



# The Paper Modem

May 2004 Volume 4 Issue 5

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## Playing the Waiting Game!

### Windows XP Service Pack 2

**Delayed -Microsoft now says the update won't ship before July.**

Joris Evers, IDG News Service—Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Service Pack 2 for Windows XP, originally planned to ship in the first half of the year, will now be released in July at the earliest. The major, security-focused operating sys-

tem update doesn't yet meet Microsoft's standards, a company spokesperson says. Microsoft as recently as last week said Service Pack 2 for Windows XP was on schedule for release in the first half of the year. The company has now decided to delay the update to "some time in the third quarter" because testing has not been completed and Microsoft continues to make changes to the software based on input from testers, the spokesperson says.

"Ultimately the final release will ship when SP2 meets the quality standards customer's demand," he says. Internally, Microsoft is aiming for release in July, according to a source familiar with the company's plans. Microsoft released a beta of SP2 for Windows XP service pack in December, followed by Release Candidate 1 in March. A Release Candidate 2 is still scheduled to be released

*(Continued on page 2)*



### Did you know:

Butterflies taste with their feet.....

*(Continued from page 1)*

in May, the spokesperson says. The test versions of SP2 for Windows XP have been downloaded over 200,000 times, he says.

### **Added Security**

SP2 for Windows XP is more than the usual roll-up of bug fixes and updates. It is also being used to make significant changes to the software that is designed to improve security, Microsoft has said. Changes to Windows XP made by SP2 fall into four main areas: network protection, memory protection, e-mail security, and browsing security. Microsoft has warned developers that they should test their applications with SP2 because the company made something of a trade-off with the update, focusing on secu-

rity improvements at the expense of backward-compatibility. If developers don't test, they might find their software will no longer work on updated Windows machines.

While the XP update has already delayed the development of Longhorn, the next release of Windows expected in 2006, the slip in the SP2 delivery date has no further effect on the Longhorn beta time-frame, according to Microsoft. The vendor had reassigned developers working on Longhorn to work on the service pack for Windows XP. As a result the first *Longhorn beta* was pushed back from mid-2004 until early 2005.

*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*



## **Google shows its cards**

*By Steven Musil - April 30th, 2004  
Staff Writer, CNET News.com*

### **Google finally filed its plans to go public, revealing details about its finances and plans in one of the most-anticipated offerings in years.**

Google seeks to raise \$2.7 billion in an unusual auction-style public offering that will give the founders rare control over the company. However, the filing didn't disclose the number of shares that will be offered, nor the range in price for those shares.

In an unusual provision for a technology company, Google will create two classes of shares with different voting rights, a move that aims to guarantee that founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page will maintain decision-

making authority.

Such structures have proved beneficial in media companies such as The New York Times, the filing states.

With the filing, Google for the first time released its financial results, answering long-awaited questions about the company's profitability. The company generated \$961.9 million in revenue in fiscal 2003 and posted \$105.6 million in net profit. That marked the third consecutive year of profits for the Web's most popular search engine. During the most recent quarter, which ended March 31, Google collected \$389.6 million in revenue and posted a \$64 million profit.

### **For the full story go to:**

[http://news.com.com/2100-1083\\_3-5202166.html?tag=nefd.led](http://news.com.com/2100-1083_3-5202166.html?tag=nefd.led)

*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*



*Did you know:*

**A duck's quack does not echo, and no one knows why...**



# Greg's Tricks & Tips

[The Magical Jelly Bean Keyfinder](http://www.magicaljellybean.com/keyfinder.shtml) is a free-ware utility that retrieves your Product Key (cd key) used to install windows from your registry. It has the options to copy the key to clipboard, save it to a text file, or print it for safekeeping. It works on Windows 95, 98, ME, NT4, 2000, XP, Server 2003, Office 97, and Office XP.

<http://www.magicaljellybean.com/keyfinder.shtml>

## [How to Make Folders Private in XP Home](#)

If you're using Windows XP Home edition with simple file sharing, you can secure your data by performing these steps:

Right click the folder in which your data is stored and select Properties  
Click the Sharing tab  
Select Make this folder private  
Sometimes, however, you might not see a "Make this folder private" option. This can happen for two reasons:  
The folder isn't in your My Documents folder or one of its subfolders. In this case, you'll need to move the folder to the correct location.  
The drive on which the folder is stored isn't formatted in NTFS. In this case, you'll need to move the folder to an NTFS drive or convert the file system for the drive where the folder is located to NTFS.

