



The Paper Modem

November 2004 Volume 4 Issue 10

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From the Editor..

We had two great Demo's in October.. First, on October 13th, it was Steve Wawrykow who spelt things out very well, as usual, showing us just what Photo Shop can do with regard to cleaning up your pictures...

This Demo was followed on October 19th. by Angelito Herrera of Staples ably assisted by Dave Green with a demo on Web Cams and how simple they are to set up and operate, we had our own Yvonne Bulger to communicate with, at home, to assist in this demo..

Angelito then presented Roxio 7 Easy CD Creator and what improvements they have made from previous versions, it is a very good program and will do all you want it to do with regard to burning CD's and DVD's.. Plus a lot more..

Our thanks to Steve and to Angelito and Dave of Staples..

Pres, Wes. Once again, asked the members to consider putting their names forward to help with the organisation of the Club.. Our AGM is coming up in November, we hope that some of you are giving some serious thought to this request from Wes. Every little helps, will you help to run Your Club?

The interesting and useful info in this publication was supplied by **Ben, Greg and Yvonne...** Your Executive at work... My thanks for their invaluable help..

Useful tips for Windows XP Submitted by Ben Poudrier

NB... Some of these tips require you to edit the registry file. Always Backup your registry file before making any changes.

Reactivation

If you reinstall Windows XP, you normally have to reactivate it, but there's a way around reactivation. Windows XP maintains the activation information in the file Wpa.dbl, which you'll find in the Windows \System32 folder. After you activate, and any time you add hardware to your system, back up the file to another disk. If you need to reinstall Windows XP for any reason, go through the installation routine, then copy the latest version of Wpa.dbl to the Windows\system32 folder.

Clear pagefile on shutdown

For added security you should always clear the page file upon shutting down your computer. Windows uses this file as extra ram. Lets say that you are working on a confidential MS Word doc. When you load this document it is loaded into ram. To save ram windows places certain items in the page file. The page file can then be opened and the document can be extracted as well as any other open program or files. However Microsoft has implemented a feature that will clear the page file but they do not have it enabled by default. Please note, this will slightly increase the amount of time it takes to shut down your computer but it is well worth it.

Start Regedit. Navigate to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SessionManager\Memory Management>

Select ClearPageFileAtShutdown from the list on the right. Right click on it and select Modify. Change the value to 1 to enable. Reboot your computer.

Speed up Nero in XP

Go to "administrative tools" in the control panel, and in the "services" list, disable the IMAPI CD-Burning COM service. **(Note: manual setting is not enough it must be disabled)** It is the built-in CD-burning capability for windowsXP (incidentally, written by Roxio).

Note: This solved my problem with not being able to access CDRW's from a previous version of Windows.

Disable Hibernation to save disk space

Unless you use it, you can disable hibernation in : Control panel / Power Options / Hibernate If left on, the hibernation reserves disk space equal to your RAM

Easily Disable Messenger

Go into C:\Program Files\Messenger rename the Messenger folder to something like "MessengerOFF" This does not slow down Outlook Express or hinder system performance

Uninstall MS Messenger (by Allan at <http://www.tweakxp.com>)

Click Start \ Run Then type the following: RunDll32 advpack.dll,LaunchINFSection %windir%\INF\msmsgs.inf,BLC.Remove Press ENTER Restart Windows

Create your own popup menu in the taskbar

You can create your own popup window other than START MENU in the taskbar. Put all the shortcuts to the applications that you want to popup in a folder. Then you right click on taskbar ->**toolbars** ->**new toolbar** -> and select the folder.

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Back To Basics by Greg..

Backing Up Individual E-mail Messages - [Diana Huggins <http://www.lockergnome.com/about/staff.phtml>](http://www.lockergnome.com/about/staff.phtml)

Most e-mail programs provide you with the capability of backing up your e-mail messages. Since a lot of us would be somewhat lost if we lost some of the information stored in e-mails, it's a very important feature.

In Outlook Express, you also have the option of just backing up an individual message. Even though a message is stored in Outlook, and you may have a printed copy as well, this may not be enough especially if the message is of high importance. So for added safety, why not make an extra copy of that message?

