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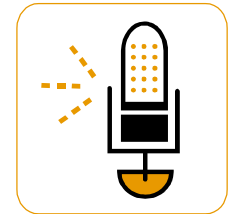
Windows Vista

My Sunday morning routine is typical of most people I know...get the coffee going, let the mutts outside and trek out to the mailbox for the Sunday paper. I always sort the ads into those that I'm interested in and those that I know my wife wants. As I started through the computer ads looking for a deal here or one there I noticed that Windows Vista was plastered all over everyone's weekly advertisement. Windows

Vista Business, Windows Vista Ultimate, Windows Vista Home and Windows Vista Home Premium...it's all been finally released to the public.

My quick thoughts on Vista

Wait, wait, wait. I received a prerelease copy of Vista and installed it on my notebook. It's not a slouch machine and runs WinXP Pro great but Vista brought it to its knees. I'm waiting for the final copy and I'll let you know what that does.



It's Cool. While I had it installed I liked a lot of the features it offered. The transition from XP to Vista wasn't too difficult and most everything I wanted was still where I could find it. I was a bit annoyed by Vista constantly asking me if I really wanted to do this or do that and I should only do this if I knew what I was doing.

Read my full technoblip on Windows Vista [here...](#)

Office 2007

I never have understood why Microsoft releases their Office suite of products the same time that they release a new Operating System. It was even worse when they gave them the same last name...XP.

It might be time to upgrade

If you're running the 2000 version of Word and Excel it might be time to upgrade, Microsoft has 8 different versions of its Office System Suites to choose from. Most users will opt for the basic

version. If you need PowerPoint you'll need to get the Standard version. The Home & Student version does not include Outlook. In this version of Office Microsoft has made some great changes to the Outlook package. I'd recommend that if you're using any type of email client or contact manager or want your contacts linked to your mobile phone be sure you get a package that includes Outlook.

Templates, More Buttons and Quick Ways to do familiar tasks

I must admit it took a bit of a learning curve but once I spent a little time with the new version I was never going back. Buttons made it easy to do tasks that once I had to read the help file to understand. Downloadable templates made special documents a breeze.

Follow my thoughts about the new Office [here...](#)



First we 'time shifted' with the VCR, now we can 'place shift' with the Slingmedia

Slingmedia

This thing is one of my favorite toys. It's this weird red box that connects to my satellite receiver and plugs into my computer network. A few cables here, an install of some software there and I'm watching my satellite TV anywhere that I have an Internet connection. (Input can be cable, satellite or even a DVD player.)

My TV on the Internet?

That's what I'm saying. Since I have a wireless Internet connection at

home I can take my notebook anywhere in the house and watch my own personal TV. If my wife wants to watch her program on the satellite receiver in the family room I can come in with my notebook and watch Mythbusters while she's watching Lifetime.

I don't have to be at home

Since it's connected to the Internet I can watch programs anywhere that I can get an Internet connection.

Mobile Devices Too?

This is really neat. Since I have a PDA phone that has Internet connectivity I can watch my TV on my Internet connected mobile phone. But it doesn't have to be my phone, almost any mobile device will work. I use my older HP PDA to connect to my wireless network and listen to XM radio from my satellite provider.

I'm sure you'll want to read more about this [here...](#)

My Buddy's New Car

What's techno about my buddy's new car?

How about that it's the 2nd car that he's bought on eBay? The first car he bought was a Miata. His latest vehicle is the new Toyota Prius. Each deal was completed with ease. The cars were delivered right to his door. He researched each vehicle on www.carfax.com to be sure they weren't wrecked, salvaged or any number of items that would negatively affect his decision to purchase. We all know

how great it is to research your new car on the Internet but I don't think we realize that car dealerships are selling more and more of their vehicles right over the Internet.

Prius... A Geek Luxury Car

I'm not trying to sell cars but this thing is just neat. The key is not a key at all, but rather just a 'credit card' that you put in your pocket. As long as you're in the vicinity of the vehicle the doors unlock and the alarm turns off. Open the

door, get in and push the "on" button. Put the car in reverse and the dash display shows a camera view behind you. Drive away and press a button on the steering wheel and select your radio settings. Select a display and see whether you're running on the gasoline engine or totally on batteries. Another menu option and you've got a full turn by turn navigation system.