You can convert a drive to NTFS without losing any of your data by doing the following:

Click Start and select Run  
Type cmd to open a command prompt window  
Click OK  
At the command prompt, type: Convert [drive letter]: /fs:ntfs  
Press Enter  
Type exit to get out of the command window  
Important: if you have a dual boot system and you convert the drive to NTFS, you will not be able to access the data on that drive when you boot into Windows 9x/ME.

## [Spychecker](#)

If you're about to download a program and are concerned that it might contain spyware, adware, scumware, and the like (and who isn't concerned about that?), go to Spychecker.

<http://www.spychecker.com/>

Enter the program name in the database and see what they might have to report on it.

[Convert](#) is an easy to use unit conversion program that will convert the most popular units of distance, temperature, volume, time, speed, mass, power, density, pressure, energy and many others, including the ability to create custom conversions. It's free download.

<http://www.joshmadison.com/software/convert/>

*Submitted by: Greg Wilson*



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### *Did you know:*

**It's physically impossible for you to lick your elbow ...**



## Scumbags Hijack your Web Sites

*"Imagine how powerful it could be to widen the effectiveness of search engine keyword advertising to the entire Web. This will enable you to reach millions of qualified users from every web page that contextually matches your campaign objective and your product or service keywords, anywhere on the Web." – eZula.com*

eZula is a new Pay Per Click service and they have partnered with you to drive visitors away from your web site. You don't get to choose about participating and the only reward you will get is... well, actually you don't get diddly. They get to sell targeted traffic based on the content of every web page in the world without having to resort to developing any content, running a PPC search engine, or actually doing much of anything. Sounds like the Web to me.

Currently, TopText only works with the Microsoft Internet Explorer browser.

To back up a bit before continuing to vent my anger over this issue, the story goes something like this:

There is a new file sharing system launched in the wake of the MP3 sharing/stealing war, and

# Scumware!

the new system is called **KaZaa**. You download it, install it and get right back to sharing bootleg music files. KaZaa claims that almost 6 million people have downloaded and installed its system.



Unfortunately when you install KaZaa you also get at least one virus installed on your computer. I call it a virus because by most descriptions I've seen of the term, TopText qualifies as a virus. You don't ask for it. It takes control of your browser and makes changes to everything you read on the Internet.

TopText operates with a browser to highlight words on every web page, inserting a yellow background behind keywords that have been purchased through their media sales company eZula, Inc. If a web user clicks on one of those yellow highlighted words on a web page, the user is whisked away to the site of the company paying the most that day for each click-through. If a user whose browser is infected with TopText visits your web site, they will be offered links to competitor's web sites for every keyword they find on your site for which they have a buyer.

This is not much, if any, different from the Smart Tags system that Microsoft announced for their Windows XP browser. Media and

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**Did you know:**

**All Polar Bears are left-handed ...**

*(Continued from page 4)*

webmaster pressure and outrage caused Microsoft to cancel, for now, their release of that feature.

This new invasion of our web sites is different because the media appears to care not at all. Where is their righteous indignation now? I'll tell you... nowhere. Talking about a bunch of companies nobody has ever heard of is not glitzy enough compared to attacking Microsoft. So, if this misuse of technology is to be beaten, you are going to have to do it.

Word was that you can send your list of sites to <mailto:support@ezula.com> and they would block their virus from operating on your pages. That turns out to be untrue but phone calls to eZula are showing some results. If all 300,000 of you call in your list and follow up every day until they block it, you could probably show them a little something about how webmasters feel about companies infringing on their intellectual property rights.

Respected download web sites such as **C/NET's Download.com** are actively helping this virus to spread on an unsuspecting world. I wonder why they would distribute something that would place links to competitor sites on their own web pages? After repeated attempts to enlist their help in stopping the spread of this virus, C/NET continues to defend their position of aiding the spread of this unethical program. Must really need the banner impressions.

EZula claims that they have a relationship with a major ISP which should come as no surprise keeping in mind how many ISPs are starving for income.

