

April 2008

# WINNERS

Vote pad



## WINDOWS USERS

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### Sling Media

Blake and Jason Krikorian, brothers from San Francisco and devoted San Francisco Giants fans, envisioned the concept of the Slingbox during the 2002 Major League Baseball season. Traveling far from home, they faced missing the best games of the season, and sought a solution. The Slingbox ycu"dqtp0" "Vcmg" {qwt"nkxkpi"tqqo" with you is a slogan that explains the purpose of the Slingbox. This ku" Fki kvcn"Eqpxgt i gpeg."dgv yggp" TV-Satellite-Cable-DVRs-Laptop PC and mobile devices with no service fee.

Clip+Sling gives users the ability to 'placeshift' their television content to a desktop or laptop computer located just about anywhere. SlingPlayer 2.0 is packed with new features: in addition to the revolutionary Clip+Sling, SlingPlayer 2.0 will include a program guide of channel listings and a local video buffer that gives customers DVR-like controls. The program

guide allows Slingbox owners to see exactly what shows are available on their home TV, no matter where they happen to be. Because SlingPlayer 2.0 uses a broadband Internet connection to stream video to the PC, Sling Media is able to use that same connectivity to give customers an easy-to-navigate view of their programming guide and supplemental content. Just like a DVR, the new SlingPlayer 2.0 video buffer allows users to pause live TV, fast forward or rewind instantaneously. The video buffer, temporarily stored on the PC or Mac, gives customers complete xkg ykpi " ğzkd knkv { " g xgp " kh " v j g { " don't have a DVR at home.

The Slingbox™ PRO-HD is its next generation product that is capable of streaming HD content from a home television source, including over the air HD digital signals, HDTV cable or satellite receivers, or HD DVR's, to a laptop or desktop computer in and around the house. In addition, when paired

Fountain Valley Branch Library  
17635 Los Alamos,  
Fountain Valley  
meetings on 3rd Saturday  
10:00 am to 12:30 pm

### Future Meeting Dates

May 17  
June 21  
July 19

### Membership

Annual membership is \$20 for individuals; \$5 for each additional family members.



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WINNERS a computer association, is a volunteer organization providing a forum for sharing information and experiences related to Windows-based software, and hardware, encouraging ethical use of computers and software, offering service to our communities.

with Sling Media's new Sling-Catcher, Slingbox PRO-HD will transmit the HD signal to another TV in the house. In fact, customers who have a high speed broadband connection that features upload speeds of 1.5 – 2 Mbps or higher, Slingbox PRO-HD can even stream in HD outside the home to the of-  
Leg."vq"cj"qvgntqqo"qt"gxgp"vq"ctg-  
mote TV when using SlingCatcher.

Sling Media is also announcing SlingStream 2.0. It allows the Slingbox PRO-HD to adaptively stream high quality television content across virtually any network connection. With SlingStream 2.0, audio/video quality is noticeably improved for remote clients operating in a low bitrate environment as y gnm"cu"jki j"fgLpkvkqp"rnc{gtu"qp"chome network. The Slingbox PRO-HD preserves the original resolution of the feed and delivers it to a HD-compatible laptop or desktop computer or secondary TV when paired with a SlingCatcher.

The product includes standard \*6<5+"cpf"ykfguetggp"\*38<+ "xkfgq" support and features multiple integrated sets of audio-video inputs and outputs (ATSC/QAM HDTV Tuner, S-video, composite video, component video and either analog or multi-channel, 5.1 surround, fki kvcn"cwfkq+"cpf"hgcvwtgu"kpvgi tcv-ed looping outputs for each input. Slingbox PRO-HD transforms PCs, laptops, Macs and a variety of smartphones (including the just cppqwpegf"TKO"DncemDgtt{ Ì+"kpvq" personal, portable TVs and builds upon the goals of the original Slingbox – to give consumers the freedom to view their home cable, satellite or DVR programming on a wide range of devices anywhere they can access the Internet.

## Multiple Inputs

Connect and control up to four video sources, including your DVR, digital cable, satellite receiver, and DVD player.

## HD Component Input

Connects to any one of your high quality on your laptop, desktop, or mobile device.\*

## Built-in Cable Tuner

Features an integrated analog tuner for access to your basic cable lineup without changing your set-top box channel on your home TV.

## No Monthly Fees

Watch and control your TV and its programming on your compatible cell phone, PDA, laptop or desktop with no monthly subscription fee.



## SlingPlayer| Mobile

9x<z5fjw"!"9x<z5fjw"!"9x<z5fjw"!"9x<z5fjw"!"

# IOGEAR Digital Scribe Review

By Rebecca Feinstein

My first experience with the IOGEAR Digital Scribe product at the last WINNERS meeting. As many of you recall, I was well, somewhat reluctant to try it. I received a 35% discount I could not wait to get it.

The IO Mobile Digital Scribe took six days to get here from the Illinois. It comes with the pen, cable, mobile unit, two program CDs something that looks like a CD-ROM. The installation guide is a bit confusing. I had to call Customer Support for help. I received a CD-ROM with the software and a CD-ROM with the user manual. I received a CD-ROM with the software and a CD-ROM with the user manual. I received a CD-ROM with the software and a CD-ROM with the user manual.

Installation of the software was easy, Mobile Digital Scribe software was easy to install. The mobile unit and installing the batteries into the pen. However, installing the pen was a bit puzzling as in the reference guide, IOGEAR never shows the steps. I had to call Customer Support and product support a few e-mails to Customer Support and product support. I had to call Customer Support and product support a few e-mails to Customer Support and product support.



Okay, I got it up and working, I did a few test runs with it at home with the mobile unit attached to the computer. The note management software required a bit of a learning curve, but still was fairly easy to use. Included with the software is a PDF users manual. The handwriting recognition software was pretty impressive. With my handwriting I expected it to have a problem with my convoluted shorthand as well as my capital Is, Js and my contractions. To my surprise, the software only had a problem with the Is. It even captured my signature scrawl quite well! As with a regular pen, the program recognized my handwriting as crossed out.

