

Newsletter

Connecticut PC User's Group

August 2008
Vol. 26 No. 12

Preview of the Next CTPC Meeting -

Thursday, August 28th - 6:30 p.m

Pinnacle Studio 12

Please note the change of date and location from our regular schedule.

The August CTPC meeting will be a joint meeting of six user groups, including the CTPC, hosted by the PC Users Group of Connecticut in Trumbull (TPCUG.)

This meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 28th, from 6:30 to 9 PM, at the Trumbull Library Community Room, 33 Quality Street, Trumbull, CT.** Please plan to arrive early because high attendance is expected. Directions can be

found at <http://www.tpcug-ct.org/directions.html>.

Heather Little, a senior sales manager for Pinnacle Corporation will discuss and demonstrate the company's video products. These include products for video capture and editing, watching free HDTV on your PC and the easiest way to archive old video tapes or get video onto your iPod without a PC.

The centerpiece of the presentation is

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CTPC SCHEDULE

Aug 28th - Thursday 6:30 p.m.

Trumbull Library Community Room
33 Quality St., Trumbull, CT
See directions on last page

Sept 23rd - Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

CTPC Meeting
Norwalk Transit Bus Depot

GENERAL MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the 4th (not last) Tuesday of each month except December. There is no charge to attend general meetings.

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Firefox 3 – Hot New Browser

WEBSITES:

<http://www.getfirefox.com> – Free Download

<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/features/> - Features

<https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/> - Add ons

After a lengthy wait, Mozilla has released the latest and greatest release of the very popular web browser, Firefox 3. This new release, available for free download from www.getfirefox.com, has many new features, making it a very strong competitor to Microsoft's ubiquitous browser, Internet Explorer.

Firefox evolved from an earlier browser, Mozilla, which in turn grew out of the Netscape browser as AOL announced the cessation of Netscape development. Since its first release several years ago, Firefox in its current and previous versions has developed a wide following, with hundreds of millions of copies downloaded. The newly released version 3 has tentatively set a Guinness world record with over 8 million copies downloaded in its first 24 hours of public release, despite overloaded servers that discouraged countless people from downloading it the first day of issue. According to published reports, the number of copies of Firefox 3 downloaded surpassed 14 million downloads in the first 72 hours. Obviously, many people are using it.

Rhetorically, so why are so many using

Firefox 3 rather than Internet Explorer (IE), which is installed by default on all contemporary Windows computers? There are several other fine browsers in circulation, such as the newly released update to Opera, and Apple's Safari (for both Windows and Mac), but for Windows computers, Firefox is firmly in second place, right behind Internet Explorer. If Internet Explorer was not preinstalled on Windows computers and integrated into the operating system, there is a good chance that Firefox 3 could surpass IE in a fair competitive market. Firefox 3 is faster rendering web pages than IE, has superior tabbed browsing, is written in tighter code taking fewer system resources, and has many advantages over IE. There is no reason why PC users should not download Firefox 3 for Windows (7.8mb download), and install it, as it runs happily on computers that already have IE installed. On a fresh installation of Firefox on a Windows computer, Firefox will nondestructively import the favorites (bookmarks), cookies, and other information from IE, without making any changes or impeding IE in any way. If Firefox 3 is installed on a computer that has an older version of Firefox installed, it will automatically install it as an upgrade, including all bookmarks, passwords, cookies, and other information. Once installed, many users, such as me, prefer to use Firefox instead of IE. In my case I would say that I use Firefox for 98% of my browsing tasks; it would be 100%,

but I have IE setup to access another internet account that I have, but rarely use.

According to the Firefox 3 website at www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox, over 15,000 improvements were made to version 3 over version 2. The newly released version 3 is claimed to be faster, safer, and smarter than the previous version, and also IE! One of the new features, which I have personally verified, is the fact that web pages do indeed load faster than on IE and previous versions of Firefox. Firefox 3 also consumes less system memory and system resources, leading to improved computer performance when Firefox is loaded and running, compared to the previous version, or even IE. Firefox 3 is also more secure than previous browsers, and incorporates the latest technologies to help prevent phishing (identity theft), and other website forgeries. A neat new feature in Firefox 3 is "Instant Website ID", where clicking on the tiny website icon ("site favicon") at the left of the URL in the menu bar will display site information and identification, which will likely indicate if the site is as intended, or a web forgery. Firefox 3 has also been engineered to work smoothly and compliment Vista's parental controls, as well as most antivirus and other security programs.

Another interesting feature unique to Firefox 3 is the "Smart Location Bar" that shows detailed information on websites re-

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Viewing the Bigger Picture

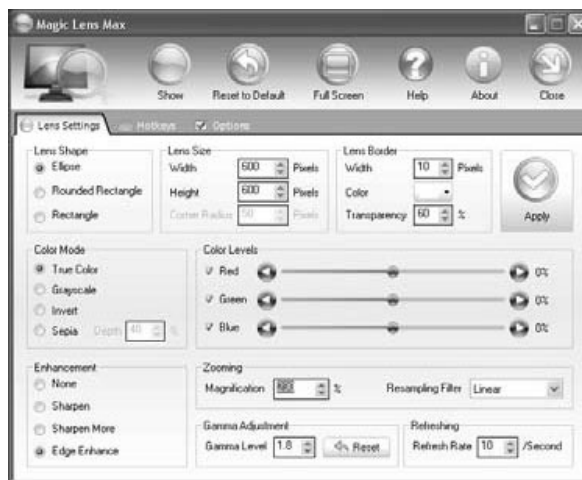
At the risk of being the bearer of bad news, I have to say that none of us is getting any younger. User groups tend to be populated more by senior citizens than by any other age group. As we age, we find the need for more and more assistive aids, including those that will help us to use our computers more comfortably and efficiently.

Many of us will find, as time goes on, that our vision is not what it used to be. We may find that our eyes fatigue as we read information on the computer monitor, and we may find that some of the smaller fonts and graphics on the screen require us to squint and lean forward into the display.

In this article, I will discuss two screen enlargement programs that might help us minimize our visual difficulties as we use our computers.

The first program I want to talk about is called Magic Lens Max. I downloaded an older version of the program from Giveawayoftheday.com and was very impressed with what it could do. I e-mailed the program's author and told him what a terrific program it was and I have demonstrated it to various groups who provide services to the blind and visually impaired. Additionally, the cost of the program is only \$39.95. I went ahead and purchased a copy of the most recent edition and was even more pleased with what the author had added since my downloaded version.