The MP3 file sharing software allows anyone to share files for free. Free is the only model that works for that whole industry. People don't want to pay when they can get valuable content for free.

So KaZaa had to find somewhere that they could generate profits without have to work at it. So they chose my web site and yours. If they can steal our traffic and sell it to our competitors, that should be profitable, right?

Sure it is. They can get (currently) from \$.30 to \$1.00 for every click through and they don't have to share with anyone. Does anyone else see the irony in this? It shouldn't come as a great surprise that a company built on the premise that everyone should be able to get free music and cut the musicians totally out of the system would turn to another way of stealing content and do it in a way that cuts the content developers total out of the system.

Why pay to advertise on my web site when you can pay these bozos to hack into my content and send you some cheap, stolen traffic. To add insult to injury, they deface my sites with their ugly yellow background colors.

Maybe TopText is both a virus and a hacker at the same time. Hackers find ways to change the content of your web pages. TopText does it by infecting Net user's computers.

**Sites of Interest:**

<http://www.scumware.com/>

<http://www.freewebmasterhelp.com/articles/scumware>

<http://online-privacy-security.com/spyware-scumware.php>

*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*



**Did you know:**

**If Barbie were life-size, her measurements would be 39-23-33 and she would be 7'2" ...**



## Fred's XPosé

Vol 04 Issue 2

**News Flash.** Microsoft is now targeting Windows XP Service Pack 2 in July. It is still digesting testers feedback.

**Q:** Is the *Start Menu* really “**the heart of Windows**” ?

**A:** Maybe, solely from the perspective of the end user as a computer operator.

For me, an end user wanting to know more of the “insides”, the heart of Win XP is the folder *d:\Windows\System32* where d: is usually C: System32 is a truly huge folder.

One example is 505 MB, containing 4,302 Files and 170 sub folders.

Two of the larger sub folders are:

*Drivers* - containing 200 files  
*dllcache* - containing 1,446 files

**Q:** CMD or COMMAND ? Is there a difference ?

**A:** With CMD you start the Windows XP command interpreter, still truly in Windows.

**Start > Run** type in **cmd** then click on **OK**.  
You should see this displayed:

```
C:\WINDOWS\System32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows XP [Version
5.1.2600]
(c) Copyright 1985-2001 Microsoft Corp.
```

```
C:\Documents and Settings\xxxx
```

Under **cmd** mode you can return to the regular Windows display by clicking the **X** at top right of the display box.

With COMMAND you enter the world of MS-DOS 7.1, a.k.a “Windows DOS.”

**Start > Run** type in **command** then click on **OK**. You should see this displayed:

```
C:\WINDOWS\System32\command.com
Microsoft (R) Windows DOS
C>Copyright Microsoft Corp. 1990-2001
```

```
C:\DOCUME~1\xxxx>
```

The final **>** is the cursor. Now to experiment. Firstly, against the cursor type **dir ?** [Note the space after **dir**]. You should see about six lines or more of Volume and Directory information. Press **Enter** and now - Secondly, against the cursor type **dir /?** [Note the space after **dir**]. You should see a long list of all the “switches” used under the **dir** command.

Under **command** mode return to the regular Windows display by typing **exit** on the command line. Clicking the X at top right of the box only brings up an End Program story which you should cancel.

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### Did you know:

Typewriter is the longest word in the English language that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard ...

*(Continued from page 6)*

**Q:** How are critical system files protected from being corrupted?

**A:** Windows 2000 & Windows XP, unlike earlier operating systems, are protected by the **Windows File Protection** (WFP) feature which is always enabled and running in the background. It protects against another program replacing a system file by checking the file's digital signature. Typical system files, like .exe, .dll, .sys, .ocx, are installed during Windows Setup. If WFP finds a file is not the correct Microsoft version it replaces that file from the **dllcache** or from the Windows CD. Signed files are distributed through Windows Update, Windows Service Packs, Hotfixes, Rollups and operating system upgrades.

To positively verify system files you can also use **System File Checker** (sfc.exe). This can be invoked through *Start>Run> sfc /scannow*  
OK All protected system files are scanned and incorrect versions replaced with the correct Microsoft files.

