactivation can be accomplished five times.

If that's true, it's a major change in policy for Microsoft. I went back through all my notes and records looking for any indication that this policy has been announced previously and found nothing. So I contacted Microsoft to get an explanation and got an impressively rapid response from Alex Kochis, Senior Product Manager in the Windows Genuine Advantage (WGA) group. His blunt response: "There has been no meaningful policy change. We need to correct that paper."

The new activation document, it turns out, is missing some crucial details. A more complete description of the actual activation policy is found at the bottom of Microsoft's Windows Vista Activation FAQ:

How many times can I activate Windows Vista?

Windows can be activated any number of times, but your re-activation experience will vary based on the way you acquired Windows.

If you acquired Windows Vista via retail purchase (boxed product), you may activate via the Internet the first five times. Subsequent activations are allowed but must be completed via telephone.

If you acquire Windows Vista pre-installed on a computer, re-installation would not require additional activation steps unless significant hardware changes were made.

And even that description, Kochis explains, is potentially misleading. The policy allowing five automatic activations over the Internet has been in place for the past year, but it's subject to change at any time. The real goal, it turns out, is to block hackers who try to spoof parts of the hardware ID so that multiple systems can appear identical when they check in with Microsoft's activation servers. In that scenario, the server logs for a single product ID might show hundreds or even thousands of activation requests, leading to a

[Go to the top of this page](#)

requirement that the system be activated over the phone. In that scenario, a customer service representative can confirm that the activation request is legitimate.

For systems sold from large manufacturers (Dell, HP, Sony, and the like), activation is accomplished using a separate check called OEM Activation 2.0. If you reinstall Windows using the original media, activation should never be required unless the motherboard is replaced with one from a different manufacturer. The limit of five reactivations should only apply to retail copies, and then it will likely affect only hard core enthusiasts who repeatedly reinstall and attempt to reactivate retail copies.

If you fall into the latter category, here are three pieces of advice to avoid being bitten by activation hassles:

1. Take advantage of the initial 30-day grace period before activating. Delay activation until you're satisfied that all hardware and software are working as you intended.

2. Use an image backup program like Vista's Complete PC Backup (found in the Business and Ultimate editions) or a third-party alternative like Acronis True Image. After installing Windows and all current updates (including drivers), complete activation and then use the backup program to create a snapshot of the drive. If you ever need to reinstall, you can do so easily with that image, which won't require reactivation if it's restored to the original hardware.

3. If you're such a fanatic that you install Windows more than five times a year, get a TechNet Plus subscription. For \$299, you get a one-year subscription that includes perpetual licenses for every version of Windows Vista (including Ultimate), Windows XP Professional, Microsoft Office, and a slew of server software and tools. The licenses aren't valid for business use, but you can install and use each product on up to 10 separate machines for evaluation purposes, and the licenses don't expire even if you choose not to renew your subscription after the first year.

I'll have more details from this new technical bulletin, including a rundown on the activation

(Continued on page 8)

changes between XP and Vista.

Submitted by: Greg.

First look at Firefox 3.0 Beta 1

I noticed that the Beta 1 for Firefox 3.0 was made available sometime yesterday. I've been



curious as to whether the Firefox dev team would do a serious revamp for this release or just concentrate on bug fixes and performance improvements. Early indications seem to suggest that it is indeed a major revamp of both the core and the UI, and that Firefox will be a much better browser for it.

Check out the Firefox 3.0 beta 1 gallery.

I'm not a big Firefox user because I find the memory management to be very poor most of the time and the spiraling memory consumption affects both Firefox's performance and the overall performance of my systems. I like Firefox but Firefox just doesn't like me, so, while I have it installed on most systems, I mostly use Internet Explorer 7 and Opera for day to day browsing. Every time I say this I'm faced by a chorus of users telling me that there's no problem with the way that Firefox handles memory, but this isn't what I'm seeing. When a browser starts to edge near to consuming 500MB of RAM on a regular basis, something is wrong. Sure, I hammer the browser and have dozens of pages open at a time, but since both IE and Opera can handle this load, I expect Firefox to do so too. So far, it can't, and because of that the icon doesn't get clicked on that often.

Over the past few years I've felt that Firefox has lost its way and moved too far away from its roots. Firefox used to be about security and performance, but lately I've felt that add-ons and junking up the interface with eye-candy has taken priority over security and core stability.

Is Firefox 3.0 going to be better? Given what I'm seeing so far, I think so. Why? Because it looks like Mozilla have gone back to basics and worked on what really matters to users - security, speed and ease of use.

