



NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 2006 Volume 6 Issue 5

Inside this issue:

	Page #
Microsoft Releases Office 2007 Beta 2.....	1/2
Download Microsoft Calculator Plus	2
Q & A	3
Internet Access From Cell Phones, PDAs Surging	4/8
Natural Light to Re-invent Bulbs	4/7/10
The 5 Worst Tech Products of All Time	5/6/9
Oops! Symantec does it again	7
Internet Juke Boxes	8
Dell + Google.....	9/10
eBay + Yahoo	10/11
Google Voice Search.. Is it true?	11
Just For laughs	12
TidBitz	13



Office 2007
Staff Writer, CNET
News.com

Microsoft offered further details on the next version of Office, announcing plans for a new home version as well as new server-based products and a new high-end enterprise edition of the desktop suite.

The software maker also offered pricing details for some, though not all, of the new products. In general, Microsoft said both businesses and consumers should expect to pay about the same for the new Office as they have paid for past versions.

"We do not expect our customers to notice any significant change in our pricing," said Parri Munsell, a group program manager in Microsoft's information worker unit. Office Standard, for example, will sell for \$399 (US), while Of-

fice Professional will sell for \$499 (US). Also, as widely expected, the version formerly code-named "Office 12" will be known as Office 2007 when it ships in the second half of this year.

Munsell said the new Office will offer a bevy of new features, including an all-new user interface and new XML-based file formats.

"There's a tremendous amount in the new Office 2007," he said. "We do believe this is the most significant advance in over a decade."

Microsoft released an initial beta of Office 2007 in November, with a second beta planned for this spring.

In the biggest change for consumers, Microsoft is replacing its Student and Teacher edition

(Continued on page 2)



The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.



NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

(Continued from page 1)

with a \$149 (US) Home and Student edition that can be used by all home users. Microsoft is also removing the Outlook e-mail and calendar program from that edition and instead is including its OneNote note-taking application. As with the Student and Teacher edition, the home version of Office can be used on up to three PCs in a home, but cannot be upgraded to a future version of Office.

On the business side, Microsoft is offering two high-end collections in addition to its professional and standard editions, in keeping with CEO Steve Ballmer's statement to analysts last year that there would be new premium versions of Office.

The "professional plus" and "enterprise" editions can only be purchased by businesses

through Microsoft's volume-licensing program, and Microsoft did not detail the cost for those options. With the Professional Plus version, the standard Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook applications are augmented with the Access and Publisher products that come with the professional edition, the Office Communicator instant messaging program, InfoPath form-creation software, and server-based content management and forms management capabilities.

Submitted By: Y. Bulger



Free Microsoft Calculator Plus

Calculator Plus offers conversions between different measurement units for area, temperature, volume and more. It also includes all the mathematical functions offered in Microsoft Calculator.

This application is free and is distributed "as is", with no obligations or technical support from Microsoft Corporation.

Available for download at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/globaldev/outreach/downloads/calcplus.aspx>

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



Some may say that the average dog is a nicer person than the average person.



NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Q & A



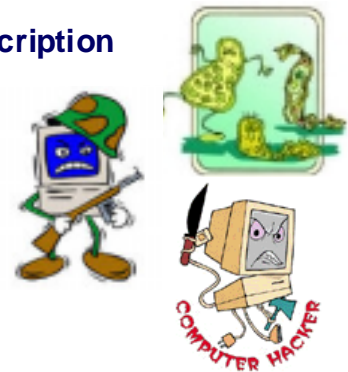
Q: Is it better to buy a Monitor with or Without Speakers?

A: Integrated speakers are convenient, as they don't need separate means of power and there is less to put on your desk. However, they do not offer good sound quality, external speakers are the choice if you want superior sound.

Q: Is it better to buy new antivirus software when my subscription expires, or to renew?

A: It may be worth considering some of the newest products before renewing your old one, Software is constantly improving and features added.