To do this, open up Outlook Express. Open the folder that contains the e-mail message you want to make a copy of. Also open Windows Explorer and open the folder where you want the copy of the message to be stored. Back in Outlook Express, highlight the e-mail message and drag it into the Windows Explorer window (or onto the Windows Explorer button on the taskbar). A file will be created with an "eml" extension, which is the backup copy of your e-mail message.

Pin Programs

No, this is not wrestling a program to the ground. One of Windows XP's better features is the ability to pin a desired program to the Start menu. This allows easy access and launching of the program without searching for it or going down a likely very extensive Programs list.

To pin a program to the Start menu, click on *Start* and *All Programs*. Locate the desired program and right click on it, then select *Pin to Start menu*. Click anywhere on the desktop to exit from the Start menu.

If you later decide to unpin a program, simply point to that program, *right click* on it, and click on *Unpin from Start* menu, then, again, click anywhere on the desktop to exit from the Start menu.

IEXPRESS. Here is a little utility that most people do not know exists in XP. Package your applications for installation on other computers by using Windows XP IExpress. It creates a simple self-extracting, self-installing package of applications. To launch IExpress, click Start|Run and enter "iexpress" without the quotes. A Wizard will talk you through the procedure from there

More Back To Basics..

Forward Slash - Back Slash" - Newbie Club

Ever wondered why the slash is forward (/) in a web page URL, and backward (\) on your computer? No? Okay, but I am going to tell you anyway.

I was told by a well known techie that Bill Gates of Microsoft did it on purpose just so that his Windows system would be a little more unique. Dunno, but that sure sounds like Mr Gates:-)

Anyway all Internet resources use the forward slash to separate one resource from another. Page names are separate from domain names. The forward slash indicates a 'change in resource'.
(Continued on Page #4)

Did You Know ? A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.

More XP tips (Cont. from Page #2)

Disable balloon tips (provided by Perris, aka ««dealer»»)

Run regedit and Navigate to Key: HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced then set the value of 'EnableBalloonTips' to 0.

Disable error reporting

Every time a program crashes you do not want to send a report to microsoft. Read below to find out how to disable this feature. Open Control Panel Click on System. Click on Performance and Maintenance. Then click on the Advanced tab Click on the error reporting button on the bottom of the windows. Select Disable error reporting. Click OK

Stop Password Expiration

After you have run Windows XP for a while, you may receive this message when you log on: "Your password will expire in 14 days". By default, Windows XP is set up with passwords which will expire after 42 days. 14 days in advance, Windows will start warning you of this fact. If you do not want your passwords to expire:

- 1.Go to Start > Run and in the Open: box type **control userpasswords2**
- 2.Select the Advanced tab in the User Accounts window
- 3.Press the Advanced button below the Advanced user management header
- 4.Select Users in the Local Users and Groups
- 5.In the right pane, right-click the user name for which you want to change the setting, and select Properties
- 6.On the General tab, check Password never expires
- 7.Click Apply and OK (all the way out)

More Back to Basics.. by Greg.. Continued from Page #3

On your home computer, you'll see the slash is backward, or leaning to the left. "And never the tw o shall mingle!" You can try using a backslash in a Web page URL. But it won't work. You CAN use a backslash in your browser, like this:

C:\My Computer

Do that, and you'll list all the stuff on your computer! Right through your browser window . But you won't see stuff on the Internet that way. Who cares? Someone. Somewhere.

Did You Know ?... Susan Lucci is the daughter of Phyllis Diller.

The Super Computer...

By MATTHEW FORDAHL Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The builders of a new NASA supercomputer claim the 10,240-processor machine is the fastest in the world — an exciting prospect for researchers even if the speed title has yet to be officially bestowed.

Project Columbia, named for the space shuttle that was destroyed in early 2003, was built in less than 120 days at NASA's Ames Research Center. The cluster of 20 computers working as one will be used to speed up spacecraft design, environmental prediction and other research.

At the \$50-million (U.S.) machine's public unveiling Tuesday, the science shared the stage with claims of record-setting performance from system-builder Silicon Graphics Inc., processor-provider Intel Corp. and NASA.

