



The Paper Modem

June 2004 Volume 4 Issue 6

Inside this issue:

Page

Cookies can't always block everything...	1/2
Computer related Items <i>For Sale</i>	2/6
Reviewing Previous Meetings / Tips & Tricks	3
Back to Basics / Member submits an excellent digital picture	4
Humour	5
What the is VoIP?	6
Solve your Radio Static problem!	7/8
What's on in June	8



Cookies Can't Always Block Everything...

Q: Someone told me that in Internet Explorer if you 'Override automatic cookie handling,' you can effectively block Adware and Spyware. Is this true?

A: Although Adware and Spyware can make use of cookies, they are not necessarily related.

Cookies are simple text files that store a unique identifier, much like the barcode on the back of your grocery store's value card. The card or cookie in and of itself is completely benign, because you would have to have access to the database that contains all of the information associated with the unique identifier in order to get to any real information.

Adware and Spyware do not make their way into your computer via cookies; they can just do more with the use of cookies once they have made it in.

Adware (software designed to deliver ads, pop-ups, etc.) and Spyware (software designed to monitor your Internet usage and report back to a central computer without your knowledge) generally make their way into your computer inside of other programs.

Many of the smaller software authors that want to generate a little revenue will make a deal with an Adware or Spyware company to silently install their software during the installation of the primary program.

For instance, if you install a cute program that constantly tells you what the weather is (for those that are too lazy to actually look out the window!) not only does it constantly steal valuable resources



I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

(Continued from page 1)

from your system which slows it down, it also installs a program that allows it to send you ads.

The EULA (End User License Agreement) that no one reads covers what is going to happen when you install the program, but most users simply click on the 'I agree' button and go on with life.

Another common trick to getting users to install Malware (malicious software) is to use a pop-up that looks like a error message. Once you click on the ad that is posing as an error message, it gives you instructions on how to 'fix the problem' which is actually a ploy to get you to install an unneeded program.

The most disturbing new method of installing Adware and Spyware is via a 'drive-by download.' Because of the various vulnerabilities that exist in many of today's operating systems, computers with lax security settings are extremely vulnerable to having a program installed just by visiting a Web site.

Anyone that puts up a Web site can 'tickle' the visitor's computer to see if it is vulnerable and if so, silently place a program on the unsuspecting visitor's hard drive.

Fringe Web sites that deal in illegal music

downloads, adult content, gambling, hacking, cracking, or any grey area content are notorious for drive-by downloads.

These types of programs have become so insidious that they are causing major performance issues for the vast majority of Internet connected users.

Make sure that you are up-to-date with the known vulnerabilities in Windows by going to windowsupdate.microsoft.com at least once a month.

No matter what you do from a security standpoint, your system will likely pick up various Adware and Spyware programs on a regular basis, so it's critical to have a good program that can track down and remove these malicious installations.

The two that I favor are both free and relatively effective. For the novice user, I recommend using [Ad-Aware](#) from LavaSoft and [SpyBot Search and Destroy](#) for more advanced users.

You can get direct links to download both of these programs from the 'Recommended Software - Seal of Approval' section at data-doctors.com.

Submitted By: Y Bulger

**Computer Desk for Sale—Excellent Condition
Please contact Barbara @ 756-2510**



How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?



Microsoft FRONT PAGE Presentation

Bob Goerzen again gave our members another great session!! Limiting himself to covering a few of the many features available, he was able to concentrate to get the best out of the time available.

Prefacing his comments, he said that FRONT PAGE was an easy program to use in the creation of websites. There are others with features that commend themselves, but for all round functionality and ease of use this was the way to go. He spoke about a statistical feature he uses from NISA which gives him an excellent insight into the manner in which his website appeals to users. It is a valuable tool in helping to focus the site to get the best, "bang for the buck".

The statistics were as follows;-

Operating Systems used:

Windows	95.8%
Mac	3.2%
Linux	0.6%
Unknown	0.1%



Greg Wilson

For a very informative Q&A , this was a wonderfully successful evening, which calls for a repeat of the same in the near future....

Submitted by: Ben Poudrier

Browsers used:

Internet Explorer	94%
Netscape	3.7%
Safari	0.7%
Mozilla	0.6%
Opera	0.3%
Firebird	0.1%
Unknown	0.1%

There were also graphs showing, for example, the timing and frequency of hits by the day and hour, which would help in tuning the site to get the best response. He stressed that a website must be dynamic and kept up to date with new features for it to maintain interest.