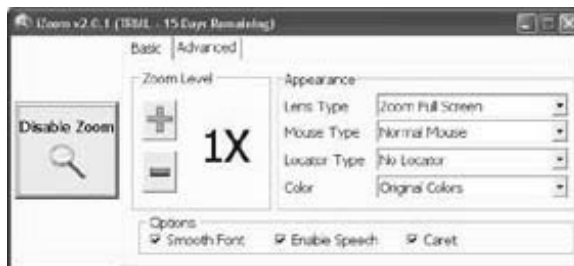
Magic Lens Max provides a variety of ways to magnify the computer screen, from resizable moveable lenses, which magnify directly over where your mouse or cursor is working, to a full screen magnification option, which slows down the screen refresh very minimally. You have some color contrast options to choose from with this program as well as an invert colors option for light text on dark background. The magnification levels can be selected from 50% (which is non-magnification) up to pretty much infinity. Anything above 350% starts to blur a bit, although there are options to sharpen. The Magic Lens Max option screen is shown at the top of the next column. The Magic Lens Max icon that resides in the system tray can be single-clicked to turn on or turn off the magnifica-



tion.

This is an excellent program that is both useful and affordable. If you are interested in testing it out, go to www.visionsuit.com. You can download a 30-day demo of the latest version. If you decide to purchase Magic Lens Max, once you have paid the \$39.95, you will be sent a registration code that can be entered into the demo, and it becomes fully functional.

The second program I evaluated for screen magnification allows for an additional option: speech along with the magnification. This program is called iZoom, and can be obtained from <http://www.isist.com/>. I really like the customizing options available in iZoom. These can be accessed from the initial menu when iZoom comes on, or once the menu is closed, you can reopen it quickly by clicking the mouse on the iZoom icon in the system tray. Here are the option screens:



iZoom allows for default or customizable hot keys, several sizes and colors of mouse pointers, color combinations supplied with the program, as well as custom color modes, several sizes and shapes of "locators" that help the user find the location of the mouse pointer, and a choice of several lens shapes, as well as full-screen magnification. iZoom magnifies from 1X to 32X.

The negatives I have found in iZoom are as follows: First, when using the lens mode, you have to place the lens first over what you want to interact with, and then move the mouse pointer within that lens. Second, from about the 3X magnification up, the display becomes more and more pixelated which can be a problem for some vision conditions, such as astigmatism, among others. Third, there is only one voice offered with the speech option and it is not a particularly pleasant one.

As you would expect, with additional options comes an additional cost. Again, you can download a 30-day demo of iZoom from the Website, and if you wish to purchase the program, the price is \$199.00. However, keep in mind that the two major commercial screen magnification programs, MAGic from Freedom Scientific and ZoomText Plus from AI Squared, both weigh in at from \$300.00 to \$550.00, depending on how many options you wish to have. So, if you feel the need to view the bigger picture, give the demos of the above programs a try, and see if they will be of use to you. ♠

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Your Next Computer Will Be Green

With Europe leading the way, the computer industry is decidedly becoming "green." The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (ROHS) directives went into effect earlier this year. These two directives state that certain electrical and electronic equipment must cut down on hazardous

materials such as lead, mercury, and cadmium. They also give customers the right to return their equipment free of charge. Companies have several years to fully implement these directives, but the leaders have already started to make changes.

Dell, for example, is advertising Energy Smart workstations and notebooks that can reduce power consumption by as much as 78%. The Energy Smart configuration uses a default power setting that is designed to reduce consumption and energy costs right out of the box. In addition, the power supply, fan, and motherboard use significantly less energy to maintain cool internal temperatures.

HP is using 80 Plus power supplies to lower energy bills and AMD technology that reduces heat output and PC power consumption. In addition, they have already introduced an HP recycling program where you can trade-in or donate the products.

Government Initiatives Many U.S. government agencies have implemented standards and regulations to encourage green computing. The Environmental Protection Agency

launched an Energy Star program in 1992 and strengthened its requirements in 2006. In 2003 the California State Senate enacted the Electronic Waste Recycling Act and in 2007 President Bush issued Executive Order 13423 requiring all federal agencies

to use the Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool when purchasing computer systems. In addition, a global consortium called The Green Grid was founded in 2007 by AMD, APC, Dell, HP, IBM, Intel, Microsoft, Rackable Systems, SprayCool, Sun and VMware.

Another initiative formed by a group of Global-minded IT executives, the Green Computing Impact Organization (GCIO), was created to be an active participant in transforming the IT commu-

nity from an environmental liability to an Earth conscious example of responsibility. GCIO is a nonprofit organization that is based on environmental audit programs for consumers and small business homes with respect to general energy-efficiency programs (including lighting, heating, insulation, etc.). GCIO's mission is to educate and assist enterprise technology users in the design of environmentally aware and responsible information system operations. They help consumers become more environmentally responsible by reducing energy consumption and electronic waste in an effort to protect the Earth.

GCIO is sponsoring educational programs across the country and participating in a Green Computing Summit that will be held in Washington, DC on May 20th. The summit will address how public sector IT managers, procurement officials, and program managers public sector professionals can transform their IT and data center operations into more environmentally conscious yet efficient solutions. This conference will attract senior government IT professionals and their industry partners tasked with helping agencies become greener in the coming years. Attendees will represent federal, state and local governments, public policy organizations and suppliers to government. You can read more about this event at www.e-gov.com/EventOverview.aspx?Event=SGCS08.

Features of Green Computing

Power management is the most popular method. The operating system of the computer can be set to directly control the power saving aspects of the hardware. It can automatically turn off the monitor or hard drive after a period of inactivity. Or, the entire system may hibernate, turning off most of the components such as even allow the user to manually adjust the voltages supplied to the CPU to reduce the electricity consumption and the amount of heat that is produced. As of July of 2007, all new Energy Star certified desktops must have a power supply that is at least 80% efficient.

Other features include using motherboard video output instead of a

video card, hard disks that consume less power, flash based solid state drives that require fewer write cycles, and lower energy monitors. And, manufacturers of networking equipment are developing switches and routers that reduce energy costs.

Recycling Materials

Obsolete computers can be reused for charities, non-profit organizations, and developing countries. Parts from really old systems can be recycled through some recycling centers. Some recycling charges can be passed back to the manufacturers.

Recycling this equipment keeps the lead, mercury, and chromium out of our landfills. In addition, computer supplies such as cartridges, paper, and batteries can be easily recycled.

How Can We Work Greener?