With all this practice under my belt, I decided it was time to haul out the big guns, – WORK! As a technical writer, as with many other positions, I attend a lot of meetings. My expectations were high for my new tool. No more having to rewrite all my notes into electronic format for distribution. I was armed and I was ready for combat. After receiving permission to install the software, I attended three meetings that day.

On the big plus side, it was very nice to have my notes appear in e-form without having to transcribe them at all. This made putting them into agenda form a breeze.

On the problem side of using the scribe, a major drawback is the mobile unit clips are made to only grab a few pages of paper at a time. Unless you are intending to take one page's worth of notes, you have to remove the mobile unit to turn pages to take more notes. This proved to be distracting and inconvenient in one of my meetings. And I found it to be very unwieldy when I was standing to take note as the mobile unit added weight to the top of the paper pad.

The pen, which is thicker than I'm used to (standard ballpoint) with. The button that allows you to switch between pen mode and mouse mode is located in the lower part of the pen, towards where it writes on the paper and I kept inadvertently clicking it as I was writing. So I had to call Customer Support and product support a few e-mails to Customer Support and product support.

Another problem, though a lesser one, is the quick reference guide itself. The print is so small, I had to borrow a friend's magnifying glass to read some of it. Keith Renty was correct when he said at our meeting that the user information was not written well. Nowhere in the users guide, or quick reference material is a description of everything that was to come with the kit (the graphic that points to everything in the kit to make sure you know the stylus is actually included). I had to call Customer Support and product support a few e-mails to Customer Support and product support.

Overall, I'm pleased with the performance, and not so pleased with the customer support.

## 32"QhŁeg"hgcvtg" {qw"ujqwnf"pqv"fq" without

Vjg"Etcd{"QhŁeg"Ncf{

**Feature #1:** The editor inside the box: Use the Spelling checker ...especially if you're writing to me! If I've said it once, I've said it 100 times: Please, if you're sending e-mail, writing a letter, or creating a Web site, please make use of the spelling checker. Either turn on this feature so that it cwwq o cvkecnn {"pqvkŁgu" {qw"y jgp" {qwøxg" o kuurgnngf" a word, or press F7 to launch the spelling checker yourself before you've completed your task. It's simple, it's quick, and it's the courteous thing to do.

### More information about the spell checker

Outlook: [Check spelling](#)

Word: [Turn on or off automatic spelling and grammar checking](#)

Visio: [About checking spelling](#)

Access: [Set spelling options](#)

Excel: [Check spelling on a worksheet](#)

PowerPoint: [Check spelling](#)

**Feature #2:** Say it, don't spray it: The Bcc box Now this one I KNOW I've mentioned before. Bcc is an abbreviation for blind carbon copy. If you add a recipient's name to this box in an e-mail, a copy of the message is sent to that recipient, and the recipient's name is not visible to other recipients of the message. Consider using the Bcc box when:

You want your mailing list to remain private.

You want to protect your recipients from possibly getting on a spammer's list. Consider this: If you send out a message to 10 people (and you don't put their e-mail addresses in the **Bcc:**"dqz+."kh"gcej"qh"vjqug" 10 people forwards it to 10 other people, and if each of those 100 people forwards it to 10 more people, your original 10 e-mail addresses are now available to 10,000 strangers. (This is how a version of that "six fgi tgg"qh"Mgxp"Dceqpö"ic o g"i gvu"uvctvgf0+"Ej cpegu" are pretty good that one of those 10,000 recipients is a spammer.

Of course, there are other reasons to use the **Bcc** box, but I'll leave you and your sneaky mind to come up with those.

### More information about the Bcc box

[Use Bcc effectively](#)



[Demo: Use Bcc to keep names off the To line](#)

**Feature #3:** I came, I saw, I rewrote: Revision marks Ytkvgtu"cpf"gfkvqtu"jcxg"vq"y qtm"vq igvjgt="kvøu"c"ncy" of nature, like gravity or a rained-out wedding. Using revision marks in Word is one way to keep track of all the changes — agreed upon or otherwise — that you, as a writer or a reviewer, talk about as a document is written. Using Word's built-in reviewing tools, such as comments or tracked changes, is a lot easier than getting out the red pen or using strikethrough hqt o cvkpi "\*"qt"y jcvxgt+0" Ocmg"wug"qh"vjku"j cpf{ " hgcvtg="kv"tgcnn {"hcekknkvcvgu"vjg"tgxkg ykpi" r tqguu0

### More information about revision marks

[About tracked changes and comments](#)

[Keep your imperfections private: Obliterate revision marks in Word](#)

[Get rid of tracked changes and comments, once and for all](#)

And listen, while some of you Word 2003 and Word 2002 users prefer the way Word 2000 handled revision marks (no balloons, just strikethrough formatting for fgngvkqpu"cpf"wpfgtnkpkpi "hqt"kpugtvkqpu+" {qw"ecp"ugv" up your version of Word to use the Word 2000 style of revision marks:

On the **Tools** menu, click **Options**, and then click the **Track Changes** tab.

In the Wug"Dcmqqpu"\*Rtkpv"cpf" Ygd"Nc{qvv+" box, select either **Never** or **Only for comments/formatting**.

**NOTE** In Word 2002, clear the Use balloons in Print and Web Layout check box.

**Feature #4:** Get yourself some insurance: Protect your work

Security is a big word these days, and you'd be wise to pay attention. There are many aspects to computer security, and being who I am, I'm here to encourage {qw"vq" ocmg" {qwt"QhŁeg"fqew o gpvu"cu"ugewtg"cu" you can. Some of the ways you can do this are to password-protect your documents, presentations and urtgc fujggvu="nqem" {qwt"ujcrgu"kp"Xkukq"cpf" r tggxgpv" ejcpi gu"vq"Łngu=" r tqvgev" {qwt"KphqRcvj" hqt o" fguki pu=" and [Sign up for security bulletins on the Microsoft Security site](#).