Everything about Firefox 3.0 beta 1 is fast. The download package is small which means that it comes in fast, the installation is fast, the browser fires up fast, pages and tabs open fast, the browser shuts down fast, and the uninstall process is fast and painless (I always like to test the uninstall process on applications because there's nothing worse than having a bad house guest on your system that you can't get rid of). This is all good stuff.

Without a doubt the Firefox 3.0 UI has been dramatically improved. Compare version 3 to version 2 and you instantly see the difference. Everything is brighter, clearer, and easier to access. Things that should be simple, such as bookmarking, saving passwords, and finding words and phrases in the text of a web page are now simple. Page zooming is brilliant, as is the feature that resumes interrupted downloads.

Security is also greatly improved. Only time will tell if the core of Firefox 3.0 will be any more secure than previous versions, but without a doubt version 3 makes it harder for hackers to get a foothold into systems. Not only have the SSL error pages been redesigned, but there's also malware and web forgery protection available. Add-on and plugin security has also been beefed up considerably. To top that off, Firefox integrates with your anti-virus app and with the Parental Controls feature in Windows Vista.

Firefox 3.0 is so far looking good! If you're interested in taking Firefox 3.0 beta 1 for a spin, be sure to read the disclaimer: Please note: We do not recommend that anyone other than developers and testers download the Firefox 3 Beta 1 milestone release. It is intended

[Go to the top of this page](#)

(Continued on page 9)

for testing purposes only.

I didn't have any problems but your mileage may vary considerably.

Submitted by: Greg.

Computer tips and tricks.

Deleting photos from your memory

When deleting photos from your memory card, you should "format" the card, rather than deleting individual pictures.



I had heard this before but understood it was because the card's memory gets smaller each time, if you don't format. Read your owner's manual if you don't know how to format.

Apparently much worse things can happen. When you delete individual pictures, a little data is left on the card, making the memory smaller each time. But...also, the card can become damaged so that it is not useable and you may not even be able to get your present pictures from it. I found that scary. What if they were "once in a lifetime" photos?

[Go to the top of this page](#)

On the flip side of this....if you have not formatted your memory card and have lost your photos, for whatever reason, the fellow said you can bring your card into them and they can retrieve "deleted" photos from your card. Had not heard this before.

Another thing he said was that you should "professionally" print any photos you want to keep "forever". Home printing inks can fade. CDs may not be used in the future and a couple of other reasons that I can't remember. Should have had my own memory formatted

Written Arlene Brownhill

New FREE video tutorials help you build a better Web site



What's better than reading insightful tips about improving your Web site and creating compelling content? Getting all that great info in a video! Microsoft Office Live Small Business has partnered with Website Pros to create video tutorials that walk you through Web site design and planning ideas that can really improve your success online. [Watch the FREE videos.](#)

Web design no-nos: 5 mistakes to avoid

In a recent poll, 45 percent of Web users said they click away from a poorly designed site. To keep visitors from clicking away from your site, get Christopher Elliot's advice about how to avoid common [Web design blunders](#).

Submitted by: Greg.

Be an Outlook 2003 attachment pro

Learn how to attach pictures and other files to your Outlook [e-mail messages to show](#) and share information.

My mother taught me FORESIGHT.

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case

(Continued on page 10)

you're in an accident."

Find commands in the 2007 Office system

Find where your favorite Office 2003 commands are located in the new 2007 Office system interface.

My mother taught me RELIGION.

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

Bringing Back the Quick Launch Toolbar - Andy Rathbone



Microsoft took great pains to tidy up the look of Windows XP, leaving the Desktop as bare as possible. The My Computer icon and My Documents icon no longer wait for your click along the Desktop's edge, as they did in previous

Windows versions. Like everything else, they're now packed onto the Start menu.

Some programs still attempt to sprinkle their icons next to the clock for easy access. But Windows XP wants that area clear of icons, too; Windows XP automatically launches a robot to hide them — unless you tell it to stop.

Most of all, I miss the Quick Launch Toolbar — that little strip of frequently used icons that once sat next to my Start menu. In the old days, a single click on a favorite icon in the Quick Launch toolbar brought that program to life. With Windows XP's clean new look, users must constantly click the Start menu and swim through its waterfall of cascading menus to find their programs.

But when Windows XP takes away a former feature, it usually includes an option to put that feature back in place — if you know how. Here's how to put the Quick Launch Toolbar back to its spot next to the Start menu.

1. Right-click an unused part of your Taskbar. Even the clock will do.

[Go to the top of this page](#)

2. When the menu appears, point at the word Toolbars.

3. Choose Quick Launch from the slide-out menu.

The Quick Launch Toolbar, reappears in its rightful place next to the Start menu, where it remains. (If you don't like the toolbar, repeat the above steps to remove it.)