Visit the website for Climate Savers Smart Computing at www.climatesaver-smartcomputing.org to view a three step program to go green. Here are the basic steps that they suggest:

Step One - Turn on Power Management. Since the average desktop PC wastes nearly 50% of the energy it consumes as heat, it makes sense to use the power management features that are built into Windows XP and Vista. The benefits? You will reduce your electricity bills and your energy footprint will be lowered as you reduce your greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Savers organization predicts that the power management features on your computer can save nearly have a ton of CO2 and more than \$60 a year in energy costs.

Step Two - Buy an energy efficient computer. Energy Star, the program designed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, specifies the standards that equipment and appliances must meet to wear the Energy Star badge. You can visit

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The CTPC Volunteers

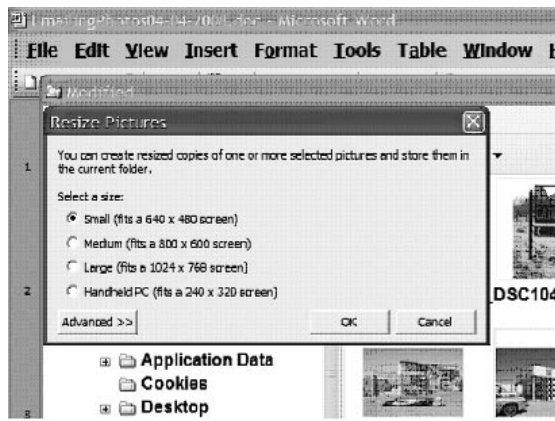
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E-Mailing Photographs

First, we **must** understand that photograph (image) size in the camera and in the computer is measured in **pixels**. These are the basic dots of color that make the picture. **Do not** pay any attention to anything that says “inches” or “pixels per inch.” These terms are meaningless when we are considering a picture either in the camera or in the computer. They may come into play later if we want to print the photo on paper. But, that is another subject for another time. For now, we think only of pixels. Most cameras record too many pixels to e-mail. For instance a 6 megapixel camera will make a picture about 3000 pixels wide by 2000 pixels tall and the file size may be several megabytes. Our screens are usually only about 1000

The second thing to do to make a photo e-mailable is to save it in **JPEG format (.jpg)**. That is a format that reduces file size a lot and picture quality a little so the picture can be downloaded more quickly and still be nice to look at. Some software programs give you choices of compression amount with numbers ranging from 1 to 10. One will result in a very small file but the picture quality will not be good at all. A 10 will give the very best quality but with a very large file size. A reasonable compromise is to use 5 or 6. I usually use 6.

How do you do this? First, I will describe how to do it with a free Microsoft program. Then I will try to look at some other programs.



Microsoft Power Toys for XP has a **Resize Pictures** toy that is slick and easy but feedback says it only works on XP. It can be downloaded at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/powertoys/xppowertoys.mspx>. Right click on an image name or thumbnail in Explorer or My Computer and choose **Resize Pictures**. You are limited to four specific sizes but they are good choices. They don't tell us what compression they are using but the results look OK.

Unless you tell them under **Advanced** to replace the image in the file, it will make a copy. That's good. They will add the word, “Large”, “Medium” or “Small” to the end of the name you have chosen.

If you are happy with this solution, then read no further. But, if you want to use a picture editing program, maybe this will help.

In Photoshop Elements 5, click on **ImageResizeImage Size** and



this window will pop up. Note that there is some garbage at the bottom about “inches” but we will ignore that. First we will click the **Resample Image** box. That puts the Pixel Dimensions in play and that is what we want. I selected the Width box and changed the width to 800 pixels. Since the **Constrain Proportions** box is selected,



that is all I have to do.

Note, down at the bottom, that we have several choices of sampling algorithms. This is frosting on the cake. I

read somewhere that I should use **Bicubic Sharper** when downsizing so that is what I do. Most programs don't give us all these choices. Then we should click on **FileSave As** and give the photo a new name. I often just use the same name and add “_800px” so the next time I will know it is ready to e-mail. Here we can choose the JPEG format and the compression amount. Photoshop Elements 6 is out now and sells for about \$100. If you are able to spend that much and want one of the best editing programs, I highly recommend it.

Let's look at Picasa2. It is a free program from Google and looks really good but I do not have much experience with it. By all means, try it first because the price is right! When it comes to e-mailing photographs, it is a little more automated but not any easier to use than Elements. First, click on **ToolsOptionsE-Mail**. Then select the width you want in pixels. There are six choices. Then click on **Apply** and **OK**.

The next step is to click on **FileE-Mail** and you will get three choices of how you want to e-mail your photos. Fortunately, I use Outlook Express so my choice is listed.

When I clicked on Outlook Express, an e-mail page popped up with the photo attached. At this point we can write something else on the e-mail and send it. I recommend this so the recipient will know it is really from you and not something sent

out by a virus. When I receive e-mails that only say “Attached”, I **Delete** them without looking at the attachment. This saved me one time when I received a virus from my sister-in-law that she did not know she sent. She spent weeks and dollars getting her computer back up. Oh, I digress. If you want to send more than one picture (and, who doesn't?), you must select the

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Hewie's Views and Reviews

Welcome to this issue of Hewie's Views & Reviews. Be sure to visit Hewie's Favorites at <http://www.hewie.net/>.

New additions to Hewie's Favorites

There are more new sites this issue, because we skipped a month.

Farecast

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

Search multiple travel sites, compare airline prices, search our travel deals, and receive free fare predictions

Evolution of Security

<http://www.tsa.gov/blog/>

TSA has opened their own blog

CrunchBase

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

Free directory of technology companies, people, and investors that anyone can edit

Speed Trap

<http://njection.com/speedtrap/>

Mashup (Web application hybrid) that combines Microsoft Live Maps and the ability to pinpoint and review speed traps located anywhere on the planet

Topper Search

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

Uses your unique preferences and builds a model that represents your tastes or intent.

PDFescape

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

Online PDF Reader, Editor, Form Filler, Form Designer, Solution

TubeMogul

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

Free service that provides a single point for deploying uploads to the top video sharing sites, and powerful analytics on who, what, and how videos are being viewed

MLBroadcast

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

Real Estate Listing Broadcast Syndication Via Video Podcasting and Video Sharing Sites

Buzzillions

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

Find the right product for you! Read the most credible product reviews from Verified Buyers about Digital Cameras,

Sporting Goods, Appliances, Mens and Womens Shoes, Toys and Video Games, and more.