60 MPG in the city makes this a car that's very fun for errand running.

Call Your IT Person First

So many times I get a phone call about something not working because the client didn't know that "the DSL was tied to the fax number", or "why did they disconnect that when I wanted them to do fix my gizmo?" If you're ever in doubt as to

whether changing one aspect of your office will have an effect on your telephone system or computer system always call your IT person first and tell them what you're planning to do. Be sure your IT person is aware of

the interrelationships of systems within your office. That awareness is why I like to be involved with all aspects of my client's business...and a quick phone call to me usually averts a problem in the future.

Virus and Spyware

I spend hours every month dealing with Virus and Spyware problems. Getting rid of a virus or spyware problem is expensive work. It usually takes a long time to find and a lot of machines have had to come to my "Computer Camp" so that I can do extensive testing and use laborious eradication methods. In many cases you could purchase a new machine at a lesser cost than the cost to eradicate the virus or spyware...but loss of data makes that an impossible option in many cases. The best solution is not to get infected.

How can I have a virus, I've got virus software loaded?

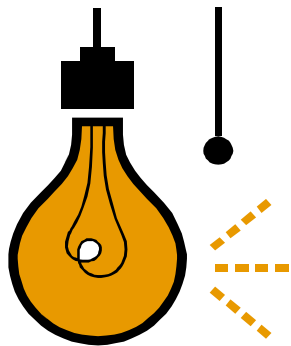
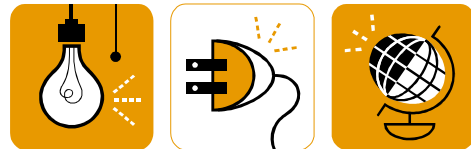
I hear this all the time. You might have virus software loaded but it expired 60 or 90 days after you purchased your computer. New virus programs are being written everyday and unless the 'signature files' that check for new virus programs are updated you won't be able to detect a new virus. If you're subscribing to a virus protection system insure your virus files are currently up to date. Even though your subscription may not have run out you might not be automatically downloading new update files. There's usually an "About" or "Help"

screen that will show you your subscription status and date of 'signature files'.

My machine just started running real slow.

I can almost guarantee you're infested with Spyware. A lot of spyware programs look at what you're doing on your machine and try to point you to particular web pages or bring up annoying 'pop ups'. Even if you've stopped the 'pop ups' you can still have the software on your machine that's trying to load the 'pop ups'. There's several free spyware cleaners on the Web.

Go to the [Self Help](#) section of my Web page for more ideas on how to clean up Adware and Spyware.



Windows Tip of the Month

I work with so many people doing so many different things in Windows I've been taught by my clients all the different ways of doing the same task. I like to 'right-click' on the Start button to open the Explorer. Other people use the 'My Documents' shortcut to get to their files.

Get them all, or Click-n-pic

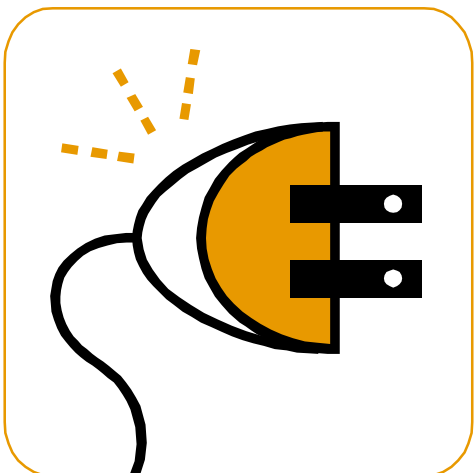
All that junk email. I get so tired of deleting them one at a time. Here's a way to select a bunch of them at

once. Select the first email you want to delete. Now press and hold the SHIFT Key. Move the mouse down to the last email you want to delete and LEFT-CLICK on the mouse and release the shift key.

You've just highlighted an entire section that you can delete with one press of the delete key.

If you don't want to delete all of the items within a contiguous range then press and hold the CTRL key and LEFT-CLICK each email you want to delete. Press the delete key and they're moved to the deleted folder.