When the Quick Launch Toolbar first appears, it automatically displays three icons. Two are fairly obvious: Internet Explorer and Media Player. (Holding your mouse over any Quick Launch icon reveals its name and purpose.)

The middle icon, Show Desktop, is a personal favorite. Give it a click to immediately minimize all your open windows, providing you quick access to an icon you may wish to select from your desktop.

Because Quick Launch icons are merely shortcuts - pointers to programs and places — you can add Quick Launch icons for nearly anything: folders, programs, Web sites and pages, or even frequently used icons from your Control Panel. To add your own frequently used icons, "drag and drop" them onto the Toolbar.

For example, if you frequently use Windows XP's Shared Documents folder, try this:

1. Open the My Computer program and point at the Shared Documents folder icon.

2. While holding down the mouse button, point to a spot between two of the Toolbar's existing icons. As the mouse pointer hovers between two existing icons, a little line appears, showing where the new icon will appear.

3. Let go of the mouse button, and the Shared Documents icon appears on the Toolbar.

The Toolbar automatically converts dragged and dropped icons into shortcuts, leaving the original Shared Documents folder in its normal spot. Feel free to drag and drop a favorite program's icon from the Start menu and onto the Toolbar, as well.

(Continued on page 11)

There's one problem. A newly added icon often pushes the right-most icon out of view. To see all your icons again, make the Toolbar wider by dragging its border — the little dotted line on the right of the last Quick Launch icon — to the right. Can't see any border? Then right-click an unused part of your Taskbar and click the checkmark next to the words, Lock the Taskbar. That unlocks your Taskbar, letting you rearrange its contents easier.

Feel free to rearrange your Quick Launch area as your work habits change. Right-click any icons you no longer need, and choose Delete. Then drag and drop a new one into its place.

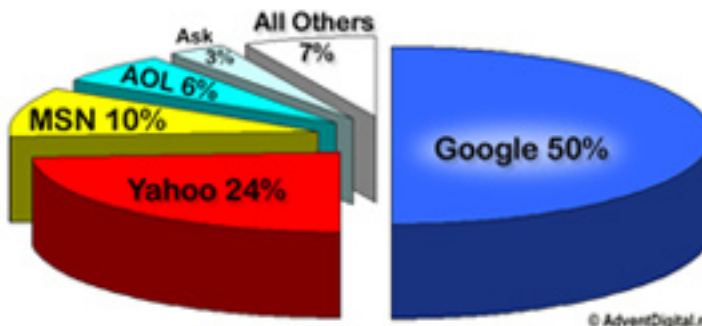
The Quick Launch Toolbar provides a handy spot to store frequently used shortcuts without having to clutter up your desktop. And that keeps both you and the tidy-minded Windows XP happy

Submitted by: Greg.

Search Engine Tips

If you want to get some information about any topic using search engine, the search engine will search the given information and will provide a list of links of websites along brief description about each website. You should use the right search terms for relevant results.

Search Engine Market Share 2006



The following points must be noted to search the information on the internet.

·You can type all word in lowercase and also in uppercase, search engine will return the same result. But the best practice is type search keywords always in lowercase.

Use + sign between words if you want to

[Go to the top of this page](#)

search for all the words. For example, to search history of Football in Europe, type as: history+Football+Europe

To search the exact match, write the words in double quotation marks. For example to search the map of Europe, then type as:"Map of Europe"

Always avoid to use "and", "or" with search keywords, because these words will affect the search result.

Submitted by: Greg.

How To Use A Second Monitor With Your XP Or Vista Laptop

More and more folks buy a laptop to use as their only computer these days. Portables are getting more powerful, but when you're working at home, you might want more screen real



estate than your laptop has to offer, especially if you prefer the compact, lightweight models for traveling. You probably know you can hook up an external monitor to your laptop, but did you know you can extend the desktop so as to use both the external monitor and your laptop screen in a multiple monitor configuration? Here's how:

Attach the external monitor to the video port on your laptop (most have analog connectors; if your monitor has only a DVI connection you can get an adapter to connect the DVI cable to the laptop's analog port).

In XP, right click the desktop and select Properties. In Vista, right click and select Personalize, then Display Settings. Alternatively, click Start |

(Continued on page 12)

Control Panel and select Display properties.

In XP, click the Settings tab. You should see two monitor icons in the display. The laptop's LCD will show up as the primary display. Click the secondary display icon and check the box that says "extend my desktop onto this monitor." Vista automatically detects a new monitor when you connect it and displays a New Display Detected dialog box by which you can specify whether you want to extend or mirror your desktop on the second monitor. Select to extend the desktop across all displays.