Information supplies by: Quicks Tips—Smart Computing



Q: Will a better antenna on my wireless router help to extend my range or speed?



A: Wireless data transfers all depend on signal strength. As the range increases, the signal weakens, so the wireless system slows down the data transfer to maintain its connection. A Better antenna can improve the signal strength allowing for faster wireless performance and/or range. However, the antenna must be compatible with your router, and there is no guarantee that things would improve drastically.



If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise.



NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



NATURAL LIGHT TO RE-INVENT BULBS

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

The clock is ticking for light bulbs. A light source that could put the traditional light bulb in the shade has been invented by US scientists.

The organic light-emitting diode (OLED) emits a brilliant white light when attached to an electricity supply.

The material, described in the journal Nature, can be printed in wafer thin sheets that could transform walls, ceilings or even furniture into lights.

The OLEDs do not heat up like today's light bulbs and so are far more energy efficient and should last longer.

They also produce a light that is more akin to natural daylight than traditional bulbs.

"We're hoping that this will lead to significantly longer device lifetimes in addition to higher efficiency," said Professor Mark Thompson of the University of Southern California, one of the authors of the paper.

Old fashioned. Traditional light bulbs were invented more than 130 years ago. Since then the basic principle of creating light remains the same, although the design has been tweaked.

An electric current passing through a tungsten wire causes it to heat up and glow white hot.

It has been a long-term goal of scientists to come up with something that would reduce this mammoth energy demand.

(Continued on page 7)



Internet Access From Cell Phones, PDAs Surging

www.foxnews.com

Although most people still access the Internet on a

computer, the use of mobile devices to check e-mail or browse the Web is growing, outpacing even laptops in some markets, according to a new study.

That's particularly the case in parts of Europe and Asia, where widespread use of the devices has been more pronounced. The strongest growth was recorded in France, the United

Kingdom and Japan, according to an annual study by market research firm Ipsos Insight.

Driving much of the growth are mobile phone users over the age of 35, suggesting that mobile phone browsing is extending beyond teens and young adults, researchers said.

"Accessing the Internet on a wireless handheld device is no longer a novelty for consumers in the major global economies," Brian Cruikshank, managing director at Ipsos, said in a statement. "It's becoming a common, everyday occurrence for many people."

(Continued on page 8)



A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.



NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The 5 Worst Tech Products of All Time

Dan Tynan – www.pcworld.com

As listed by PCWorld Computer Journal these products are were so bad, they belong in the high-tech hall of shame. Would you Agree?



1. America Online (1989-2006)

How do we loathe AOL? Let us count the ways. Since America Online emerged from the belly of a BBS called Quantum "PC-Link" in 1989, users have suffered through awful software, inaccessible dial-up numbers, rapacious marketing, in-your-face advertising, questionable billing practices, inexcusably poor customer service, and enough spam to last a lifetime. And all the while, AOL remained more expensive than its major competitors. This lethal combination earned the world's biggest ISP the top spot on our list of bottom feeders.

AOL succeeded initially by targeting newbies, using brute-force marketing techniques. In the 90s you couldn't open a magazine (PC World included) or your mailbox without an AOL disk falling out of it. This carpet-bombing technique yielded big numbers: At its peak, AOL claimed 34 million subscribers worldwide, though it never revealed how many were just using up their free hours.

Once AOL had you in its clutches, escaping was notoriously difficult. Several states sued the service, claiming that it continued to bill

customers after they had requested cancellation of their subscriptions. In August 2005, AOL paid a \$1.25 million fine to the state of New York and agreed to change its cancellation policies--but the agreement covered only people in New York.

Ultimately the Net itself--with AOL subscribers were finally able to access in 1995--made the service's shortcomings painfully obvious. Prior to that, though AOL offered plenty of its own online content, it walled off the greater Internet. Once people realized what content was available elsewhere on the Net, they started wondering why they were paying AOL. And as America moved to broadband, many left their sluggish AOL accounts behind. AOL is now busy rebranding itself as a content provider, not an access service.