There were three sites recommended for the creation of websites and the URL's are as follows;

www.icemocha.com/tutoritals.htm

www.webworksite.com/ftutorials.htm

- discussion forum and site poll

tutorials.beginners.com.uk/index/category/8

It was a great evening and everyone was reluctant for it to end. Bob was given an enthusiastic round of applause for his efforts.

Tips & Tricks

Remove 'GO' Button

In Internet Explorer, that "GO" button beside the Address field serves no useful purpose, since entering a URL followed by the Enter key accomplishes the same thing. Reclaim space by going to *Tools|Internet Options|Advanced tab|Settings* menu and uncheck the "Show Go button in Address bar box." Back out with OK.



He who laughs last thinks slowest.



Back To Basics

By: *Brandon Watts*

Q: What does memory and virtual memory do?

A: Let's first discuss what memory does for your computing experience. You may have something like 256MB or 512MB of RAM (random access memory) available in your computer. What does this memory do? Well, when the processor needs information it asks the RAM for it. This is done because if you had to access the hard drive each and every time for information, the slow pace would impede on your valuable goofing off on the

Internet time. Your memory offers the information up a lot faster than your hard drive would. So when your processor requests a file or program, it gets sent to the RAM, which in turn offers fast access to the information. Another important thing to mention is that RAM is volatile which means that if the power to your computer is turned off, the information stored in memory will be lost. I'm sure that many of you have experienced the pain and suffering of losing an important document due to a power outage. You can thank the academy of RAM for this annoyance. That's why it is a good practice to routinely save your work to the hard drive.

Now that we understand the basics of how RAM works, let's analyze virtual memory. Believe it or not, your computer can use more memory than what is physically installed in your system. This non-physical version of the memory is called virtual memory. It works by setting up a portion of your hard drive to function like physical memory. This single file is called a page file (or swap file). When your actual physical memory is full, the computer will take infrequently used data in the memory and stick it in the swap file. This allows room for new data that is needed.

Submitted By: Greg Wilson



Submitted by: Leigh Dekraker—taken at Nanaimo Arts Festival



Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your mouth is moving.



Ten Lessons My Father Taught Me

1. Pay your bills on time and the bank will make you another loan when you need it.
2. If you get an education, no one will ever be able to take that away from you.
3. If you've done your best, then I'm satisfied with what you've done.
4. If you tear up my car I let you drive, I don't have the money to buy you another one.
5. Don't throw away the old folks.
6. The harder you work, the luckier you get.
7. Don't gamble the grocery money.
8. Don't be impressed by folks who have a lot of "things."
Most of them are lying awake at night trying to figure out how they're going to pay for all that stuff.
9. We have plenty of time if we just use the time we have.
10. It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.

Submitted By: Y. Bulger



Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.

FOR SALE

VIDEO CARD GeForce 4 MX440 64 MB AGP\$50.00.
Ask for Ben. 756-3195



What The Heck's A VoIP?

By [Brandon Watts](#)

Q: I have heard a lot of people talk about this VoIP thing recently. What exactly is it?

A: Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) is a technology that allows you to make telephone calls via your broadband Internet connection instead of your regular phone line. You've probably seen voice chat in applications such as MSN Messenger. Instead of the basic functionality found in software like that, you can get a complete phone service. Some of the VoIP solutions out there will only allow you to call people that have that same service, but many others will enable you to call anyone that has a telephone number. You can use a regular telephone if you purchase a special adapter, or in some cases you can just use a microphone connected to your computer.

You've probably heard the buzz about a company called [Vonage](#), lately. They provide complete packages that feature a nice set of included extras. One of the things that I found particularly interesting is that they allow you to pick from any of the area codes that

they offer. If you have desperately wanted to live somewhere else, you can get closer to this dream by having that location's area code - that's some pretty cool stuff. Use their savings calculator to see how much money you would save under one of the plans that they offer.

On the other side of the fence is a free program called [Skype](#). It allows you to make free phone calls to other Skype users from around the world. You can even talk with up to five friends at the same time. Recently they released PocketSkype, which will allow you to make calls from your PocketPC device when in range of a WiFi hotspot. This software would be a good choice if you want to keep your regular phone service, but would like to talk with your group of friends (nationally and internationally) for free.