I'm not going to say that security is a simple, straight-hqt yctf"vqrke="kv"kupøv0"Dwv"kh" {qw"tgc f"vjg"kpht o cvkqp" we have out there and follow some of our guidelines, {qw"ecp"tguv"cuuwtgf"vjcv" {qwt"QhŁeg"fqew o gpvu" yknn" be a lot more secure than if you just close your eyes

and hope for the best.

[Oqtg"kphqt o cvkqp"cdqww"QhLeg"ugewtkv { Jgnr"rtqvgev" {qwtugnh<"Ugewtkv {"kp"QhLee Ugewtkv {"cpf"QhLeg<"Hkpf"qww"jqy"vq"jgnr"rtqvgev" {qwt data](#)

**Feature #5:** I know what I mean: AutoCorrect

This is one handy feature that I use a lot, and I use it in two ways:

K"v { rg"öEtcdd {"QhLeg"Ncf {ö"cnq"v="cnn"fc {"nqp i ."kp"ncev0" But since I've created an AutoCorrect entry for it, all K"jcxg"vq"fq"ku"v { rg"öEQNö"cpf" o {"QhLeg"rtqitc o " fgvgev" y jcv"K"tgcnn {" o gcp"cpf"Łnu"kp"vjg"hwmm"r jtcug" for me.

I can also use AutoCorrect to automatically detect and correct typos, misspelled words, grammatical errors, and incorrect capitalization. See, I tend to type fast and quite erroneously. I often type “teh” instead of “the” and “nac” instead of “can.” Since I've set up the AutoCorrect to note that, it changes the words back to what they should be. Does this make me lazy? Perhaps. But it saves me time, too.

More information about AutoCorrect

[Turn on or off AutoCorrect options](#)

[Add an AutoCorrect entry](#) (This topic refers to RqygtRqkp"dwv" {qw"ecp"cr r n {"kv"vq"cp {"QhLeg" rtqitc o 0+)

[Troubleshoot automatic corrections](#)

**Feature #6:** Help me, I'm drowning: AutoArchive

Your mailbox is growing and growing...and growing. You need a place to store all those items that you can't delete but don't need on a daily basis, and you need a way to do it automatically. AutoArchive in Outlook is the way to handle it. It's on by default and runs automatically at scheduled intervals, clearing out old and expired items from folders. Old items are those that reach the archiving age you specify. Expired items are mail and meeting items whose content is no longer valid after a certain date, such as a meeting you had four months ago that still appears on your calendar. I like to think of it as spring cleaning, but it's easier and can happen more frequently, at any interval you desire.

More information about AutoArchive

[Back up Outlook e-mail messages](#)

[Tgeqppgev" {qwt"qn f"Qwvnnqmm" fcvc"Łne](#)

**Feature #7:** Decorating made simple: The Format Painter

The **Format Painter**, which looks like this  on the

Standard Toolbar, is one of the most handy little features I know. It's a way to copy any formatting you want to duplicate — fonts, shading, borders, and more. You basically select the text that you want to copy, click the **Format Painter** button and then select the text to which you want to apply formatting. If you want to apply the same formatting to more than one item, select the formatting you want, double-click **Format Painter**, and then select each word, phrase, or paragraph you want to apply formatting to. When {qwtg"Łpkujgf."rtguu"GUE0"Pq"iwguukpi."pq"owvkrng" steps, and you can use the **Format Painter** in just cdqww"cp {"QhLeg"rtqitc o 0

**More information about the format painter**

[Demo: Copy formatting in a single click with Format Painter](#)

**Feature #8:** Leverage someone else's work: Use a template

Y jgp"vk o g"ku"qh"vjg"guugpeg"\*cpf" y jgp"ku"kv"pqvA+." no one is a better friend to you than a template. In a nutshell, a template is a pre-designed document, urtgc fujggv."rtgugpvcvkqp"qt"cp {"qvjgt"v { rg"qh"QhLeg" document that's been created by a template elf. It has all the colors, layouts, bullets, fonts, and whatever gnug" {qw"ycpv"vq" o cmg" {qwt"QhLeg"fqew o gpv"urctmng0" All you have to do is plug in your content and away you go. A template saves you the burden of having research and design skills, and it saves us the burden of reminding you that you need to brush up on your research and design skills.

**Oqtg"kphqt o cvkqp"cdqww"wukpi "QhLeg"vg o rncvgu Oketquqhv"QhLeg"Qpnkpg"Vg o rncvgu"jqogrcie HELP! for templates**

**Feature #9:** Show, don't just tell: Use some Clip art I often get e-mails from folks asking me if they can use the clip art on our site for their documents, spreadsheets, e-mail signatures, etc. People: If it's on our site, you can use it. Why would we have it there? Just to tempt you? Yes, use our clip art for all your artistic needs!

**More information about using clip art**

[Oketquqhv"QhLeg"Qpnkpg"Enkr"Ctv"cpf"Ogfk"jqogrcie Clip art and media assistance](#)  
[Clip Organizer assistance](#)

**Feature #10:** Say it loud, say it proud: Give feedback I know: You think we're not listening, that we just make these products year after year, without thinking

about you or your needs. That just isn't true. In fact, some of us spend a majority of our time listening to you and your ideas. But we can't listen if you're not talking. So please, make the effort and tell us what you like, what you don't like, and what you wish you could have.

### More information about saying it loud, saying it proud

[Ygneq o g"vq"QhLeg"Opnkpg<"Pqy"uvctv"vcnmkpg](#)  
[Provide suggestions and feedback to Microsoft](#)  
[Contact Microsoft to give feedback or get help with QhLee](#)

**“A human being has a natural desire to have more of a good thing than he needs.” — Mark Twain**

About the author

[Annik Stahl](#). "v j g" Etcdd { "QhLeg" Nc f { "eqnw o pkuv. "vcmgu" all of your complaints, compliments, and knee-jerk reactions to heart. Therefore, she graciously asks that you let her know whether this column was useful to you — or not — by entering your feedback using the **Was this information helpful?** tool below. And remember: If you don't vote, you can't complain.