It's been a sore issue for the U.S. technology industry since June 2002, when a system built outside the United States topped a list of supercomputers compiled by an independent group that verifies performance claims. Japan's Earth Simulator has led the race ever since.

That could change next month, when the Top500 Project releases its twice-yearly rankings at a supercomputer conference in Pittsburgh.

Using just 16 of Project Columbia's 20 installed systems, the computer achieved a sustained performance of 42.7 trillion calculations per second, or teraflops.

"If you could do one calculation per second by hand, it would take you a million years to do what this machine does in a single second," said G. Scott Hubbard, Ames' director.

By comparison, Earth Simulator's sustained performance is 35.86 teraflops.

The competition for the top spot will be fierce. Last month, IBM announced the results of its Blue Gene supercomputer, which claimed its sustained performance was 36.01 teraflops. Because the machine is not yet finished, it could still come up on top.

An IBM spokesman did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

There may also be some improvement for Project Columbia. Its numbers were achieved using only four-fifths of its processors. Officials declined to comment on what the sustained performance might be when all 10,240 Itanium 2 processors are deployed.

But NASA officials, while touting Project Columbia's performance, said the system — even if it's not officially the fastest — will have a major impact on scientific and engineering research around the nation. Such work has already started, they added.

On Tuesday, an experiment was being run to determine if the extra computing horsepower could be harnessed quickly to respond to a simulated space shuttle problem.

Previously, it took as long as three months to run the calculations, Mr. Hubbard said.

The new supercomputer also is being used to process global climate data from satellites to improve hurricane landfall forecasts. It also will help design space vehicles, model the behaviour of interplanetary radiation and the help find life beyond Earth.

"We're going to have an impact that will be nationwide, if not worldwide, on weather, engineering design, on astronomy, on earth science, and we're going to see enormous, incredible results," Mr. Hubbard said.

Did You Know ? .. A duck's quack doesn't echo ... no one knows why.

How secure is your computer? You may want to double check.

New Media Producer: Kerry Corum

A nationwide inspection shows Internet users are not as safe online as they believe. The inspections found most consumers have no firewall protection, outdated antivirus software and dozens of spyware programs secretly running on their computers.

The study from America Online and the National Cyber Security Alliance finds 77-percent of those questioned say they're safe from online threats. But when experts visited those same homes to examine computers, they found two-thirds had no protective firewall program and 80-percent had spyware.

Anti-virus and Firewall Programs Guide picks

Email, chatting with friends, surfing the Internet, and downloading files are a few of the most common activities that also expose systems to threats like viruses. Hackers are waiting to capture your credit card numbers, passwords, and other personal information. Here are some of the top rated programs available to protect your computer from viruses, hackers and more.

BlackICE is professional-strength protection for your PC. BlackICE PC Protection features both an intrusion detection system and a personal firewall for a one-two punch of protection.

AVG Antivirus from Grisoft is now available for all single home users worldwide! Download, install and use AVG 6.0 Anti-Virus system to reliably protect your computer and data free of charge. There is also a paid version for those who need just a bit more.

McAfee Security offers virus protection, internet security software, personal computer updates, hacker protection and anti-virus downloads

Symantec, a world leader in Internet security technology, provides a broad range of content security solutions to individuals and companies. The company is a leading provider of anti-virus protection, Internet content and e-mail filtering, and mobile code detection technologies everyone from home users to enterprise customers.

Outpost Firewall Pro from Agnitum provides security, privacy and ease of use. The program detects and blocks hacker attacks, guards the privacy of data stored on your computer, monitors network activity of your system and applications, provides secure web surfing, and prevents Internet worms from activating from your inbox.

Panda solutions will keep you out of the reach of viruses and other threats such as spyware, hoaxes or spam. Browse the Internet, download the files you want, chat with friends, play online...with complete peace of mind.

Trend Micro has a full suite of security programs to protect your computer while on the Internet including anti-virus, firewall and an on-line virus scan.