Both methods may require you have available the appropriate Windows XP installation CD. **[Don't buy a computer system from a vendor who says you don't need the CD !]**

**Mouse aid.** We're often told to make more use of the keyboard. We can also make life easier with the mouse too. Check that your pointer (cursor) automatically moves to the default button in every dialogue box. If it doesn't, follow these steps:

**Control Panel > Mouse > Pointer Options > Snap To** - make sure the box is checked.

This actions "**Automatically move pointer to the default button in a dialog box**"

If you have not used this feature before it can be quite disconcerting for a while. You want to position the cursor and it's already there! Persevere - it is both a time and wrist saver.

*Submitted by: Fred Horn*

## Blogs?

### Weblogs: a history and perspective

In 1998 there were just a handful of sites of the type that are now identified as weblogs (so named by [Jorn Barger](#) in December 1997).

Jesse James Garrett, editor of [Infosift](#), began compiling a list of "other sites like his" as he found them in his travels around the web. In November of that year, he sent that list to Cameron Barrett. Cameron published the list on [Cam-world](#), and others maintaining similar sites began

sending their URLs to him for inclusion on the list. Jesse's ['page of only weblogs'](#) lists the 23 known to be in existence at the beginning of 1999.

Suddenly a community sprang up. It was easy to read all of the weblogs on Cameron's list, and most interested people did. [Peter Merholz](#) announced in early 1999 that he was going to pronounce it 'wee-blog' and inevitably this was shortened to 'blog' with the weblog editor referred to as a 'blogger.'

Check out this site to get more perspective on "Blogging"

<http://www.blogscanada.ca/>

*Submitted by: Y. Bulger*



*Did you know:*

"Go" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language...

## Programmer's Lament

99 little bugs in the code,  
99 bugs in the code,  
Fix one bug, compile it again,  
101 little bugs in the code.  
101 little bugs in the code,  
101 bugs in the code,  
Fix one bug, compile it again,



### XP TO THE RESCUE

#### PASSWORD RECOVERY DISK

One of the most traumatic computer events to happen to us, second perhaps only to a hard drive failure, is a complete mental lapse in which we forget our passwords.

Windows XP to the rescue with its Forgotten Password Wizard. To prepare for the forgotten password, create a password recovery disk by clicking on *Start | Control Panel User Accounts*. Select your user account name and, under Related Tasks, click "Prevent forgotten password." This launches the wizard to create a recovery disk. Safeguard the disk when you finish, because anyone using it can get into your pass-worded system.

*Submitted by: Greg Wilson*

### Making 'My Documents' Mine

How to redirect or move the My Documents folder to another drive in Windows XP .

Take advantage of being able to select My Documents and have it appear on the new bigger D: drive.

This is especially applicable to those that have older machines. Perhaps you added a second hard drive that is almost double the capacity of the one that was originally included with your computer.

You can have the contents of the My Documents folder transferred to another drive location, and as you can imagine, double-clicking the folder will redirect you to the new path.

To get the lowdown on how this feat is accomplished, read the information on the following page:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:Q310147>

*Submitted by: Greg Wilson*



*Did you know:*

**A Crocodile cannot stick it's tongue out ...**



## Cookies Can't Always Block **malware**...

Lockergnome—Ken Colburn of [Data Doctors](#) answers Mike, who wonders:

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 from your system which slows it down, it also in-

stalls 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.

notFringe Web sites that deal in illegal music downloads, adult content, gambling, hacking, cracking, or any grey area content are orious 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](http://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

*(Continued on page 10)*



### *Did you know:*

**No word in the English dictionary rhymes with "month" ...**

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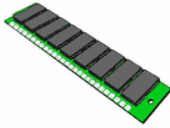
spyware programs on a regular basis, so it's critical to have a good program that can track down and remove these malicious installations.

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 De-](#)

[stroy](#) for more advanced users.

You can get direct links to download both of these programs from the 'Recommended Software - Seal of Approval' section at [datadoctors.com](#).