[I gv"v j g" Etcdd { "QhLeg" Nc f { "ø" dqqk](#)  
[Tgc f"cm"v j g" Etcdd { "QhLeg" Nc f { "eqnw o ps](#)  
[Get Crabby's columns via RSS](#)  
[View Crabby's videos](#)

Editor's note: this is actually an old article of hers, but I found it still to be relevant and very good.

9x z 5fjw ! 9x z 5fjw ! 9x z 5fjw ! 9x z 5fjw ! 9x z 5fjw ! 9x z 5fjw ! 9x z 5fjw !

A lawyer opened the door of his BMW, when suddenly a car came along and hit the door, ripping it off completely. When the police arrived at the scene, the lawyer was complaining bitterly about the damage "vq" jku" r tgekquw" DO Y0" ð QhLegt. "nqqm" y jcv" v j g { "øxg" f qpg" to my Beemer!" he whined.

“You lawyers are so materialistic, you make me sick!” tgvqtvgf"v j g"qhLegt. "ð [ qwøtg"uq" y qttkgf"cdqvw" { qwt" stupid BMW, that you didn't even notice that your left arm was ripped off!”

"ðQj" o { " i qfö. "tgrnkgf"v j g"nc y {gt. "Lpcnn { "pqvkekp i"v j g" bloody left shoulder where his arm once was, “Where's my Rolex!”

## The Top 25 Web Hoaxes and Pranks

These online spoofs and shams have made the rounds on Web sites and through e-mail. Perhaps you even believed one or two of them yourself.

By Steve Bass, PC World Columnist and Author  
Uvgxgdcuu\*cv+gctv jnkpm0pgv

Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

Though some of these deceptions originated years ago, the originals--and dozens of variants--continue to make the rounds. If you keep a patient vigil over your e-mail, you too may eventually spot a message urging you to FORWARD THIS TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW!!! And if you haven't had enough when { qw" Lpkuj" tgc fkp i" v j ku" ctvkeng. "vcmg" c" j qcz" vguv" cv" v j g" Museum of Hoaxes, and then hop over to Snopes, the premier myth-dispelling site for coverage of zillions of qv j gt" hcnuk L ecvkqpu0

### Hoaxes 1 Through 5

From the supposed last photo taken at the top of the World Trade Center to the endlessly revised request for assistance from a Nigerian functionary, here are qwt"vqr" Lxg" Ygd" cpf" g/ o ckn" j qczgu0

### 30"V j g" Ceek f gpvcn" Vqwt kuv" \*4223+

Quite possibly the most famous hoax picture ever, this gruesome idea of a joke traveled around the Web and made a grand tour of e-mail inboxes everywhere soon after the tragedy



of September 11. It depicts a tourist standing on the observation deck of one of the World Trade Center towers, unknowingly posing for a picture as an American Airlines plane approaches in the background.

Cv" Ltuv" i ncepg" kv" cr r gctu" vq" dg" tgen. "dvw" kh" { qw" gzc o kpg" egtvckp" fgcknu. " { qwønn" ugg" v j cv" kvøu" c" etchvkn" { " o qfk Lgf" image. For starters, the plane that struck the WTC was c" ykf g/dqf { "Dqgkp i" 989="v j g" qpg" kp" v j g" rkevwtg" ku" c" smaller 757. The approach of the plane in the picture

is from the north, yet the building it would have hit--the North tower--didn't have an outdoor observation deck. Furthermore, the South tower's outdoor deck didn't open until 9:30 a.m. on weekdays, more than a picture is a hoax, through and through--and not a particularly amusing one, under the circumstances.

#### 40"Ukem"Mkf"Pggfu [qwt"Jgnr"\*3; ; ; +

This gem had its roots in reality. It all began in 1989, when nine-year-old cancer patient Craig Shergold thought of a way to achieve his dream of getting into the Guinness Book of World Records. Craig asked people to send greeting cards, and boy, did they. By 1991, 33 million greeting cards had been sent,



far surpassing the prior record. Ironically, however, the Guinness World Records site doesn't contain any mention of Craig Sherwood or a "most greeting cards" at the site don't want to encourage anyone to try to break his mark. (Astonishingly, Guinness doesn't have an entry for world's stoutest person, either, but it does

Fortunately, doctors succeeded in removing the tumor, and Craig is now a healthy adult, but his appeal for cards has turned into the hoax that won't die. Variations on the theme include a sick girl dying of cancer, and a little boy with leukemia whose dying wish is to start an eternal chain letter. A recent iteration tells a tragic tale of a girl who supposedly was horribly will pay all of her medical bills if only if you forward this e-mail to EVERYONE YOU KNOW!!! Okay, enough already.

#### 50"Dkmm" I cvgu"Oqpgf" I kxgcyc{"\*3; ; ; 9+

No, it's true. I thought it was a scam, but it happened to a buddy of mine. It seems that Microsoft is testing some new program for tracing e-mail, and the company needs volunteers to help try the thing out. He forwarded me an e-mail that he received from Microsoft--and get this, from Bill Gates himself! Two weeks later, as a reward for participating, my

pal received a check for thousands of dollars! Sure he did. Another version of this hoax claims that AOL's tracking service is offering a cash reward. Tell you what--when you get your check, send me 10 percent as

#### 60"Hkxg/Egpn"G/O ckn"Vcz"\*3; ; ; +

"Dear Internet Subscriber," the e-mail starts. "The Government of the United States is quietly pushing through legislation that will affect your use of the Internet." It goes on to reveal that "Bill 602P" will authorize the U.S. Postal Service to assess a charge cut down on the number of dopey e-mail chain letters and lame jokes people let loose on the world. But credulous curse averters and connoisseurs of boffo laffs can relax: This e-mail alert, which popped up in 1999 and comes back for a visit every year or so, just isn't true. Still, it sounded plausible enough to fool Hillary Clinton during a 2000 debate when she was running for the Senate.