Though America Online has shown some improvement lately--with better browsers and e-mail tools, fewer obnoxious ads, scads of broadband content, and innovative features such as parental controls--it has never overcome the stigma of being the online service for people who don't know any better.

2. RealNetworks RealPlayer (1999)



In order for your browser to display the following paragraph this site must download new software; please wait.

Sorry, the requested codec was not found. Please upgrade your system.

(Continued on page 6)



Anybody who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a dog.



NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

(Continued from page 5)

A frustrating inability to play media files--due in part to constantly changing file formats--was only part of Real's problem. RealPlayer also had a disturbing way of making itself a little too much at home on your PC--installing itself as the default media player, taking liberties with your Windows Registry, popping up annoying "messages" that were really just advertisements, and so on.

And some of RealNetworks' habits were even more troubling. For example, shortly after



RealJukeBox appeared in 1999, security researcher Richard M. Smith discovered that the software was assigning a unique ID to each user and phoning home with the titles of media files played on it--while failing to disclose any of this in its privacy policy. Turns out that RealPlayer G2, which had been out since the previous year, also broadcast unique IDs. After a tsunami of bad publicity and a handful of lawsuits, Real issued a patch to prevent the software from tracking users' listening habits. But less than a year later, Real was in hot water again for tracking the habits of its RealDownload download-management software customers.

To be fair, RealNetworks deserves credit for offering a free media player and for hanging in there against Microsoft's relentless onslaught. We appreciate the fact that there's an alternative to Windows Media Player; we just wish it were a better one.



3. Synchronys SoftRAM (1995)

Back in 1995, when RAM cost \$30 to \$50 a megabyte and Windows 95 apps were demanding more and more of it, the idea of "doubling" your system memory by installing a \$30 piece of software sounded mighty tempting. The 700,000 users who bought Synchronys's SoftRAM products certainly thought so. Unfortunately, that's not what they got.

It turns out that all SoftRAM really did was expand the size of Windows' hard disk cache--something a moderately savvy user could do without any extra software in about a minute. And even then, the performance boost was negligible. The FTC dubbed Synchronys's claims "false and misleading," and the company was eventually forced to pull the product

from the market and issue refunds. After releasing a handful of other bad Windows utilities, the company filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in 1999. It will not be missed.



4. Microsoft Windows Millennium (2000)

This might be the worst version of Windows ever released--or, at least, since the dark days of Windows 2.0. Windows Millennium Edition (aka Me, or the Mistake Edition) was Microsoft's follow-up to Windows 98 SE for home users. Shortly after Me appeared in late 2000, users reported problems installing it, getting it

(Continued on page 9)



If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give him only two of them



NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



(Continued from page 4)

The new work exploits the properties of carbon-based polymers to produce the white light. These are already found in some mobile phone displays and MP3 players.

Light bulbs: Not a bright idea?

Until now, they have been unable to generate sufficient light to illuminate a room.

To create the new material, the scientists build up ultra-thin layers of plastics coated with green, red and blue dyes.

When an electric current passes through them, they combine to produce white light.

Previous attempts to make OLEDs like this have largely failed to make an impact because traditional phosphorescent blue dyes are very

short lived.

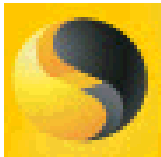
The new polymer uses a fluorescent blue material instead which lasts much longer and uses less energy.

The researchers believe that eventually this material could be 100% efficient, meaning it could be capable of converting all of the electricity to light, without the heat loss associated with traditional bulbs.

The new material can also be printed onto glass or plastic and so in theory could create large areas of lighting, relatively cheaply.

Before this becomes a reality, the scientists need to work out a way to seal the OLEDs from moisture which can contaminate the sensitive material, causing it to no longer work.