It's hard for me to envision moving over completely to a VoIP service, but I guess that if the reliability, features, and pricing is competitive, it just may be a smart move. What? You can't hear me? Let me call you back when I get a better connection

Submitted by: [Greg Wilson](#)

Read more about it at:

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/embedded/devplat/voip/default.aspx>



Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.



Radio Static

Q: I like to listen to my clock-radio while using my computer. The radio is located about four feet from the CPU, separated by air and wood, and about six inches above the monitor.

Static is excruciating, especially when booting up. The problem occurs with all stations.

Static occurs when the CPU is on and other components are off and seems loudest during booting up. Have you any suggestions?

A: There are two possible ways the radio is suffering interference, either "conducted" or "radiated," according to Jim Nelson, senior project engineer at Illinois-based Oneac, a company that makes products that provide protection against power and data-line disturbances.

"Conducted" means the interfering radio frequency noise is flowing out the power cord of the PC and up the power cord of the radio.

"Radiated" means the interfering radio frequency noise is being emitted directly from the PC or cables connected to it through the air, just like a radio station.

"It's true that a PC sends a much weaker signal than any radio station.

"It is infinitely closer, as far as the radio is concerned, so the noise wins." said Nelson

First, try a battery-operated radio in the same location and tune it to your regular station. If the inter-

ference goes away the problem is likely conducted, though this is no guarantee. The portable radio may be better filtered.

If you think the problem is conducted, plug the radio into a different electrical circuit than the one the computer is on.

Or try using a line filter on the PC and radio. Look for transformer-based Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) that filter out noise and protect against surges.

Look for one that has built-in filters for Radio Frequency Interference/Electro-Magnetic Interference (RFI/EMI) and that has high isolation rating (in "db" or decibels).

If the problem seems to be radiated, first try repositioning or re-orienting both pieces of equipment and their cords.

Some radios use the power cord as the antenna. The cables coming out of the PC can work as antennas, too. A device at the end of the wire doesn't need to be in use or even on for the cord to be a problem.

Turn the PC and radio on so you can hear the interference. Start disconnecting the cords from the back of the PC one at a time to see if one in particular is causing the problem.

The problem may be caused by several sources.

So the interference may diminish slightly if one cord is removed. You can't pull the power cord, but it may be the source, so don't forget it when you try some of the following suggestions provided by Nelson.

- If there are screws on any of the connectors make sure they are tight, as some shielded cables require

(Continued on page 8)



Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how popular it remains?

(Continued from page 7)

them for good grounding.

- If you suspect some of the cables going to your printer or serial device are unshielded, go buy replacements that say shielded wire is used.

- If any cables are longer than they need to be, bundle and tie them up.

Don't roll them into a coil. Weave them back and forth as tightly as possible and tie or tape them.

- Ferrite cores or beads in a cable can help at certain frequencies.

These look like a small cylindrical lump near the connector. Your monitor's video cable probably has one.

Snap-on versions can be bought at places like Radio Shack. Try them on the cables that you suspect.

They work best nearest the source (the PC main

box), though sometimes sliding them up and down the cable changes the effect.

If the hole in the bead is large enough, loop the cable more than once to increase effectiveness.

- Sometimes long slots or breaks in the metal PC cabinet can act as an antenna. Make sure the PC cover is seated properly and screwed on tight, if you have ever taken it off.

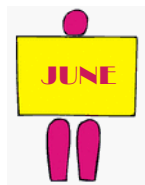
If there are still long openings in the box try to seal them with aluminum foil tape sold at heating and air conditioning suppliers.

Don't put the tape near electrical connections or use it where it could fall on something that has power running through if it came unstuck.

Also, be sure not to cover openings used for ventilation. The tape trick is a last resort.

Submitted by: Gord Bulger

What's on in



June 9th—*Peter Ward of London Drugs*—Current and new Technology with regard to imaging. How digital cameras work, how to get the most out of your camera and what to do with the images once they are in your Computer

June 15th—*Wes Jackson*—Presents *Utility programs*

Reminder: There are NO meetings in July



Corduroy pillows: They're making headlines!