FARK.com

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

Fark has news about anything and everything posted by users

filehippo.com

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

Fast downloads of the latest free software

OVGuide Online Video Guide

<http://www.ovguide.com/movies-tv.html>

OVGuide is the ultimate free online video portal and search engine to the best movies, tv shows and all other video content on the web. Free Movies, Videos, TV Shows, Video Games.

VirusTotal

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

Free virus and malware online scan service

Newspond

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

Hub for the latest tech, science, and gaming news. Articles are found and sorted electronically by real-time global popularity

NutritionData

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

Comprehensive nutrition analysis

LiarCard

<http://www.liar-card.com/>

Spy technology instantly detects lies your subjects voice.

Global Incident Map

<http://www.globalincidentmap.com/home.php>

Displays Terrorist Acts, Suspicious Activity, and General Terrorism News

Silobreaker

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

Online search service & insight for news and current events

Animoto

<http://animoto.com/>

Music videos for your images and pictures

AnyClient

<http://www.anyclient.com/index.html>

Free No-Install FTP, FTPS, SFTP and WebDAV Client

PictureTrail

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

PictureTrail is an online photo sharing and image hosting website.

FACEinHOLE

<http://faceinhole.com/home.asp>

Who do you want to be today? Select a scenario - upload and adjust a photo or use your webcam

Adobe Photoshop CS3 A - Z

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Alan Keyworth

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Alan Keyworth

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General

Pete Fuller

Roger Giler

Jim Sullivan

Ben Wilson

Hardware

Pete Fuller

Spen Kellogg

Alan Keyworth

Jim Sullivan

Bill Zieman

Internet Explorer/Internet

Marty Roth

MS Word

Dick Orenstein

Marylou Wilkinson

QuickBooks

Alan Keyworth

Quicken

Alan Keyworth

Marylou Wilkinson

Windows

Pete Fuller

Roger Giler

Spen Kellogg

Alan Keyworth

Marty Roth

Email Etiquette

Do you really know how to forward an e-mail? It is estimated that over fifty percent of email users do not know how to do it properly. Do you wonder why you get viruses or junk mail? Email messages get forwarded countless times without concern for the security of the previous sender's addresses.

Every time you forward an e-mail there is information left over from the people who got the message before you, namely their e-mail addresses and names. As the messages get forwarded along the list of addresses builds and builds creating a huge resource for spammers. All it takes is for someone to get a virus and the infected computer can send that virus to every e-mail address that has come across that computer. Even if the address collection doesn't result in a virus it surely will be harvested by spammers or someone looking to make a couple of cents for a listing of good email addresses. How do you stop or at least minimize the propagation of email addresses? There are several easy steps that we should all practice.

(1) Before you send out a forwarded e-mail, DELETE all of the other addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top). That's right, DELETE them. Highlight them and delete them, backspace them, cut them, whatever it is you know how to do. It only takes a second. You MUST click the 'Forward' button first and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message. If you don't click on 'Forward' first, you won't be able to edit the message at all.

(2) Whenever you send an e-mail to more than one person, do NOT use the To: or Cc: fields for adding e-mail addresses. Always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) field for listing the e-mail addresses. This is the way the people you send to will only see their own e-mail address. If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC: and that's it, it's that easy. When you send to BCC: your message will automatically say 'Undisclosed Recipients' in the 'TO:' field of the people who receive it.

(3) Remove any 'FW:' in the subject line. You can re-name the subject if you wish or even fix spelling.

(4) ALWAYS hit your Forward button

from the actual e-mail you are reading. Ever get those e-mails that you have to open 10 pages to read the one page with the information on it? By forwarding from the actual page you wish someone to view, you stop them from having to open many e-mails just to see what you sent.

(5) Have you ever gotten an email that is a petition? It states a position and asks you to add your name and address and to forward it to 10 or 15 people or your entire address book. The email can be forwarded on and on and can collect thousands of names and email addresses. A FACT: The

completed petition is actually worth a couple of bucks to a professional spammer because of the wealth of valid names and email addresses contained therein. If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter to the intended recipient. Your position may carry more weight as a personal letter than a laundry list of names and email address on a petition. (Actually, if you think about it, who's supposed to send the petition in to whatever cause it supports? And don't believe the ones that say that the email is being

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Skype 4.0

I've been a Skype subscriber for some time now. What is Skype, you say? Well, it's an online chat/phone/video service which has, as of the end of March, some 309 million registered users. Last I heard, that is more subscribers than all the US telephone services combined! It allows you to make computer to computer calls free worldwide. It can support 12 million users at a time. In addition to audio and video chat, you can

instant message, send text messages to phones, and share files. You can call from computer to phone as well.

It has three levels of service for the computer to phone service. For \$2.95 per month you can make free computer to phone calls anywhere in the US and Canada. The \$5.95 service includes the US, Canada, and Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Monterrey Mexico. For \$9.95 per month you get unlimited free computer to phone calls worldwide. They point out that unlimited means up to 10,000 minutes per month. Let's see, 10,000 minutes is over 6.9 days! I'm currently subscribing to the \$2.95 service. To call overseas with my service it runs about 2.1 cents per minute to Europe or from Europe back to the States. Skype has been offering video calling as well since 2005. Their data compression allows quality voice transmissions on a bandwidth of as little as 2kbs and video on 6kbs. It has a new version, 4.0, which is in beta testing. It allows you to see the person you are calling full screen. For this feature to work well you need 90kbs. I'm using it and it seems to work real well. This full screen mode will be

very useful for the computer user group community.

While at the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG) Convention held in conjunction with the January 2008 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) attendees in their forum with the vendors discussed presentations at user group meetings. Over the years, the cost of sending representatives out to user groups for the purpose of promoting their wares has become no longer cost effective. We discussed the use of Webinars (live presentations across the Internet).

This new version of Skype looks to be ideal for such a program and it can be done at little or no cost to the vendors and user groups. If you haven't tried Skype, you should. You can download the current version (3.8) at:

<http://www.skype.com/download/skype/windows/>. If you are adventurous and want to try 4.0 beta go to: <http://www.skype.com/intl/en/download/skype/windows/bets/>.

By the way, if you have wireless Internet access you can purchase a WiFi phone at the Skype online store and it will allow you to make calls whenever and wherever you have wireless Internet access. There's a lot more information which you can checkout at their Website:

<http://www.skype.com>. ♠

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I'm Asked...

I just bought a Digital SLR; with the prices as low as they are, I couldn't resist.