(Continued on page 10)



Flaw in Leading Anti-Virus Software Could Put Computer Users At Risk

<http://www.axcessnews.com> - By Armando Duke (27/05/06)

Houston, TX - Symantec Corp. a leading supplier of anti-virus software that usually spots worms and viruses online before their competition was caught in its own web this week when researchers found the latest versions of Symantec's anti-virus software suite could put millions of users at risk of a debilitating worm attack.

eEye Digital Security, the company that discovered the flaw, said Symantec's anti-virus

software's flaw could be exploited by remote hackers to take complete control of the target machine "without any user action."

eEye Digital says the Symantec Antivirus 10.x and Symantec Client Security 3.x are affected by the flaw.

The flaw carries a "high risk" rating, eEye said.

And if you're wondering, yes, Symantec did confirm eEye Digital's discovery and said that it was investigating. I noted today on Symantec's Web site that there was no mention of the eEye discovery.

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.



NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Internet Jukeboxes Take a Leap Into the Digital Age

www.foxnews.com

BOSTON — The Sevens, a beer-and-wine tavern with an oak bar worn smooth by decades of drinkers, has two amenities that set it apart: a real cork dart board, and arguably one of the best jukeboxes east of the Mississippi River.

From early Bruce Springsteen and Patsy Cline to rare Rolling Stones tunes, the jukebox — more than the darts or the dark wood benches — sets a rollicking mood that pulls people through the door.

This spring, the tavern took a leap into the digital age with a new Internet-fueled jukebox that can access hundreds of thou-

sands of songs.

"I love it," says James McCarthy, 39, a kitchen worker who feeds the wall-mounted machine \$25 a night to keep his toes tapping behind the bar. "You can go back and forth from hearing old Aerosmith to all the sudden you'll hear C+C Music Factory to country-western."

At tens of thousands of bars and restaurants in the United States, patrons can now listen to songs stored on hard drives or downloaded from remote servers. Some find the change a refreshing departure from the limited selection of records or CDs of old jukeboxes.

Others lament the transformation of an American icon.

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



(Continued from page 4)

In the United States, there has been an uptick in the number of people who use their phones to go online, although the growth appears to be leveling off as more Americans use laptops, according to Ipsos.

The study's findings are based on a random sample of 6,544 adults in 12 nations — urban populations only in five of them — conducted in November and December.

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.



NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

(Continued from page 6)

to run, getting it to work with other hardware or software, and getting it to stop running.



5. Sony BMG Music CDs (2005)

When you stick a music CD into your computer, you shouldn't have to worry that it will turn your PC into a hacker's plaything. But that's exactly what Sony BMG Music Entertainment's music discs did in 2005. The discs' harebrained copy protection software installed a rootkit that made it invisible even to antispyware or antivirus software. Any moderately clever cyber attacker could then use the same

rootkit to hide, say, a keylogger to capture your bank account information, or a remote-access Trojan to turn your PC into a zombie.

Security researcher Dan Kaminsky estimated that more than half a million machines were infected by the rootkit. After first downplaying the problem and then issuing a "fix" that made things worse, Sony BMG offered to refund users' money and replace the faulty discs. Since then, the record company has been sued up the wazoo; a federal court judge recently approved a settlement in the national class action suit. Making your machine totally vulnerable to attacks--isn't that Microsoft's job?

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



Google, Dell Strike Desktop Deal

By Jennifer LeClaire - Tech-NewsWorld 05/26/06

"Google hits [the gold] standard 99 percent of the time. The other guys don't," said Endpoint Technology Associate Principal Analyst Roger Kay. "That's what matters. People would choose the other search engines if they worked well."

Search Engine Optimization Experts: Locate specialists to help you drive traffic to your web site and increase sales.

Google (Nasdaq: GOOG) and Dell (Nasdaq: DELL) are teaming up on a desktop initiative that could cause Microsoft (Nasdaq: MSFT) to see red. The companies sealed a deal this

week to preload Google Desktop and Toolbar on Dell PCs and add Google Search to the Internet Explorer 6 side pane.