#### 70"Pki gtkcp"63;"G/O ckn"Uec o"\*4222+

"DEAR SIR," the e-mail starts. "FIRSTLY I MUST FIRST SOLICIT YOUR CONFIDENCE INTRODUCING MYSELF PROPERLY..." I'm sure e-mail message promising you a reward of mucho dinero for helping this person convey money abroad. All you need do in return is entrust your name and bank account number to the government bureaucrat (or his uncle, aunt, or cousin, the ostensible "credit number of the Nigerian criminal code that applies to when the media of choice were letters or faxes--and they're still wildly successful at snagging people. In fact, Oprah recently featured a victim of the Nigerian scam on her show. And if you think that smart, educated folks couldn't possibly fall for it, you'll be surprised when you read "The Perfect Mark," a New psychotherapist who was duped--and lost a fortune.

It's the Nigerian con, also known as an Advanced Fee number of the Nigerian criminal code that applies to when the media of choice were letters or faxes--and they're still wildly successful at snagging people. In fact, Oprah recently featured a victim of the Nigerian scam on her show. And if you think that smart, educated folks couldn't possibly fall for it, you'll be surprised when you read "The Perfect Mark," a New psychotherapist who was duped--and lost a fortune.

To see how the hoax works, visit Scamorama, a fascinating site that features a progression of e-mail o guuc i gu"uvtkpi k i"cnqpi"63;"uec o o gtu."uq o gvk o gu" for months at a time. Finally, check out the 3rd Annual Nigerian E-Mail Conference, an absolutely perfect spoof.

**80"Kvøu"Mk fpg{ " J c t x g u v k p i "V k o g" \*3 ; ; 8+**

The subject line is laden with exclamation points: "Travelers Beware!!!" If that's not enough to get your attention, the chilling story certainly will. The message warns that an organ-harvesting crime ring is drugging tourists in New Orleans and Las Vegas, snatching their "extra" kidneys, selling the organs to non-Hippocratic hospitals, and leaving the victims to y cmg"wr"kp" c"dcvj vwd"hwmm"qh"keg"cpf"Łpf" c"dtkgh"pqvg" v j cv"gz rnc kpu"v j g"ukvvcvkqp"cpf"eqpxgpkgpvn{"kfgpvkŁgu" the phone number of the nearest emergency room. Hey, maybe they'll get lucky and the hospital will have a compatible replacement kidney on hand. But travelers, fear not!!! According to the National Kidney Foundation, this scenario has never actually occurred-- v j q w i j "kv" f q g u" j c x g" v j g" o c m k p i u" q h" c" i t g c v" j q t t q t" ł k e m 0" \*H t g f f { ø u" N c u v" J c t x g u v. " c p { q p g A+

**90" [ q w ø x g" I q v" X k t w u # " \*3 ; ; ; " c p f" q p +**

There's isn't a Teddy Bear virus. Nor is there a sulfnbk.exe or A Virtual Card for You ("the "WORST VIRUS EVER!!!...CNN ANNOUNCED IT. PLEASE UGP F" V J K U" V Q" G X G T [ Q P G" [ Q W" M P Q Y ###ö+0

The jdbgmgr.exe hoax (also known as Teddy Bear dgecwug"v j g" l f d i o i t 0 g z g" Ł n g" k u" t g r t g u g p v g f" d { " c" v g f f { " d g c t" k e q p + " y c t p g f" t g e k r k g p v u" q h" v j g" g / o c k n" o g u u c i g" that they were at risk of infection from a virus sent via address books or Microsoft Messenger, and that they u j q w n f" f g n v g" v j g" Ł n g" k o o g f k c v g n { 0" D w v" k p" t g c n k v { " v j g t g" was no virus--and unfortunately, jdbgmgr.exe was a p g e g u u c t { " L c x c" Ł n g 0" V j g" u w n h p d m 0 g z g" j q c z" p c k n g f" g x g p" c f x c p e g f" w u g t u" y k v j" k v u" k p u k u v g p e g" v j c v" v j g" Ł n g / / c" n g i k v" q p g" v j c v ø u" w u g f" h q t" Ł z k p i " n q p i " Ł n g" p c o g u / / y c u" c" x k t w u 0" Lots of people removed it.

Similarly, A Virtual Card for You claimed that McAfee had discovered a virus that, when opened, would destroy the hard drive on an infected system and would automatically send itself to everyone on the user's e-mail contacts list. Of course, it didn't do anything except scare people. So before you forward cp" g / o c k n" x k t w u" y c t p k p i " v q" c p { q p g" \* g u r g e k c m { " v q" o g +.

look it up on Sophos or Vmyths to make sure it isn't a fraud.

**:0"Oketquqhv"Dw{u"Hktghqz"\*4228+**

Talk about scaring the entire open-source community. In October 2006, a previously unknown Web site popped up, announcing Microsoft's acquisition of Firefox and promoting the company's new Microsoft Firefox 2007 Professional. The site talks glowingly about the browser's new features and provides a video advertisement for the product. It was a great prank, and the image of the Microsoft Firefox 2007 box was so elaborate and professional looking that the blood pressure of real Firefox users went sky-high.



**;0"Vjg" T g c m { " D k i " M k v v { " \*4223+**

There are big cats and then there are even bigger cats. This one, reportedly tipping the scales at almost 90 pounds, was enormous. The claim seemed plausible and even snookered a lot of e-mail cynics (I'm raising o { " j c p f + / / w p v k n" v j g { " t g c f" v j g" accompanying copy, that is. With nonsense about the owner working at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, and more balderdash about nuclear reactors, the jig was up. Eventually, the cat's owner fessed up to a creative Photoshop session, though he claimed that he never expected anyone to believe the photo was real.



