



# The Paper Modem

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## Microsoft: Longhorn Beta Unlikely This Year

*By Mike Ricciuti, CNET News.com*

REDMOND, Wash.--Microsoft's efforts to bolster security in Windows XP will likely delay the release of a widespread test version of its forthcoming operating system until next year, Microsoft's top executives told CNET News.com.

Work on Windows XP will likely cause Microsoft to delay the release of a test version of Longhorn until next year, executives tell CNET News.com.

Microsoft has made the security of Windows its top priority. New security features are planned for updates, or service packs, for Windows XP

and Windows Server 2003 later this year.

Microsoft had said it planned to ship the test version of Longhorn, a major update to the company's Windows operating system, this summer. The company has reassigned a large number of developers working on Longhorn to build updates to the existing versions of Windows to bolster security, said Jim Allchin, vice president of Microsoft's platforms group.

Asked whether the company would make its self-imposed deadline for delivering a Longhorn beta by summer, Allchin said, "I don't believe it will be this year." He also said that some minor features planned for Longhorn will be cut to accelerate development, then rolled into a future Windows release. "If we don't really know how to do something by now, it's probably time that we think about not putting it into the product," Allchin said.

*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*



If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried



## Wireless called Key to Global Development

By Ed Fraenheim CNET News BERKELEY, Calif.--

The bridge across the global digital divide is likely to be a wireless one .....

At a conference here on using technology to solve social and economic problems in developing nations, a number of speakers emphasized the role of wireless communications.

A. Richard Newton, dean of the College of Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, said the most important technological step to take in developing countries is to build out communications networks with wireless capabilities.

He said it is conceivable to put solar-powered antennae towers that support voice and data communications in villages for about \$750 apiece. Newton also proposed a mobile phone with a much simpler interface, one he claimed was economically feasible. The phone would display images of people who called, so a user reviewing voice mail could press on the image of the person whose message he wanted to hear. "I can build that phone for less than \$5 today," he said.

Newton was among the many scholars, public officials and business leaders participating in the "Bridging the Divide" conference organized by UC Berkeley's Management of Technology Program along with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The three-day event, held at the

university's Haas School of Business, examined topics including health care technology, building environmentally sustainable industry, and technology essentials for economic development.

Maggie Wilderotter, Microsoft's senior vice president in charge of the public sector worldwide, began a keynote speech Friday by painting a picture of a starkly divided world. She said 2.5 billion of the world's 6 billion people live on less than \$1 a day. She also highlighted the importance of education. "What good is a laptop with broadband access if you can't read or write?" she asked.

Still, technology can play a vital role in helping people's well-being, she argued. Microsoft has a number of projects around the world designed to increase technology access, with wireless as one focus. In Africa, Wilderotter said, Microsoft is helping nomadic people stay connected via satellite. "The school computer lab actually moves with them," she said.

With many high-tech jobs moving from the United States to lower-wage countries such as India and China, some observers call for more attention to workers and technology at home. But concerns about "offshoring" should not mean ignoring the plight of the world's poor, suggested John Gage, chief researcher at Sun Microsystems. It's a question of "who is 'us'--we are all 'us,'" Gage said. "It's just part of being a citizen of the world."

*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*



If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you

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## U.S. tops international spammers' list

By Matthew Broersma

The United States is by far the leading originator of spam received around the world, according to a study published on Thursday by U.K. antivirus company Sophos. The broad international spread of junk e-mail senders, with European and Asian countries also high on the list, underscores the difficulty of combating spam with national laws, Sophos said. An added difficulty is that many spam senders may not even be aware they are sending the messages, their PCs having been hijacked by the real culprits from across international borders. The United States accounted for more than half of all spam sent, at 56.74 percent, Sophos said, with Canada a distant second place at 6.8 percent. The top-ranked European country was the Netherlands at 2.13 percent, while the U.K. scored ninth with 1.31 percent. The top-ranked European spammers--the Nether-

lands, Germany, France, the U.K. and Spain--together accounted for 7.82 percent of all spam received. "Spam is a global problem, and countries worldwide are starting to take the issue more seriously," said Sophos senior technology consultant Graham Cluley in a statement. "However, legislation in the U.K. won't protect users from spam coming from North America or China." Sophos arrived at the figures by analyzing hundreds of thousands of e-mails received over two days last week in various locations around the globe. The analysis only scratches the surface of understanding the spam problem, Cluley said, noting that about a third of all spam is sent from computers that have been compromised by junk e-mailers, often without the knowledge of the computer owner. Sophos said that many of the U.S. computers originating spam appear to be controlled by hackers in Russia and elsewhere.