Dell and Google will offer a co-branded homepage to which new users will default upon their first visit to the Web. Financial terms of the deal were undisclosed.

Beating Microsoft to the Punch

Google CEO Eric Schmidt announced the deal in a Thursday webcast. The search giant is primarily targeting the millions of Dell customers on the home user front, but the company said the deal also includes Dell systems that will sell to small- to mid-sized businesses and even select enterprise customers worldwide. Dell customers who don't want Google on the desktop can opt to not have it installed.

(Continued on page 10)



If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man.



NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



(Continued from page 7)

If that barrier can be overcome, the new polymer could eventually become the material of choice for stylish, environmentally friendly lighting.

The research team incorporated members from Princeton University, the University of Southern California and the University of Michigan.

Submitted by: Y. Bulger

(Continued from page 9)



Dell's news comes after Google's recent complaint to the Department of Justice (DoJ) about MSN being the default search feature in Internet Explorer 7. The DoJ dismissed Google's gripes, deciding that users have ample ability to change the default settings.

"Google wants to make sure that Microsoft doesn't use its unfair advantage of being the owner of the browser to prevent users from choosing Google, which they probably would if it was offered on a fair basis," Endpoint Technology Associate Principal Analyst Roger Kay told TechNewsWorld. This deal gives Google a little less reason to complain, he noted.

Submitted by: G. Bulger



eBay, Yahoo Forge Multi-Year Partnership

By Keith Regan -
www.EcommerceTimes.com -
05/25/06

"In our view, Yahoo will enable eBay to better monetize its Web pages with online advertising," Standard & Poor's Equity Research analyst Scott Kessler said in a research note. "We believe this relationship and the pending offerings, which we expect to be rolled out beginning later this year, are a significant positive for eBay."

eBay and Yahoo announced Thursday they will work together on a range of fronts, including search and paid advertising, striking a deal that leverages each company's strengths and one that will undoubtedly send shockwaves across the Internet industry.

After several days of swirling rumors that the two Web giants were considering everything from partnerships to a full-out merger, the companies said they had reached a multi-year deal with four main components covering search and graphical advertising, online payments, a co-branded toolbar and possible future products in the "click-to-call" advertising arena.

More Ammunition

The deal is a boost for Yahoo, which continues to chase Google for search market share and according to some recent data has been losing ground in that battle. It also gives eBay greater reach for its strong community of buyers and sellers, an asset many believe can be leveraged to a much greater degree, and for some of its key technologies, including its Skype VoIP calling business and its PayPal online payment system.

Under the deal, Yahoo will become the default provider of graphical ads across the eBay platform and

(Continued on page 11)



Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.



NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

GOOGLE PATENT POINTS TO VOICE SEARCH

CNET News.com

A recently published patent provides further evidence that Google is developing a voice-activated search engine.

The Patent of which Google is the assignee, concerns "a voice interface for search engines. Through the use of a language model, phonetic dictionary and acoustic models, a server generates an n-best hypothesis list or word graph."

A demo of something called Google Voice Search has been up on Google Labs, Google's pre-beta-test site, for well over a year.

Craig Silverstein, the director of technology at Google, said in a 2004 interview, that the company envisioned a voice interface to aid in everything from driving directions to finding groceries in a supermarket.

A Google spokesman cautioned against reading too much into the publication of the patent.

"We file patent applications on a variety of ideas that our employees may come up with," Barry Schnitt said. "Some of those ideas later mature into real products or services, some don't. Prospective product announcements should not be inferred from our patent applications."

Google Voice Search, still up on Google Labs, let's people call into Google by phone.

(Continued from page 10)

provide search and related advertising in key areas. eBay listings will also be integrated more tightly into Yahoo's search results.

The results of the partnership will start to appear in testing phase over the next several months and



If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.