**320"&472"Eqqmkg" T g e k r g" \*3 ; ; 8+**

The woman loved the cookie she had just nibbled at a Neiman Marcus cafe in Houston, so she asked her y c k v g t" h q t" v j g" t g e k r g 0" ö V y q / Ł h v { . ö" j g" u c k f. " c p f" u j g" agreed without hesitation, instructing him to add it to her tab. But when the woman's Visa bill arrived, it read \$250, instead of \$2.50. Bent on revenge, she proceeded to ask you to blast the recipe to-- okay, ready?--EVERYONE YOU KNOW!!! Like many hoaxes, this one predated the Internet, only to resurface in the electronic age. It appeared in an eqqmdqqm"kp"v j g"ncvg"3;62u"cu"v j g"&47"hw f i g"ecmg." popped up in the 1960s as the Waldorf-Astoria red-velvet cake recipe, and re-emerged in the 1970s as the



Mrs. Fields cookie recipe.

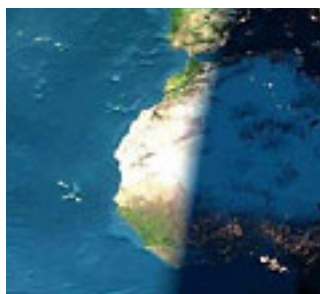
### Hoaxes 11 Through 15

V jku" i tqwr" qh" Lxg" dg ikpu" ykvj" c" r j qp{ "g/ o ckn" o guuc ig" promising money and other prizes from Disney, and ends with the classic deaf-to-reason arguments of the Apollo moon landing deniers.

**330" Htgg" Xcecvkqp" Eqwtvgu{ "qh" Fkupg{ "#3 ; ; : +**  
Dear Goofy... Forward this e-mail chain letter to everybody under the sun and, once 13,000 people j cxg" tgegkxgf" kv. " Ycnv" Fkupg{ "L0" y knn" ugp f" Lxg" i t e p f" each to 1,300 lucky people on this list. And "the rest will receive a free trip for two to Disney for one week during the summer of 1999." Is that Disney World, Disneyland--or Walt's house? The "Jr." after Disney, in reference to a nonexistent person, ought to j cxg" dggp" vj g" Ltuv" enwg" vj cv" vj ku" y cu" c" j qc z 0" Cp f" vj g" misspelling of "receive" was the clincher (remember, j qc z vgtu. "0k0" dghqtg" 0g0" gzegr" v" chvt" 0e0+0" [gv" rgqrng" forwarded the message around the world using the time-honored e-mail chain letter adage: I'm sending it to you... just in case it's true.

### 340" Uwpugv" Qxgt" Chtkec" \*4225+

Now that's a dazzling photo of Africa and Europe, taken right around sunset from the Space Shuttle Columbia. What makes the image especially amazing is that, while London remains in daylight, night has hcnngp" kp" Kven{ "c" nkvnng" vq" vj g" uqvwj gcuv+ " cp f" vj g" dtki j v" lights of Rome, Naples, and Venice are blazing. Too bad it's a digitally altered photo, most likely layered from multiple satellite images. To see an accurate, computer-generated illustration, check out the World Sunlight Map.



**350" Cnkgp" Cwvqr{ "cv" Tquygm. "Pgy" Ogzkeq" \*3 ; ; 7+**  
Roswell, New Mexico: ground zero of UFO controversy. It's also where the movie of the Roswell cnkgp" cwvqr{ " y cu" Ln o gf" 82" { gctu" ci q 0" Vj g" uvqt{ " goes that a UFO crashed at this site, and the U.S. government performed a hush-hush autopsy on the dead alien. In the mid-1990s, unnamed individuals 0 f k ue q x g t g f 0" vj g" u e t g v" Ln o" c p f" r q u v g f" kv" h q t" vj g" g f k L e c v k q p" qh" c" f k u k p h q t o g f" r w d n k e 0" N q q m u" r t g v v{ " t g c n. " right? Now fast-forward to 2006 and a conspiracy-

fg l cvkpi" c f o kuukqp<" Vj g" o qxkg" ku" c" j qc z" e t g c v g f" kp" 1995 by John Humphreys, the animator famous for Max Headroom, in his apartment in north London. ...Or was it???

### 360" Tgcn/ Vk o g" I R U" E g m n" R j q p g" V t c e m k p i" \*4229+

Have you heard about the Web site that can track the location of your cell phone in real time? It uses satellite GPS in combination with Google Maps, and it's amazingly accurate (not to mention a disturbing kpxcukqp" qh" r t k x c e { + 0" Go ahead, check it out yourself by going to the SunSat Satellite Solutions site and tracking your own cell



phone's location. Select your country, type in your cell phone number, click the Start Searching button, and wait for it. (This is one of the year's best pranks. And I y qp 0" i k x g" c y c { " vj g" g p f k p i 0+

### 370" Crqmq" Oqqp" Ncpfkpi" J qc z" \*3 ; 8 ; +

You're aware that we never landed on the moon, right? It was all just an elaborate hoax designed to score Cold War points for the United States against the Soviet Union in a world of falling dominoes. The whole lunar landing thing? It was a video staged at movie studios and top-secret locations.



Okay, you can stop laughing now, but some sites, such as Apollo Reality and Moon

Landing, still insist that the Eagle never landed. Of course, enemies of Flat Earthism will point to the Rocket and Space Technology site, which does an in-depth job of debunking the hoax. But true disbelievers u j q w n f" e j g e m" q w v" vj ku" v g t t k L e" x k f g q" u r q q h. " e q o r n g v g" with outtakes showing lights and cameras.

### Hoaxes 16 Through 20

The world of weird eBay auction items starts off this page, which concludes with a photo hoax purporting to show a 1950s-era vision of the home computer of tomorrow.