Submitted by: Greg Wilson

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## Google to Offer Gigabyte of Free e-Mail

By Paul Festa, CNET News.com

The company, based in Mountain View, Calif., on Thursday launched a test with about 1,000 invited guests set to try out a new email service called "Gmail."

Google, which made its name in search but has added numerous services, such as a news aggregation page and a newsgroup interface, says that Gmail is search-based e-mail.

Like Yahoo Mail and MSN Hotmail, Gmail will let users search through their e-mail. Unlike those competitors, though, Google will offer enough storage so that the average e-mail account holder will never have to delete messages.

Hotmail currently offers 2MB of free e-mail storage. Yahoo offers 4MB. Gmail will dwarf those offerings with a 1GB storage limit.

Google plans to make money from the service by inserting advertisements into messages based in part on their content, effectively extending its Ad-

Words program for presenting contextual ads in Web pages to e-mail.

"The idea is that your mail can stay in there forever," said Wayne Rosing, vice president of engineering at Google. "You can always index it, always search it, and always find things from the past."

When asked whether Gmail represented further evidence that Google is muscling in on the turf of Yahoo, MSN and other Web portals, Rosing demurred.

"The way we'd like to say it," he said, "is that part of our mission is to organize and present all the world's information, and e-mail's part of that information that currently is not well organized. That is the rubric under which we offer this."

But one analyst said that Google's e-mail service should be able to siphon some consumers away from the company's rivals, given the level of storage and the proposed functionality.

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research

## TIPS & TRICKS

### How to Get Rid of Old Unused User Profiles

You may have created local user profiles for different users to log onto your computer. Profiles save information about each user's preferences, desktop, etc. and can grow quite large. To delete them to free up disk space:

Right click *My Computer*.

Select *Properties*.

Click the *Advanced* tab.

Under User Profiles in the middle of the box, click the *Settings* button.

In the list of profiles stored on this computer, highlight the one you want to get rid of, and click the *Delete* button.

Click OK twice to exit the dialog boxes.

### How to Add More Options to the "Send to" Menu

The "send to" function in the right context menu is handy; it lets you right click a file and send it to the floppy drive, the desktop, the My Documents folder, a mail recipient, etc. But there might be other places you'd like to be able to quickly send files (for example, to a folder you've created or a network drive). You can add more locations to the Send to menu:

Right click Start and click Explore to open Windows Explorer.

Navigate to the drive on which XP is installed (where the WINDOWS folder is located) and expand the Documents and Settings folder.

Expand the folder for your XP account name.

Expand the Send to folder (this is a hidden folder, so you might need to modify your Explorer options settings to show hidden files and folders first).

In Explorer, right click the folder or drive you want to add and drag it into the Send to folder. Select Create shortcut here.

To show hidden files and folders, in Explorer click Tools | Folder Options, click the View tab, and check the box that says Show Hidden Files and Folders.

### Live Manuals

Can't find that manual for something you got for Christmas? Try: <http://www.livemanuals.com> along with product simulations and interactive assistance.

*Submitted by: Greg Wilson*

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There was a pilot flying a small single engine charter plane, with a couple of very important executives on board. He was coming into the Seattle airport, through thick fog, with less than 10 miles visibility when his instruments went out. So, he began circling around looking for a landmark. After an hour or so, he starts running pretty low on fuel and the passengers are getting very nervous. Finally, a small opening in the fog appears and he sees a tall building with one guy working alone on the 5th floor. The pilot banks the plane around, rolls down the window and shouts to the guy, "Hey where am I?" To this, the solitary office worker replies, "You're in a plane". The pilot rolls up the window, executes a 275 degree turn and proceeds to execute a perfect blind landing on the runway of the airport 5 miles away. Just as the plane stops, so does the engine, as the fuel runs out. The passengers are amazed and one asks how he did it. "Simple," replies the pilot, "I asked the guy in that building a simple question. The answer he gave me was 100 percent correct but absolutely useless, therefore, that must be Microsoft's support office and from there the airport is just five miles due East."



*Taken from: The Patience News Issue #28*



Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else

## News—Previous Meeting



### **GALAXIES, STARS & OTHER FLYING OBJECTS**

What a lot to absorb in one evening! Gary Korpan was in good form as he led us through a fascinating, but brief review of our solar system and beyond. The scope of his subject was amazing and, in the short time available, he covered a lot of ground.