*Submitted by: Gord Bulger*



## Diagnose faulty RAM with the Windows Memory Diagnostic utility

by [Louis Nel](#) | [technorepublic](#)

Faulty RAM can play havoc on a computer, whether it's a file server or a desktop workstation. RAM failures can result in computer lockups, data loss, and file system corruption problems. The problem is that these symptoms can occur because of other causes, such as general motherboard problems, operating system bugs, viruses, etc. You need a way to separate RAM problems from these other causes. To help diagnose RAM problems, Microsoft provides a free utility, Windows Memory Diagnostic, that will allow you to thoroughly test RAM on your systems.

### Obtaining and installing Windows Memory Diagnostic

You can obtain the Windows Memory Diagnostic utility from [Microsoft's Online Crash Analysis Web site](#). Click the Download link. The file you'll download, `mtinst.exe`, is only 640 KB, so it will download quickly.

After you've downloaded the file, run it. You must accept the license when the wizard begins. You'll then see the Windows Memory Diagnostic Setup screen. Here you have only two options: Create Startup Disk or Save CD Image To Disk. The first choice creates a bootable floppy disk. The second creates an ISO image that you'll need

to burn to a CD. For the purposes of this article, we'll just create the boot floppy.

Windows Memory Diagnostic will work with all types of RAM, except ECC, on x86-based computers. The computer can have CPUs from Intel (Pentium or Celeron) or AMD (K6, Athlon, or Duron). According to Microsoft, the utility might not report errors on ECC RAM, because ECC automatically detects and corrects the errors. It is also possible that Windows Memory Diagnostic might detect errors ECC RAM cannot correct.

Windows Memory Diagnostic will test only the first 4 GB of RAM. If you have more, you're out of luck.

### Running the diagnostic

To start the tests, boot your computer with the disk you created. At this point, you may notice that the utility is a little rough around the edges. Even though Microsoft has called it "Windows" Memory Diagnostic, you'll notice that it resembles a DOS utility more than anything remotely Windows-like.

After Windows Memory Diagnostic has loaded, it starts running the first of three test suites, the Standard test suite, without offering you any options. The Standard test suite is the most basic of the three, the other two being progressively more thorough.

Unless you pause or exit the test at this stage, the rest of the test passes of this suite will run.

To run more thorough tests, you'll have to press [T] while Windows Memory Diagnostic is running. This gives you the option to select the Extended Test suite. You can also select the Basic Test suite (somewhat more thorough than the Standard suite) or create a custom test

*(Continued on page 11)*



*Did you know:*

*Almonds are a member of the Peach family ..*

(Continued from page 10)

suite by going to the Advanced Options menu and selecting Change The Test Suite.

To get to this menu, first press [P] to pause Windows Memory Diagnostic, then press [M] for menu. You'll notice the following Advanced options can be set:

?? **Change Cache Settings**—This allows you to run the tests with the processor cache on or off. If you turn the cache off, the tests are more thorough.  
**Change The Memory Map**—You can choose to use an extended memory map for more thorough testing.

The Extended tests can run a couple of hours, so you might want to let it run overnight. The tests will continue running until you pause the utility, exit it, or restart the computer.

### Identifying the culprit

For some hardware configurations, Windows Memory Diagnostic can identify which memory module is the culprit. If Windows Memory Diagnostic finds an error in one or more memory modules, you'll see the View Errors By Memory Module option in the menu. This option will show

you which specific memory modules are failing and need to be removed or replaced.

When interpreting test results, keep the following in mind: ?? Even though you can run the test multiple times, if no errors appear after one pass, the RAM is probably working correctly and the utility probably won't find errors on subsequent passes using the same settings.

?? If errors are reported on all memory modules, instead of faulty memory, you're probably encountering a faulty motherboard.

Microsoft warns that even if you DON'T receive errors, it doesn't necessarily mean there isn't a problem with the RAM on your system. Something could still be wrong, but the utility just might not be able to detect it. Microsoft has tested Windows Memory Diagnostic with more than 70 different motherboard, motherboard chipset, and RAM combinations, but naturally the company hasn't tested it under all possible combinations.

*Submitted by: Gord Bulger*



# What's happening in May??

## 1st Monthly Meeting—May 12th -

- Bob Goerzen—Presenting Front Page Web Writing

## 2nd Monthly Meeting—May 18th -

- Ben Poudrier & Greg Wilson present—Tips & Tricks, things you should know how to do on your computer



*You tried to lick your elbow, didn't you?*