Since I want to take photos of my grandchildren, and the built-in flash isn't as powerful as I need, I bought a new flash. It's the same brand as my camera, and is supposed to be all automatic. But, the photos aren't right. I thought the better flash would let me take photos inside, and freeze the movement of the grandkids, but the photos are as blurry as with the camera's flash.

What's going on?

You're right, the on-board flashes on most DSLRs aren't very bright. Buying the new flash is the right idea, but it doesn't work the way many people think it does.

You're probably using the camera as a Point & Shoot: setting the camera to make the exposure decisions, and pressing the shutter button. There's nothing wrong with that, but doing things that way won't get your flash to work the way you want it to.

Instead, you should use the Manual mode for exposure (check your camera's manual for how to enter the Manual mode). While you're looking at the manual, check to find the highest shutter speed you can use with the flash, too.

Then, in Manual mode, set the shutter speed at, or maybe slightly below, that speed (I use 1/125 sec on my camera; it's fast enough to freeze most action), then set the aperture (f/number) for the desired result as far as depth of field is concerned, and set the ISO as desired. Set the flash to auto (check the manual), and fire away. This way, the camera will use the settings you chose, ignoring the amount of light in the scene. The flash will check to see what the camera is set to, and fire itself, checking the results as it fires to give the right amount of light to the scene. Neat, eh?

The way you're doing it will make the flash act as a "fill" flash, meaning the camera's exposure system will use the existing light in the scene to set the exposure, and the flash will intelligently fire to fill in shadows, but not be the major source of light in the scene. This is also the usual way the camera's on-board flash works, even though many cameras will set the shutter speed to take advantage of the flash's extra light to help freeze motion. The problem here, though, is that the on-board flash just isn't bright enough to light

up a dark scene (such as a room) very well.

One of the really neat things about digital photography is that, regardless of the actual type of the camera, experimentation is cheap. In this case, once you get the basics of flash use down, you can experiment with different shutter speeds and aperture settings for different results. Also, off-camera flashes like yours will usually let you turn the flash head up and down, and side to side, for bounce flash. With bounce flash, you're bouncing the flash off the ceiling or wall. This tends to spread the light from the flash out to reduce that sharp look that a straight-on flash gives, and it also reduces harsh shadows (as well as changing where the shadows are); more to experiment with!

This brings up another question: if you

Neil Stahfest, Librarian, Tacoma Area PC User Group, WA, www.tapcug.org, [ncstahfest\(at\)msn.com](mailto:ncstahfest(at)msn.com)

Moving on to Vista – Part 8

Windows Vista is becoming more popular every day, but there are still several special features that few people are aware of! Besides the energy saving features I mentioned last month, there's another feature that goes largely unnoticed by the average user. It's about displaying time in multiple time zones using Vista's system clock. It works very well, particularly since we work with countries all around the world and are no longer confined to one time zone. It also helps when you intend to chat with a friend or family member who lives in another part of the country. Now, instead of calculating different time zones in your head, you can have a handy toolbar on your Vista computer that will tell the time for you.

1. The first step is to right click on the clock in your system tray at the bottom of your desktop.
 2. Select Adjust Date/Time.
 3. Click on the Additional Clocks tab at the top of the window.
 4. Choose the checkbox that you want to show the additional clock.
 5. Next, pick a time zone and give it a title.
 6. You can add up to two additional time zones this way.
 7. Apply your changes.
- To see the additional times, just hover

your mouse over the clock in the system tray.

have an older flash from your film days, can you use it with your new DSLR? The answer is a very firm: maybe. The problem is that most older, film-era flashes have a higher trigger voltage than what DSLRs can tolerate. In other words, using that old flash can cause some expensive damage to your DSLR. There are some devices that can be put between your older flash and your DSLR's flash shoe that will solve the problem. However, a new flash will also work much better with your new DSLR, and do things that old flash can't even dream of doing. ♠

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Vista's Service Pack 1 is out, if you have automatic updates enabled on your PC its should already be installed. So what does SP1 do? Microsoft previously announced that Service Pack 1 would improve the operating system's performance and security. It would speed up file copying, waking up from sleep and hibernation faster and add and extract files from compressed folders faster.

When you install SP1 it apparently checks to see if you have installed previous updates and if it doesn't find them it installs them. Then it proceeds to install its "new" features. I had used automatic updates to keep my installation current and Service Pack 1 installed quickly on my laptop without any apparent problems.

Did I see any improvements? *h Not really. I saw no noticeable improvements in performance. As far as I could tell start-up time was the same and file copying was the same but the file copy 'fix'? I had previously installed (see Moving Up to Vista – Part 7). Other people have reported similar impressions. One person reported Vista with SP1 compressed files faster than without SP1 but it is still slower than Windows XP.*

What about new features? Frankly, the only one I looked for and found was the

Continued on Page 9

For Anybody Who Has Thought About Trying Linux

For anybody who has thought about trying Linux, it has become easier than ever before with Ubuntu 8.04 LTS Hardy Heron. As with most Linux distributions, Ubuntu is available as a free download and is freely distributable. It is even available already installed on Dell computers. The most common method is downloading the ISO image from Ubuntu's website (<http://www.ubuntu.com>) and burning it onto a CD.

From the site, you can download the Desktop version or Server for 32-bit and 64-bit systems. There is even an option to download what is called an alternative version which is just the installer and does not include the LiveCD portion, which also includes an installer. If you are like me, until a couple months ago, and living on dial-up or you do not have a CD burner handy or just don't want to put in that much effort then you can order a free CD through the corporate sponsor of Ubuntu, Canonical, ShipIt department.

I have been very pleased with the speed with which their CDs arrive. Alternatively, the website contains links to vendors where you can buy the CDs from under \$5 to more, and they can handle large orders as well.

Once you have your CD in your hot little hands, trying Ubuntu is as simple as placing it in your CD-ROM tray and re-booting your system. If system will boot from the CD and after a short moment you'll be greeted with the Ubuntu welcome screen.

If you want to "try before you buy," then you can choose the default "Try Ubuntu without any changes to your computer" and your hard drive will not be touched during your session unless you choose to. You don't even need a hard drive to select this option; you just will not be able to install it from the session.

If you are more certain or just daring then you can go straight into the installer and in about 60 minutes (45 minutes if you read *Different Strokes For Anybody Who Has Thought About Trying Linux* by Drew Kwashnak) you're booting to your new Ubuntu installation.

Ubuntu will scan your hardware and load the modules and drivers necessary for your system. If you have hardware that has proprietary drivers available, Linux cannot include them in the CD for legal reasons. Ubuntu works around this by providing a

Restricted Drivers tool that lists all such hardware found on your system and provides the ability to download and install the necessary drivers in a click or two, legally.