His initial comments related to the Club's CD Utility disk, which was spoken of with great appreciation – our thanks to Wes Jackson. There were many utility programs mentioned, and he referred to the article in the December 2003 issue of the PAPER MODEM which gave more detail. He was careful to mention that most of the of the programs were free, and the members were busily writing down the web addresses he gave out. He stressed the necessity of virus protection programs and the value of constant monitoring of your PC. It is well to remember that the writers of these malicious programs are always ahead of the authors of the protections.

The images of the stars and galaxies were truly amazing. The distances could hardly be imagined and when you consider light travels at

about 186,000 miles/second the science that produced these pictures is mind-boggling. One slide which stood out in my mind was the one depicting the orbits of the various satellites around the earth. There were so many and the task of keeping their orbits exclusive is a major one. Apparently there have been collisions which produce space debris – and there is no vacuum cleaner to pick up the pieces either!! . The colours in the galaxies were outstanding and it was hard to imagine how they could be so far from earth and look so clear. One slide, taken by the Hubbard Space Telescope recently showed the farthest star clusters found so far – the distance was truly 'out of this world'.

We were told that the City of Nanaimo website is under a major revision and will be available for viewing in about three weeks. It is an excellent site now, and we're sure it will be much improved when we see it in the near future.

An excellent evening, full of information and knowledge – again, thanks Gary.

*Submitted by Alan Forrest*



**Borrow money from a pessimist, they don't expect it back**



## Fred's XPosé

### March 16 Meeting. A Windows XP Q & A Forum

This was an auspicious occasion. Not only did we get to talk and demo the operating system, but we were the first community group to use the ADSL resource at Beban Park. It was great to be able to go on line at high speed - typically 265 Kb/s - and retrieve data at will.

My personal thanks to Gord Bulger and Steve Wawrykow for helping me handle the XP questions. Quite a few were sent in and many were not answered at the time. Here are some of the "leftovers":

Q. Why do I receive images that just appear as empty boxes with a little red X in them.

A. (Many possibilities). 1. In Internet Explorer go to *Tools > Internet Options> Advanced > Multimedia* - make sure Show Pictures is checked.  
2. By default Windows XP opens all picture files with Windows Picture & Fax Viewer. Click on *My Pictures > View* - then try *Filmstrip* or *Thumbnails* to view your files.  
3. Perhaps you are trying to view Java applets. Go to your Control Panel. One of the icons should be the Java coffee cup (Java Plug-in). If you don't have one, go to <http://www.java.com/en/index.jsp> Go to the box on the right for the free download - I prefer the Manual download, you may prefer Automatic. This installs the Java Runtime Environment, Standard Edition 1.4.2\_04.

Q. What is Direct X.

A. DirectX 9.0b is a Windows XP technology required for use with many games, security and other

high-end multimedia applications. It is a system component which cannot be uninstalled.

Q. If Windows XP is stable, are there any traps to be avoided.

A. Assuming Windows XP was properly installed initially, the need is for an organized plan to maintain it. The recommended sequence is as follows:

Use **Windows Update** to keep you automatically informed of updates, but don't go for automatic downloading & installing. Do install all **Critical Updates** and new **Drivers** promptly. Don't install any of the regular updates that you don't need.

[Currently there are 6 regular updates I have declined to install because they apply to features of Windows XP that I never use].

Go through **View Installation History** from the oldest date to the current date. Verify that any entries shown as **Failed** or **In Progress** have subsequently been followed by a **Successful** entry with the same description and KB number. If there any entries not corrected by a *Successful* entry, go to the MS Update web site and download the KB article and install it yourself.

Go to [www.belarc.com](http://www.belarc.com) and download and install the free **Belarc Advisor** program and run it to get your *Computer Profile*. Make sure that under the list of **Installed Microsoft Hotfixes** there are none with a red X indicating a HotFix that fails verification. I have found that the Microsoft Installation History can show a HotFix installed successfully which failed verification by Belarc Advisor ! If this happens to you, reinstall the failed file, or if you are **really** interested go to the next step to get all the details. Go to <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/> Search for and display Article

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A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip

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**282784.** Follow the instructions on *How to Obtain Qfecheck.exe for Windows XP Home and Windows XP Professional*. Download and install **qfecheck.exe** in your C:\Windows\System32\ folder. Opt to have the log with your computer name appear on the desktop, or other location of your choice.