### 380" Ugm" Kv" qp" gDc{ # " \*3 ; ; 7+

You won't believe what people have sold on eBay--some of the items pranks, some of them for real, and some, well, it's hard to tell. For a sampling of the weird, you need look no further than a haunted tree stump and a pork chop shaped like a grizzly bear. The Internet itself once went on the market at a modest starting bid of a million bucks, as have a dozen spontaneous images of the Virgin Mary (on toast, on windows, and heaven only knows where gnug+0"Dkf fgtu"j cxg"cnuq"j c f" c"uj qv"cv"uq o gqpgøu"uqwn." a guy's virginity, and a human kidney, with the price of this last item having reached \$5.7 million before eBay pulled the plug. (Hey, guys, don't you know that what you lose in Las Vegas is supposed to stay in Las Xgi cuA+

But my favorite eBay offering involves a tattooed guy who, as a joke, dressed in his ex-wife's size 12 wedding gown and put it up for auction. Only the ftguu"gpfgf"wr"ugnnkpi"hq"&5:72."cpf"vjg"iw{"iqv"Łxg" marriage proposals. Nice.

**390"Ejkpgug"Pgyurcrgt"Fwrgf"\*4224+**

Information on the Internet may want to be free--but kh"kvøu"rquvfg"d{"c"hq/rtqŁv"rwdnkujgt."{qwøf"dgwvgt" take it with a grain of salt. That's the lesson learned by China's Beijing Evening News, which was taken in by the Onion's Capitol Dome spoof. Famous for its authentic-sounding but tongue-in-cheek articles steeped in the language of the Associated Press, the Onion reported that Congress had threatened to leave Washington,



D.C., and head for Memphis unless the District agreed to erect a new domed Capitol building with a retractable roof and luxury box seating. Having

accepted most of the Onion article at face value, the Ejkpgug"pgyurcrgt"cv"Łtuv"uvqqf"d{"kvu"uqwteg"kp"vjg" face of international derision and refused to back fqyp0"Y jgp"kv"Łpcmm{"rwdnkujgf" c"tgtvcevqkq."kv"dnc o gf" the Onion for the confusion: "Some small American newspapers frequently fabricate offbeat news to trick people into noticing them with the aim of making money." Right.

**3:0"Vjg"Owrrgvu"Jcxg"Pqv"Cntgcf{"Yqp"\*4223+**

In early October 2001, just prior to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, protesters at an anti-American rally in Bangladesh showed their support for Osama bin Laden by marching, chanting, and waving placards. Qpg"qh"vjg"rquvgtu"ecrvwtgf"qp"Łno"d{"Tgwvgtu" News Agency was a photo-montage of the Al-Qaeda leader, and in one of the shots a yellow felt puppet to his right glowers furiously at the camera. It's...

Bert of Sesame Street.

Originally a Zelig-inspired creation of San Francisco Webmaster Dino Ignacio, the satirical Web site Bert Is Evil depicted Bert



hobnobbing with the worst of the worst in history, tormenting his roommate Ernie, and generally reveling in wickedness. After Ignacio retired from active efforts to expose Bert's career of evil, others Łnngf"vjg"Rjqvqujqr"xqkf."ecrvwtkpi"vjg"eqpg/jgcfgf" miscreant with all the latest baddies-du-jour.

Evidently, the company responsible for printing the pro-Osama poster found the doctored dual portrait irresistible, although (according to the Urban Legends Tghgtgpegu"Rci gu+"kvu"rtqfwevkqp" o cpcigt"encko u"vq" have produced about 2000 copies of the Osama-and-Dgtv"rquvgt"ykvjqw"tgcnk|kpi"õy jcv"vjg{"uki plŁgf00" Ygnn."kh" {qw"ecpøv"vtwuv"rkevwtgu" {qw"Łpf"qp"vjg" Internet, what can you trust?

**3;0"Ejgxtqngvøu"Pqv/Uq/Dgvggt"Kfge"\*4228+**

The ad folks at Chevrolet thought they had a winner: Let site visitors create their own 30-second commercial for the company's 2007 Chevy Tahoe SUV. It'll be fun, they probably thought. We'll give them a choice of video clips and soundtracks, and let them add their own text captions. Yep, viral marketing at its best.

Unfortunately for Chevrolet, a few pranksters decided to use the opportunity to express what they thought of the SUV. One commercial said, "Like this snowy yknf gtpguuA"Dgvggt" i gv" {qwt"Łm"qh"kv"pqy0"Vjgp"uc {" hello to global warming." Another lambasted the SUV as a gas guzzler: "Our planet's oil is almost gone. You don't need G.P.S. to see where this road leads."

### 420" Tc p f 0 u 3 ; 7 6 " J q o g " E q o r w v g t " \* 4 2 2 6 +

This intriguing image of a room-size computer made the rounds of the Internet, accompanied by a breathless blurb: "This article is from an issue of 3;76"-Rq r w n c t " O g e j c p k e u 0 " o c i c | k p g " h q t g e c u v k p i " v j g " possibility of 'home computers' in 50 years." The steering wheel in the picture is the predecessor to today's mouse, and the keyboard looks like those on teletype machines. It even comes complete with a guy right out of the Eisenhower era.

Cool stuff, and easy to believe--but it's not a 1950s Rand Corporation mockup of what a prototype home computer might look like. It's actually a shot that was taken of a submarine display at the Smithsonian K p u v k v w v k q p " c p f " u w d u g s w g p v n { " o q f k L g f " h q t " k p e n w u k q p " k p " a Fark.com image-manipulation competition.