This Tip works in almost all programs within Windows. Once you've experimented with it you'll find all kinds of time saving uses for this tip.



Replay A/V

So you got your new MP3 player for Christmas and you're hooked on streaming audio from the Web. You sit at home for hours pulling down Podcasts so that you can upload them to your pocket device. Somebody found Old Radio programs on the Internet and you'd like to get some programs but don't know where to find them.

Replay AV is the program

you've been looking for. You can schedule a recording to happen automatically. With a host of other programs bundled in the Audio Video Suite you'll be recording and converting like a pro.

SlingMedia is also a recorder now!

You can record your SlingMedia so you can watch your programs later.

[Read how I do it](#)

Windows Update

If you're running Windows XP you're probably running Service Pack 2. It's a good guess that you're also allowing Windows to perform automatic updates to your system. (You can check by going to the Control Panel, selecting 'Performance and Maintenance' and then selecting "System" and then look at the "Windows Update" tab.)

The automatic update installs critical updates but does not select any of the

optional updates. Now you have the answer why the person sitting next to you has Windows Media Player 11 installed on their machine and you're running the older version.

From your Internet browser, select Tools and Windows Update. Once you're at the Welcome page select the 'Custom' button.

Now you can pick some of the new software that Microsoft has released.

ShareO

Multiple clients have asked me for a way to share their Outlook Calendar and/or their Outlook Contacts with other members of their team. Without a Microsoft Exchange server there doesn't seem to be an easy way to accomplish this sharing. Through my

search of the Web I found a company called 4team, you can find them at www.4team.biz

Several tools

They offer several tools to enhance the features of Outlook. My personal

selection is ShareO. This tool lets you select any Outlook folder to share with other members. It's setup is straight forward and the interface is easy to work with. I also like the enhanced features it offers. Even better, you can try a fully functional program for

14 days before you need to make your decision to purchase.

I'm trialing it between my office computer and notebook just to see how it works. I'll report my results in the February newsletter.

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"Let me make your office my business"

Spam

I always wondered where the term came from so I did a bit of research and found that the computer term comes from a skit by Monty Python. During the skit they are trying to order in a restaurant and there's nothing on the menu but SPAM. There was a song that went along with the skit where spam, spam, spam was sung so many times it became annoying. That's

one explanation...research it yourself and you'll be amazed at what other explanations you find for the email term of "SPAMming".

Do's and Don't's

Don't ever reply to SPAM. It just verifies that it's a real address and you'll get hammered more. Do try a

spam filter program, Ask your email provider if they can up your SPAM assassin level. Create a rule that email that matches people in your Contacts list will be sent to a special folder so you won't accidentally delete email that is from someone you know.

Check out a free SPAMFIGHTER [here](#)

More Information

Whether you're currently a client or not and would like more information about topics I've touched on in this newsletter please contact me through email or by telephone.

The electronic version of this newsletter contains links to more detailed information about each "blip". If your copy of this newsletter does not contain links please go to my web page at: <http://www.dunks.com/news/jan07>

Memory Dump

If you're not mumbling to yourself yet, then read this run on sentence.

I vote to leave your computer running, rarely do I replace power supplies on machines that have been left running... they usually burn out when you turn them on... Monday morning of course. How many light bulbs in your home can you remember just burning out? Don't they always go when you flip the switch on? If every household in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with one of those new energy bulbs it would be the same as taking 880,000 cars off the road (Modern Marvels program)...

Old computers are harder to fix than news ones...If you have any Windows 98 machines in your office, chances are they're costing you more than if you upgraded. Don't connect to the Internet without using a router...it makes it easier to connect and it provides a layer of protection between you and the hackers. Copy really important files to a CD and take it home...just in case there's a disaster at the office...a DVD burner is an inexpensive investment and hold a lot more data.

Your network enabled cell phone/PDA can most likely be used to connect your notebook to the Internet...look at a program called PDANet...it works. Also, the cellular wireless cards are great for road warriors...a bit pricey for the service, but if you've got to be connected they're worth it. Almost anywhere you go now you can find a wireless Internet connection. I find them all the time. So why don't you people enable security on your wireless router? Do you really intend to be giving you neighbor free Internet?

A memory upgrade is usually a good way to get your computer running a little faster.

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