Then go to **Start -- Run** and type

C:\Windows\System32\qfecheck /l /v \_\_\_\_\_ in the *Open* box - (note the space before **ll** and before **lv**). Then click on OK. The result should be a Windows XP HotFix Validation report which will appear briefly on screen, then disappear. Now go the location you selected and you should find a *(computer name).log* file waiting for you to read when you click on it. This report should provide a list of all the Hotfixes Identified, and against each it should show *Current on system*. If there is a problem with a hotfix it will show:

*This hotfix should be reinstalled. The following files are incorrect for this hotfix.*

[ On one of my machines, against just one hotfix it listed 36 files as incorrect !]

After downloading and reinstalling the invalid hotfix run **qfecheck** again to ensure that all entries are *Current on system*.

"If you are an advanced user" you can install the **Windows Recovery Console** as a startup option. See Microsoft KB Article 307654 for details. It helps gain access to your Windows installation to replace damaged files and enable/disable services. You **MUST** be the Administrator to use this console. Start the Recovery Console from your hard disk or from the Windows Setup CD. It requires about 7MB of disk space. To install it on your hard disk, put the Setup Cd in the CD drive. When the installation menu comes select Exit. Then go to **Start -- Run** and enter D:\i386\winnt32.exe /cmdcons and click on OK.

The Weekly list - Defrag all hard drive volumes. Use the Win XP program. I consider it adequate. Don't worry about doing it too often. **Analyze** first and the

program will tell you if **Defragment** is necessary. Then do the **Checkdisk**, again using the Win XP program. After that I recommend a good registry cleaner. I haven't found a freebie I'm happy with. For the average home user I like **Registry First Aid 3.0** One reason I like it is that as soon as you call it up it gets you to **Create a Restore Point** - before you start the cleanup, and it backs up your final action. The registry typically contains 10,000 entries so the first time you run it will be a long job - enjoy a long lunch. After that, sticking to a weekly routine will be relatively short.

That's it for the basic operating system, but of course we have the troubles that come down the line. Spam, Viruses, Hackers, Pop-ups, Data Miners, Trackers - the list goes on. First you need a decent software firewall. The current offering built into WinXP SP1a is definitely not good enough. It does nothing at all for outgoing traffic. You don't have to pay for a good program. I use ZoneAlarm [free version] on one machine and Sygate [free version] on the other. I prefer Sygate. It is less intrusive and friendlier. Then you need a decent hardware firewall. There are many alternatives. I use one which is inherent in my U.S. Robotics Router. How so I check it. Again once a week, normally, I run a freebie test program which you can download from <http://www.hackerwatch.org/probe> I run the **Port Scan** to make sure my system is secure.

Now for the Daily Security routine. For anti-virus I like **AVG 6.0** as a freebie. Make sure you configure the Update Manager to **Update if database is older than 1 day**. The default is a week which is simply not good enough. For a small outlay, initially U.S. \$19.95 and then \$9.95 a year I really like **eTrust EZ Antivirus** from Computer Associates. [Veteran club members will remember this as *InoculateIT* when it was free]. It can be configured to update automatically and it does it every day, and tells you too! C.A. is said to be the third largest software company in the world, best known for its ac-

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Duct tape is like the force, it has a light side and a dark side and it holds the universe together

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counting systems from Simply Accounting on up to the really big packages. I use AVG on one machine and eTrust on the other.

Now to Spam. **Everybody** - In Outlook Express 6.0 - go to **View > Layout > Preview Pane** and make sure there is **NO** checkmark in the **Show preview pane** box. If you fail to do this you will be reading the spam message every time you select it!

I don't use any resident spam programs on my two machines any more. I am extremely happy with the Telus Spam Control on my ADSL link. About 98% of the spam is deleted by Telus at the server. The couple of messages that do get through I deal with by selecting them in the **Inbox** then right clicking and choosing **Forward As Attachment** from the context menu. From my **Address Book** I then pick **report\_spam** and put that in the **To:** line and then move the cursor to the body of the message before clicking on **Send**. [It goes to report\_spam @telus.net and I can put all the attachments in one message]. As soon as I see the report has been sent I press the **Delete** button to get rid of the still selected spam messages. My wife uses Spam Inspector (she is on Shaw Cable). It is not free, but it is a pretty good program compared to other "on machine" offerings.

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## FOR SALE

**VIDEO CARD GeForce 4 MX440 64 MB AGP .....\$50.00.**  
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### ***Rattan Suite***



**Contact: Betty or Walter  
At 390-3400**

***Submit all items for sale to [ybulger@shaw.ca](mailto:ybulger@shaw.ca)***



The End.