Now you can use both monitors and drag applications and windows from one to the other, greatly increasing your desktop space.

Submitted by: Greg.

File Extensions And Guilt By Association - Lockergnome



Q: When I try to open a file that is sent to me via email, sometimes it tells me that there isn't a program associated with the attachment. Why can't I open these files?- Susan

A: The various types of data that a computer can work with ranges from documents, spreadsheets, databases, video, pictures, and music to a host of other less common data types.

In order for the computer to understand what type of data the file contains, it must rely on what is called the file extension. Everything before the period in a file is called the filename, while the (typically) three letters after the period is called the extension.

The ".doc" extension, for instance, tells the computer (and the user) that the file is a document and to use the program that has been "associated" with this file extension to open it (most commonly Microsoft Word).

When Microsoft Word was installed, part of the installation process is to notify Windows that it will be the program to call on whenever Windows

encounters a .doc file.

Every program that you install tells Windows which file extensions that they are associated with, so Windows will know which program to call up whenever you click on a file.

When you receive a file via e-mail and get the "no association" message, you are generally given the option to choose an existing program to attempt to open the file.

The problem for most non-expert users is that they have no idea which program to choose because they have no idea what the file extension means.

The first thing you should do is reply to the sender and ask them what program is necessary to view the file or what program did they use to create the file.

If they reply with the name of a program that you already have installed, you would simply choose that program from the list that appears after you get the "no association" message.

Once you locate the program, be sure to put a checkmark in the box towards the bottom that says "Always use the selected program to open this kind of a file".

If you don't have the program necessary to open the file, your best bet is to reply to the sender and ask if they can resend the file in a format that you can open or give you a link to a website to download the program that they are using.

Most file types are readily accessible by most users, so figuring out what can open the file based on the extension is your next step. One of the best resources on the Internet for solving these file extension mysteries is filext.com.

You can use their search feature to find the different programs that can open a file or just learn much more about file extensions in general

If a file association has not been established for a file type or you want to manually change it from one program to another, do the following:

Use My Computer or Windows Explorer to navigate to the folder that contains the file and then hold the shift key down while you right-click on the file. This should give you a dialog box with an option to "Open with...". When you choose "Open with..."?, a box with an alphabetical list of installed programs will appear.

If you know which program you want to assume the association of the file type, simply highlight it, click on the "Always use this program to open this type of file" box, then click on OK.

If you are not sure and want to experiment with various programs, leave the "Always use this program..." checkbox unmarked until you figure out exactly which program is the best choice.

Submitted by: Greg.

Put The Speaker Volume Control Icon Back On The Taskbar – Windows XP



In its preoccupation with keeping the Windows XP desktop free of clutter, Microsoft also removed a few essentials.

For example, the programmers removed the little speaker icon from its spot next to the clock on the Taskbar. A click on the speaker icon lets you turn down the volume quickly and easily. This might not seem like much, but it's a quick fix during late night Web surfing when a newly visited site begins blasting a loud Star Wars theme.

To place the volume control icon back next to the clock, follow these steps:

1. Open the Control Panel from the Start menu.
2. Click the Sounds Speech and Audio Devices icon. (Or, depending how your Control Panel is set up, click the Sounds and Audio Devices icon.)
3. Click "Adjust the system volume."
4. Click in the box marked "Place volume icon in the taskbar."
5. Click the OK button, and the little Speaker icon appears next to the clock, where it should

[Go to the top of this page](#)

be.

My mother taught me LOGIC.

" Because I said so, that's why."

Wells Fargo Email Scam - jfcapasso - This is an example of typical scams floating around right now



Late last week I got an email from what claimed to be Wells Fargo. The email claimed that there had been unsuccessful attempts to log into my account. The email went on to explain

how my password had been changed, due to the unauthorized login attempts.

However, the new password was not given in the email. I was asked to call a phone number to get the new password.

I first went to log into my Wells Fargo account, and noticed that the password had not been changed. Obviously this was a scam. Scams like this circulate the internet almost daily, so here are a few tips on avoiding the scams. If you get a email that says to call the company, go to their website, and use that phone number to confirm the validity of the email. Do not use the phone number on the email; if it is a scam, then you could be giving your information to the scammers

When in doubt, call the company and confirm the email. Do not click any links in the email; unless you can confirm its validity

Most companies will call you if there is a problem, so be suspicious of any emails right from the start

Companies will rarely ask you for your password, because they can access your account from their system. They do not need your password.

Online security is very important, and emails can often look convincing. They are usually fake, and can cause a lot of damage to your funds, credit rating, or your standing with the company. The more suspicious you are, the safer your information will stay.