ZoneAlarm Pro is the award-winning PC firewall that keeps your personal data and privacy safe from Internet hackers and data thieves. Keep hackers at bay with protection against worms, Trojans, spyware, and 47 types of malicious email attachments. ZoneAlarm Pro includes Cookie Control and Ad Blocking for a faster, safer Internet experience.

Did You Know ?.. 40% of McDonald's profits come from the sales of Happy Meals.

More 'Did You Know'...

315 entries in Webster's 1996 Dictionary were misspelled.

**The 'spot' on 7UP comes from its inventor who had red eyes.
He was albino.**

**On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents
daily.**

**During the chariot scene in 'Ben Hur' a small red car can be
seen in the distance.**

Warren Beatty and Shirley MacLaine are brother and sister..



What is on in November...

November 10th. 7.15pm..Beban Park

This is the Club AGM...

**As soon as all of the reports are finished we will have a
Question and Answer Session led by our own**

Bob Goerzen..

Bring your questions and we will see if we can find answers..

November 16th. 7.15pm Beban Park.

**Norm Silverstone of London Drug Computer Dept.
will tell us all about the latest 'Gadgets'**

Is that a Media Center PC--or an end table?

Published: October 15, 2004, 5:11 AM PDT

By [David Becker](mailto:david.becker@cnet.com) <<mailto:david.becker@cnet.com>?subject=FEEDBACK:Is that a Media Center PC--or an end table?> Staff Writer, CNET News.com </2102-1045_3-5411225.html?tag=st.util.print> <1> <javascript:void(0)>

Wood paneling and chrome made your dad's station wagon look like a million bucks, and they might also be just the ticket for Microsoft's fledgling effort to put a Media Center PC in every living room.

Those materials dominate one of two sample designs for a new style of Media Center PC, commissioned by Microsoft's eHome division from [One & Co.](http://dw.com.com/redirect?destUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.oneandco.com%2Findex.html&siteId=3&id=2100-1045-5411225&ontId=1040&lop=nl_ex) <http://dw.com.com/redirect?destUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.oneandco.com%2Findex.html&siteId=3&id=2100-1045-5411225&ontId=1040&lop=nl_ex>, a San Francisco engineering and design company.

One & Co. partner Jonah Becker explained that Microsoft wanted a PC design that an enlightened homeowner might want to have sitting in the middle of a living room, as opposed to stuffed into the back of entertainment center. That's important if consumers are to be comfortable using the PC for the "2-foot experience"--typical PC activities such as downloading and organizing photos and music clips--as well as the more laid-back "10-foot experience" of watching TV or running a slideshow.

[Current Media Center PC designs](http://www.cnet.com/Picture+4+of+8+Microsofts+new+Media+Center+push/2009-1043_3-5406597.html?tag=nl) </Picture+4+of+8+Microsofts+new+Media+Center+push/2009-1043_3-5406597.html?tag=nl> don't handle the 2-foot part very well, Becker said, because they look too dorky for most folks to put next to the couch.

"The existing Media Center PCs are based on existing designs," Becker said. "(PC makers are) not thinking about what it means to have a PC in the living room from an interaction standpoint or an aesthetic standpoint."

Microsoft earlier this week launched a new version of its entertainment-oriented software, [Windows XP Media Center Edition 2005](http://www.microsoft.com/Microsoft+opens+Windows+to+the+home/2100-1046_3-5406322.html?tag=nl) </Microsoft+opens+Windows+to+the+home/2100-1046_3-5406322.html?tag=nl>, with expanded support for interactive television and other functions. The original version of Media Center got off to a slow start, with about a million copies sold to date, but Microsoft is betting heavily on the operating system to keep it in the race to control the [digital home](http://www.microsoft.com/With+new+OS%2C+Microsoft+seeks+couch+potatoes+eyes/2100-1016_3-5368446.html?tag=nl) </With+new+OS%2C+Microsoft+seeks+couch+potatoes+eyes/2100-1016_3-5368446.html?tag=nl>.