Now that you have Ubuntu up and running on your system, what can you do? Plenty! Ubuntu brings you a full featured operating system complete with:

- Firefox 3.05 beta web browser
- OpenOffice.org 2.4 full featured office suite compatible with pre-Office 2007 Word, Excel, PowerPoint and some Access files.
- Evolution personal information manager for email and calendar goodness, a Microsoft Outlook user can feel comfortable with. There is even plug-ins to allow Evolution to access existing Microsoft Exchange servers.
- Pidgin multi-protocol instant messenger including Yahoo, MSN, AIM, Jabber, IRC and more.
- Gimp (GNU Image Manipulation Program), a powerful Photoshop-like image editing program that includes filters, layers and a host of goodies.
- F-Spot image manager for categorizing and minor editing of all of your pictures as well as easily importing pictures from your digital camera.
- And much, MUCH more...

If Ubuntu doesn't come with a particular application, thousands of free applications are available from the Ubuntu online repository which are easily installed and updated from the Synaptic package manager.

When you decide to install Ubuntu onto your hard drive or virtual machine you only need to click the "Install" icon on the desktop to start the process. After seven or so easy questions the installer will copy the files over to the hard disk. Depending on your system's speed this could take about 60 minutes, more or less. It will even detect if you have Windows installed and offer to transfer over your files and compatible settings from your Windows accounts!

Of course, if the limitations of the LiveCD, such as settings are not saved from session to session, and you are hesitant to partition and install the full operating system on your hard drive Ubuntu offers yet another alternative called Wubi. Wubi is, from the Ubuntu website: "Wubi

is an officially supported Ubuntu installer for Windows users that can bring you to the Linux world with a single click. Wubi allows you to install and uninstall Ubuntu as any other Windows application, in a simple and safe way.

Are you curious about Linux and Ubuntu? Trying them out has never been easier!"

Wubi can be downloaded as an .exe file directly. With Linux the installation is not the end, only the beginning! Whether you try the LiveCD, Wubi or a full installation you will find a wealth of quality applications, refreshing freedom and a community unlike any other! If you have problems, questions or want to find out more then you need look no further than the third Wednesday of every month for the DACS Linux SIG at 7:30 p.m. in the DACS Resource Center! ♠

Drew Kwashnak: Has been losing more nights of sleep with Linux since 2002 and just can't keep from downloading and trying the latest versions! When not working with Linux he works with ASP.NET and Microsoft SQL Server for a small financial company.

He is also the DACS Linux SIG leader and a father of 3.

Links:

Ubuntu: <http://www.ubuntu.com>

Get Ubuntu: <http://www.ubuntu.com/getubuntu>

*ShipIt: <https://shipit.ubuntu.com/>
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cently visited, and is accessed by clicking on the right side of the menu bar. This Smart Location Bar is intelligent, in that it adapts to persona preferences to locate better website matches. Typing a “tag” or keyword in the menu bar opens a detailed list of previously visited websites containing that keyword, making it very fast and easy to locate websites that have previously been visited. Another very useful feature is the integrated spell checker, which underlines any misspelled words typed in a browser window; right clicking on the word opens a list of suggested spellings, which a mouse click will instantly replace the incorrect word with the correctly

Moving on to Vista

– cont’d from Page 7

disk defragmenter. Pre SP1 when you selected the defrag function you had no choices. The function simply defragmented your all of your hard drive. With SP1 installed, the defragmenter first examines your computer and makes a suggestion as to whether your drives and partitions need to be defragmented. There’s also an option to schedule defragmenting at regular time intervals. I don’t remember if this was available pre-SP1.

If you select the “button?” to defrag your hard drive, you see a new screen which gives you the alternatives to defrag all of your partitions and drives or select specific partitions and hard drives to be defragmented. As with pre-SP1 Vista, you can defrag your hard drive(s) while continuing to use your computer. There is no specific information that tells you how badly fragmented your drives are or how much space is used. In my opinion, the disk defragmenter in Windows XP was more useful. For that kind of detail you’ll need to use a third party disk defragmenter. I would say that Vista’s defragmenter with SP1 is improved but still a disappointment.

And that’s my general impression about Vista SP1. I’m disappointed. The speed improvements that were predicted just don’t seem to be there. Maybe the security is improved but it’s not obvious to me. Maybe Service Pack 2 will be better...♠

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spelled word.

Malware of various types, including worms, Trojans, viruses, and spyware is a growing menace to internet users. Firefox 3 integrates a sophisticated anti-malware feature that provides some protection if the user either intentionally or erroneously accesses a website that contains attack code. If such a dangerous website is accessed, a full screen (browser window) display will appear as a warning. Firefox, working with other organizations (including Google) maintains a continuously updated list of so called “attack sites”, so there is nothing for the user to update or maintain. In the event the user does happen to fall into a suspect site, such as a very freshly created phishing (identity theft) website, the forgery can be quickly reported by simply clicking on HELP – REPORT WEB FORGERY; this will connect to a Google service that collects

Email Etiquette

– cont’d from Page 6

traced, it just isn’t so!)

(6) One of the main ones I hate is the ones that say that something like, ‘Send this email to 10 people and you’ll see something great run across your screen.’ Or, sometimes they’ll just tease you by saying something really cute will happen IT AIN’T GONNA HAPPEN!!!! (Trust me; I’m still seeing some of the same ones that I waited on 10 years ago!) I don’t let the bad luck ones scare me either, they get trashed. (Could that be why I haven’t won the lottery?)

(7) Before you forward an Amber Alert, or a Virus Alert, or some of the other ones floating around nowadays, check them out before you forward them. Most of them are junk mail that’s been circling the net for Years! Just about everything you receive in an email that is in question can be checked out at Snopes. Just go to <http://www.snopes.com/>. It’s really easy to find out if it’s real or not. If it’s not, please don’t pass it on.

So please, in the future, let’s stop or at least minimize the junk mail and the viruses by taking the steps outlined above.♠

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such information on a real-time basis, verifies the forgery, and automatically adds it to the malware list, as well as forwards the information to groups like Phish Tank (www.phishtank.com) for further action.

Many of us use multiple passwords and user names on countless websites. Firefox 3 has an excellent integrated and secure password manager. When a password is first entered, Firefox 3 asks if you want it to remember that password and logon information, without any annoying pop-ups. Speaking of pop-ups, Firefox 3 incorporates a sophisticated and easily configurable pop-up blocker which can stop pop-ups and pop-unders, speeding and making more enjoyable the surfing experience. In some cases, pop-ups are not irritating advertisements, but instead contain important information; these can be easily allowed when desired.