Though the demo on the Web page was inactive when CNET News.com tried to test it, the instructions show that this is how the system is meant to work:



Searchers call a Google supplied number, where a prompt asks them to "Say Your Search Words." After a minute, the results are returned and, in the demo, the searcher clicks a link that leads to them. In a real-world application, the results would presumably be sent to a cell phone screen or in-car system.

The obvious eventual application is for cell phones. Mobile Web services are on the rise, and cell phone keyboards could make typing in keywords a nuisance.

Google isn't the only one to do work in this area.

Another voice interface was released in May of 2005 by a team led by Dr. Meirav Taieb-Maimon of the Department of Information Systems at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. Her team's voice-activated Internet system works with speech-to-text conversion software called Maestro.

Maestro converts spoken search requests into a text of query-friendly words that it sends to a search engine, and relays results back to the searcher audibly. In 2004, Silverstein called that latter capability an obstacle to successful voice interface technology.

Submitted by: Gord Bulger

be fully implemented in 2007, the companies said. As a result, neither company expects any financial impact for the rest of 2006.



Submitted by: G. Bulger



NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

R

Reasons dogs don't use computers

Can't stick their heads out of Windows XP.

Fetch command not available on all platforms.

Hard to read the monitor with your head cocked to one side.

Too difficult to "mark" every website they visit.

Can't help attacking the screen when they hear "You've Got Mail."

Fire hydrant icon simply frustrating.

Involuntary tail wagging is dead giveaway they're browsing www.pethouse.com instead of working.

Keep bruising noses trying to catch that MPEG frisbee.

Not at all fooled by Chuckwagon Screen Saver.

Still trying to come up with an "emoticon" that signifies tail-wagging.

Waiting for the introduction of the Microsoft Opposable Thumb.

Three words: Carpal Paw Syndrome

'Cause dogs ain't GEEKS! Now, cats, on the other hand...

Barking in next cube keeps activating YOUR voice recognition software.

Saliva-coated mouse gets mighty difficult to maneuver.





NANAIMO COMPUTER CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

TidBitz

Microsoft shows off JPEG rival—CNET

If it is up to Microsoft, the omnipresent JPEG image format will be replaced by Windows Media Photo.

The software maker detailed the new image format Wednesday at the Windows Hardware Engineering Conference here. Windows Media Photo will be supported in Windows Vista and also be made available for Windows XP, Bill Crow, program manager for Windows Media Photo, said in a presentation.

"One of the biggest reasons people upgrade their

PCs is digital photos," Crow said, noting that Microsoft has been in contact with printer makers, digital camera companies and other unnamed industry partners while working on Windows Media Photo. Microsoft touts managing "digital memories" as one of the key attributes of XP successor Vista.

In his presentation, Crow showed an image with 24:1 compression that visibly contained more detail in the Windows Media Photo format than the JPEG and JPEG 2000 formats compressed at the same level.

Microsoft Announces IE7+ for Vista

By Nate Mook, BetaNews

In order to differentiate between Internet Explorer 7 on Windows XP and Vista, Microsoft on Friday announced "IE7+." The special branding is designed to highlight the additional features IE7 will receive in Vista, including Protected Mode, parental controls, and improved network diagnostics.



Free Antivirus Offered to Vista Testers

By N. Mook, BetaNews

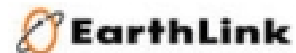
With Windows Vista Beta 2 slated to become public through a Customer Preview Program in the coming weeks, testers may find themselves facing a major problem: many antivirus suites don't yet work with the

new operating system. Computer Associates is aiming to remedy this issue by offering free copies of eTrust for Vista.

EarthLink Wins New Orleans Wi-Fi Deal

By Ed Oswald, BetaNews

EarthLink has won the right to build out a wireless network in the city of New Orleans, the company said Friday. The network will be free for the time being as the city continues to rebuild.



The End