PC makers, including Dell, Gateway, Hewlett-Packard, Sony and Toshiba, introduced a bevy of [systems geared to the new software](http://www.cnet.com/Media+Centers+on+parade/2100-1045_3-5406479.html?tag=nl) </Media+Centers+on+parade/2100-1045_3-5406479.html?tag=nl>-- machines that don't depart very far, if at all, from the traditional boxy PC format. Although Microsoft commissioned the One & Co. designs, it's up to computer makers to decide whether to adopt the new looks.

One of the designs from Becker's company looks more like a 1960s liquor cabinet than a PC, with its ovoid shape, chrome touches and built-in cupholder that doubles as a remote caddy. Becker said the design is intended to help PC makers start thinking of Media Center products as equal parts furniture and high-tech gadget.

"The idea was basically to create a product that's part of the living room, to reflect the materials and the aesthetic of that space," he said. "We wanted something that doesn't need to be hidden in the closet."

Cont. on Page#9

Media Centre ... Cont. from Page #8

That prototype--it isn't actually a functioning PC--would use the television set as a display.

The design company's other prototype is a wall-mounted system with a removable 12-inch LCD screen; it can be managed from a distance with a remote control, or the screen can be detached to function as a tablet for someone relaxing on a couch. Becker said the idea is to have a display option suited to traditional PC tasks such as e-mail and Web surfing, tasks that are often clumsy at best when executed via the screen of a TV set.

"For the most part, Media Center is geared toward media," he said. "The idea with this is that you can also bring some of those common PC functions to the couch."



More From Greg,,,

Microsoft Windows users need to watch out for several flaws in non-Microsoft media players, security experts said.

Apple Computer and RealNetworks have both issued fixes for their Windows software to patch serious security vulnerabilities. Apple released Quicktime 6.5.2 on Wednesday to [plug two holes](#) in its Windows media player. On Tuesday [RealNetworks advised](#) users of its RealPlayer 10, RealPlayer 10.5 and RealOne Player software to use the "Check for Updates" feature to download the latest patch.

One of the flaws in Apple's Quicktime player affects Mac OS X users as well, but the company [patched the problems](#) at the end of September.

"It was fixed for all Mac OS X users at the end of September, and this fixes it for Windows users as well," said an Apple spokesman.

The updated Quicktime program is the latest fix for Apple's computer software. The company typically releases one update a month, and in September published [fixes for 15 components](#) of the Mac OS X operating system.

The flaw in RealNetworks' software could allow an attacker to run code on the victim's computer by dressing up a malicious program as a graphics theme, or skin, for the player. The flaw--found independently by two security firms, eEye Digital Security and Next-Generation Security Software--is similar to [a problem found in August](#) in Winamp's media-playing software.

eEye previously found a flaw in RealNetwork's software for Windows and Linux that could have allowed a malicious program.

[Did You Know ?.. Every person has a unique tongue print.](#)

The New Intel Chip...

The world's largest chip maker, Intel, is changing its approach to making faster computer microprocessors.

It has dropped plans to release a four gigahertz version of its flagship Pentium 4 chip.

Intel's shift reflects a change for the chip industry, which is moving away from boosts in megahertz and gigahertz.

Instead it is looking to boost chip performance in ways other than simply increasing computational brainpower, also known as clock speed.

Dual power

In the past, chip makers have been involved in a speed race, looking at ways of increasing a microprocessors clock speed.

This is a measure of how fast a chip can crunch numbers

Intel's current fastest chip processes computer instructions at speeds of up to 3.6GHz.

The promised 4GHz chip was supposed to power the fastest-ever generation of Intel-based PCs early next year.

But Intel has cancelled those plans to focus on other ways of getting more out of chips, such as its dual-core project.

This involves putting the power of two microprocessors in a single package, thus offering faster computing.

Engineers are also working on ways of tweaking chip design to squeeze more power out of them.

Intel has pushed the clock speed of its PC chips since the launch of the 5MHz 8088 processor in 1979.

Its decision marks a shift in the quest for speed. Rivals like AMD have also adopted a similar approach, looking at other ways of making chips that can handle more than one task at once, such as playing music and making a home video.

The latest change in Intel's strategy follows a series of other miscalculations by the company.

It delayed a new line of laptop chips in January, recalled a desktop chip in June and pushed back another laptop chip in July.



That's All Folks... The End..