Many of us choose to tweak the appearance and features of our browsers, and Firefox 3 happily obliges. Firefox has many themes and “personas” that can be selectively implemented to change the appearance of the browser to meet our individual tastes. For those of us who want additional features, Firefox offers over 5,000 free “add-ons” (add-ons.mozilla.org/firefox), which are easy to install devices to customize the browser to work as desired. I have installed about a dozen add-ons, including some security add-ons (PhishTank, McAfee SiteAdvisor, and others), as well as an enhanced download manager (the one integrated in Firefox 3 is very adequate for most users). I also have selected to use differently colored tabs on the top of the browser window, an add-on that can make a tab an IE window (for the rare cases when a website is intended for IE only), a PDF manager, and several other add-ons.

Firefox 3 is an outstanding and free product. It is a very worthwhile competitor to Internet Explorer, and users should try it to see if they like it. I like it, and use it almost exclusively on my desktop and notebook computers. That is the best recommendation I can give it. ♠

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<http://www.photoshop-a-z.com/>

Website dedicated to the book Adobe Photoshop CS3 A - Z Tools and features. Illustrated ready-to-use reference.

In Pictures Tutorials

<http://www.inpics.net/>

Free online tutorials based on pictures, not words. They're the easiest way to learn computer subjects

Unix Toolbox

<http://cb.vu/unixtoolbox.xhtml>

Collection of Unix/Linux/BSD commands and tasks which are useful for IT work or for advanced users

htm2pdf

<http://www.htm2pdf.co.uk/>

Convert webpages directly from your browser. All you need to do is drag the link to your bookmarks toolbar and save page as PDF

BarCampOrlandoGroups

<http://barcamp.org/BarCampOrlando-Groups>

Related local groups and meet-ups

CommonCraft Show

<http://www.commoncraft.com/show>

Explanations In Plain English

Dimdim

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

Free Online Meetings, Training, Desktop Sharing

My upgrade to Microsoft ista SP

I have been anticipating the first service pack for my two Vista computers. It was recently released, but quickly retracted due to some installation problems. It's now available through the standard Windows Update Service. A couple of weeks ago I spent the several hours backing up my main system to prepare to upgrade to Service Pack 1.

I installed all of the current updates, which should be done prior to upgrading. Once I did that, I checked Windows Update and SP1 was not listed. After searching Microsoft's Knowledgebase, I discovered that Vista checks your system and if there are potential problems with drivers, it will not be available. There were so many warnings to check all of your hardware and software for SP1 compatibility before downloading a generic version, that I decided not to try updating.

Then The Windows Update Service had 11 updates. The day after installing all of them, I had the notice that Service Pack 1 was ready to download and install. Once again I backed up the entire system. I then activated the update. A message stated that this could take an hour or more. It downloaded about a 65 Megabyte file and started the install. Then it had to reboot to complete the installation. While shutting down, the screen said it was completing Part 1 of three parts, then came the second. It then shut down and rebooted to a black screen. I could see the hard drive light pounding away on the drive.

The black screen never became a screen, but after a while, I noticed a Vista Logo and a graphic that I recognized as part of the screen saver that came up when Vista was waiting for a user to sign in. When I moved the mouse, it went back to just a plain black screen for several minutes, and then the logo showed. I was convinced it was at the log-in screen and waiting for my input. However, I only saw the dark screen.

Since I added an ATI graphics card to the system to support 2 screens, I figured that perhaps the video driver was confused. When I unscrewed one of the monitors and plugged it back in, I saw the sign-in screen, then it faded to black. I decided that it was either safe to reboot or time to restore from my backup.

I shut off the computer and turned it back on. It came up with the log-in screen. When I logged it, I got a scrambled screen, with items where I did not expect them to be, but workable enough for me to get to the ATI Control Center. Once there, I made some changes and I was good to go.

While my update to Vista SP1 worked, the problems that I had could have been unfixable for the novice or a person with little patience. So much for an idiot-proof operating system. Next I have to try the update on my laptop. I wonder what problems await me there. Oh, and I don't know what I gained by updating. I will check on that and get back to you with that information.

Please share these newsletters with your friends. To subscribe, send a blank message to hewie_favorites-subscribe@yahoo-groups.com or sign up at the website at <http://www.hewie.net>. ♣

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Emailing Photos -

cont'd from Page 4

picture and click on the Hold button near the bottom of the screen. Do this for each photo you want to send and they will all be attached to the e-mail. The program automatically chooses JPEG format and a compression ratio but does not tell you. That is OK as the pictures I tried looked good. Picasa2 has considerable capability for editing photos in many respects. Try it!

There are many other editing programs that I haven't mentioned and have no experience with. In all cases you want to change the picture's size in pixels by resizing or resampling. Pay no attention to anything that says "inches" as that will have no meaning for this process. Sometime later we will talk about printing pictures and then we will use inches. ♣

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Green Computer

- cont'd from Page 3

their website at www.energystar.org for specifics. Basically an Energy Star compliant PC uses 15 to 25 percent less energy. This program is expected to save U.S. consumers and businesses more than \$1.8 billion in energy costs over the next five years and prevent greenhouse gas emission equal to 2.7 million vehicles.

Step Three – Unplug from phantom power. As long as your computer is plugged in it still uses electricity, even while it is turned off or in standby mode. A computer that is turned off, but still plugged in, can use up to 10 watts. The Climate Savers estimate that you can reduce your electricity bills by as much as 10% by unplugging your appliances and electronics when they're not being used. ♣

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Don't Click That

Automated spyware and antivirus tools are great, but they're no substitute for a little bit of vigilance on your part. A little watchfulness goes a long way. Got an email from someone you don't know? Immediately trash it without opening it. Even if your email program automatically opens your new messages in a reading pane, it's a good idea never to download an unexpected attachment. Consider using Yahoo! Mail (mail.yahoo.com) for your personal email, as it adds an extra layer of protection by immediately scanning all incoming and outgoing attachments for virus threats.

Also, no matter what the pop-ups tell you, don't click anything that jumps unsolicited onto your screen claiming to be able to fix a virus or spyware problem. These pop-ups themselves are more often than not carriers of spyware and viruses in the guise of an actual message from your operating system. A general rule of thumb is that if it opens in a browser window and you didn't specifically point your browser toward it, don't click it. Just close the window and go about your business.

Thankfully, the newest version of Internet Explorer, IE7, blocks most of these pop-ups. If you have not already upgraded from IE6, take a few minutes and visit www.windowsupdate.com. If you prefer to use Mozilla's Firefox browser instead, drop by www.mozilla.com and pick up the latest version of the browser. Both IE and Firefox offer excellent security just out of the gate, and both are great at making sure you never see those pop-ups.

Customize Explorer

Windows Explorer is probably one of Windows' most helpful features, letting you browse around your hard drive with ease. You can increase its value even more if you customize the details on folders with specialized contents. To customize folder details, open Explorer (right-click any folder or the Start button and select Explore). When Explorer opens, navigate to a folder you want to customize and click it to open it. From the View menu, select Details, and select Choose Columns (WinMe or Win2000) or Choose Details (WinXP). Click the myriad checkboxes to select or deselect details. Available details run the gamut from standard (Name, Size, Type) to highly specialized (Copyright,

Album Title, Date Picture Taken). If you want to change details on the fly while you are browsing the folder, you can also right-click any detail heading and make selections from there.

External Storage

If your external storage device works with Windows, but you can't access it on Macintosh operating systems, your drive is most likely formatted in the NTFS (NT file system) file format. To use external storage on both Windows and Macintosh

operating systems, it must be in the FAT32 (32-bit file allocation table) format. You'll need to reformat the drive and choose FAT32 when prompted for a file format. To reformat the drive, right-click it in My Computer and click Format. ♣

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More About Pinnacle Studio 12

Everything you need to make home movies.

Give it some style

Select from an impressive collection of titles, transitions, filters and effects.

Pinnacle Scorefitter® music generator

Automatically generate a rich soundtrack to match the length of your movie.

Bring your still photos to life

Animate your photos with close-ups or motion pan-and-zoom features.

Keep your memories safe

Archive your video memories with Pinnacle Instant DVD Recorder.

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Improve audio tracks, enhance color, remove noise, and fix poor lighting.

Built-in Disc Burning

Easily create DVDs with motion menus and custom navigation for playback on DVD players. With integrated CD and DVD authoring you can preview your work in progress with full, on-screen DVD controls.

NEW! Web publishing simplified

Direct upload to video sharing sites like YouTube and Yahoo! Video.

NEW! Enjoy your movies on the go

Enjoy your movies on your Sony® PSP™, Apple® iPod®, DivX® certified players, and even 3GP cell phones.

Drawn from the Pinnacle website. Learn more at the August meeting on the 28th at the Trumbull Library!

Next CTPC Meeting— cont'd from Page 1

"Pinnacle Studio 12," a consumer-oriented video editing suite that's easy to use but inherits some powerful features from its parent company, Avid Technology, a leading supplier of video editing software to professional studios. Pinnacle was acquired by Avid in 2005.

Heather will explain how Pinnacle Studio 12 guides users through the process of bringing video into the PC, editing the footage with professional looking transitions, correcting color and shading, adding special effects, music, narration and titles, and then burning the finished video to a DVD that will include scenes and menus.

The "Ultimate" version, which includes advanced features such as picture-in pic-

ture and chroma-key that once cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, retails for \$129.95! Other versions start at \$49.95.

Members from all six clubs will have the opportunity to win one of these Pinnacle products:

- Pinnacle Video Transfer (\$99.99 value)
- Dazzle Video Creator Plus (\$89.99 value)
- Studio Ultimate (\$129.99 value)

The meeting opens with a Q&A session at 6:30 PM, followed by the main presentation at 7 PM and the raffle just before the meeting ends at 9 PM.

For further details or any last-minute updates, please visit <http://www.ctpc.org> ♣

CTPC MEETINGS

The CTPC meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month (not the last) except for December when there is no meeting. E-mail Editor@CTPC.org for information.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual membership dues are \$25.00 (payable to CPC). Partial year memberships will be charged at the rate of \$2.00 per month. Send your check to CTPC, PO Box 291, New Canaan CT 06840.

Please also provide your e-mail address so that we can send you meeting announcements each month.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

1. All members will receive an e-mail notice during December requesting their dues payment.
2. Members whose checks have not been received by early February will be reminded once by mail.
3. Since we really would like to have you as a member, the Membership Chairman will try one last time with another e-mail in early March.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the CTPC or its members.

Neither the CTPC, contributors nor the Editor of this newsletter assume any liability for damages arising out of the publication or non-publication of any advertisement, article or any other item in this newsletter. Articles are published at the discretion of the Editor.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The CTPC newsletter is a monthly publication of the Connecticut Personal Computer User's Group (CTPC). Information is drawn from both the member-

ship of the CTPC and other user group newsletters. Its intent is to inform members of meetings and provide them with other information related to the use of their computers.

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES

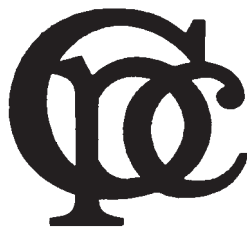
Articles for the CTPC newsletter may be submitted by e-mailing the editor at Editor@CTPC.org. Please include the article in the body of the e-mail and attach it as a simple ASCII, rtf or Word file (any version). The deadline for material is the second Tuesday of the month.

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The CTPC newsletter does not accept advertising.



Connecticut Personal Computer User's Group
P.O. Box 291
New Canaan, CT 06840

MEETING LOCATION THIS MONTH ONLY

Merritt Parkway (Route 15) North-Bound

To get to the Trumbull Library from the Merritt Parkway (Route 15) while heading north on Rt. 15 (coming from New York), get off at exit 48 (Main St.). Take a left at the top of the ramp and turn North. Go through a total of four lights (including the one at the exit ramp) and turn right at the fifth light on to Quality Street. The Post Office will be on your right the Town Hall on the left. Just past the Trumbull Town Hall on the left side of the street is the Trumbull Library.

Merritt Parkway (Route 15) South-Bound

Heading South on Rt. 15 (coming from Hartford) take a right at the top of the ramp on exit 48 and turn North (turn right). Go through a total of three lights (including the one at the exit ramp) and turn right at the fourth light on to Quality Street. The Post Office will be on your right the Town Hall on the left. Just past the Trumbull Town Hall on the left side of the street is the Trumbull Library.

I-95

If you are coming from I-95, take exit 27A (Route 25/8) and keep on Rt. 25 North. Stay to the left on the exit ramp exit 8) and get on to the Merritt Parkway (Route 15-South Bound) heading toward New York, then follow the directions above.

FIRST CLASS

August 2008 ISSUE