### Hoaxes 21 Through 25

Q w t " L p c n " L x g " v c m g u " { q w " h t q o " v j g " w n v k o c v g " k p u v c p e g " q h " Microsoft hubris to an ill-conceived experiment in K p v g t p g v " f g o q e t c e { " \* q t " k u " v j c v " K p v g t p g v " c p c t e j { A + 0

### 430" O k e t q u q h v " D w { u " E c v j q n k e " E j w t e j " \* 3 ; ; 6 +

More than a decade ago, an e-mail press release--from Vatican City, no less--landed in my inbox. Microsoft was announcing that it was in the process of acquiring the Roman Catholic Church in exchange for an w p u r g e k L g f " p w o d g t " q h " u j c t g u " q h " O k e t q u q h v " e q o o q p " stock. The story was a prank, but it sure looked real, circulating for months and perhaps worrying residents of the Holy See.

Just think: If the press release had been true, it might have stopped the Vatican from using Linux. And no, I'm not kidding about the Linux part. Watch this video interview with the woman who helped build the Vatican's Web site.

### 440" J g t e w n g u . " v j g " G p q t o q w u " F q i " \* 4 2 2 9 +

Wow, that dog's almost as big as the horse. That's y j c v " K " v j q w i j v " y j g p " K " L t u v " n q q m g f " c v " v j k u " g / o c k n 0 " The picture depicts a couple, one walking a horse, the other holding the leash of Hercules, a 282-pound English Mastiff and "The World's Biggest Dog Ever According to Guinness World Records."

Horsepucky. Here's my analysis of the Photoshop o q f k L e c v k q p u 0 " H k t u v . " v c m g " c " e n q u g " n q q m " c v " v j g " i t c u u " under the people and the animals. The area has been

subtly lightened in order to make all of the shadows match and look authentic. Next, examine the shadows and you'll notice two anomalies: First, the shadows of the dog and the man start at their feet,



but the same doesn't hold true for the horse. Second, v j g " y q o c p 0 u " u j c f q y " k u " o k u u k p i " c n v q i g v j g t = " k p u v g c f . " the man's shadow extends in front of her. Oh and by the way, the Guinness World Records site doesn't have a listing for Hercules or for the world's biggest dog. Okay, okay, so the pictures of the big kitty and the big dog are both fakes--but have you seen the shot of Craig Sherwood riding the world's largest jackelope?

### 450" N k i j v u / Q w v " I c p i " O g o d g t " K p k v k c v k p p " \* 3 ; ; +

People have a tendency to believe e-mail messages v j c v " e q o g " h t q o " c w v j q t k v { " L i w t g u 0 " K p " 3 ; ; . : " c " o g u u c i g " r w t r q t v g f n { " h t q o " c " r q n k e g " q h L e g t " y q t m k p i " y k v j " v j g " DARE program circulated around the Internet. It y c t p g f " t g e k r k g p v u " p q v " v q " l c u j " v j g k t " n k i j v u " v q " k p h q t o " oncoming cars that their headlamps were off.

According to the message, a recently devised gang initiation ritual involved having new gang members drive at night with their headlights turned off until an q p e q o k p i " e c t " l c u j g f " k v u " n k i j v u " c v " v j g o = " v j g p . " k p " q t f g t " to become initiated, they were to shoot everyone in that car. It's just another urban myth--and about as silly as the one claiming that gangs mark off their territory by hanging sneakers from power lines.

### 460" J w t t k e c p g " N n k " Y c v g t u r q w v u " \* 4 2 2 4 +

It's weird, it's disturbing, and it's seemingly plausible--all of the elements necessary for a successful e-mail forward. The image shows three dark waterspouts in the distance. The subject is "here comes lili," and the e-mail began

appearing in inboxes at about the same time that Hurricane Lili started battering the Louisiana coastline. But three waterspouts, all neatly lined



up? According to About.com, the National Weather Service labeled the picture a hoax and said that it was a crew member of the Edison Chouest Offshore supply boat.

470"Rtcpmu"Ujwv"Fqyp"Nqu"Cpigngu"Vko gu"Ykmk" \*4227+

It seemed like a bright idea. The LA Times' "A Wiki for Your Thoughts" fandango asked readers to chime in on the newspaper's editorials via a Wiki. In their explanation of how it would work, the editors even acknowledged that "It sounds nutty." Yet they went ahead with it--and achieved disastrous results. The Wikitorial (the name was nearly as dumb as the uejg o g+dtqw i jv"qwv"vjg"dguv"cpf"vjgp"vjg"yqtuv"kp" tgcfgtu0"Qp"vjg"Łtuv"fc{"cp"gfkvqtken"cdqww"vjg"yct" in Iraq prompted civil and thoughtful contributions. On day two, pranksters littered the unmoderated Wiki with rude comments, pornography, and profanity. The Webmaster removed the offending entries, but only after they were available for public viewing. By the next morning, the publisher had dismantled the Wiki.

All images courtesy of Snopes.com.

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Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World, a 23 year veteran of PIBMUG, and a founding member of APCUG. He's also the author of PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things about Your Personal Computer, O'Reilly Press. It's still available on Amazon at dirt cheap prices. <http://snurl.com/annoy2>.

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## Penny Riddle

Do you smell anything here?



It's a scent

Do you see any fruit here? --->



It's a pear

Do you see any snakes here?



It's three copperheads

Do you see any cars here?



It's four Lincolns

# When It Rains It Pours

by Terry Currier

Did you know that with the eMachine computers the large e logo has a blue glow around it when turned on? My grandson knows and likes the glow. At least that is what I attribute it's failure to. He just loved coming in and pressing the power button – several times. I thought it might be the power button itself being the problem. I did hook up a spare power supply to it to see if it would go, but no such luck. I took the unit over to PC Club and they tested the power supply (for nothing from the motherboard. It being over three years old I felt it was not worth replacing the motherboard. I did look around and it would be at least \$100. eMachine wants \$250 – are they kidding? I did think about not replacing it, but I like having a secondary computer just for testing software and hardware. So I ended up buying a motherboard, case and video card from Microcenter. I liked this one because it has a cover that you have to open to turn it on. Hopefully I can get it put together this weekend.

My Epson printer has been having problems lately. When printing it did not use the black ink. It takes all the other colors to make a composite black. Which at the cost of the ink that was not good. It just so happened though that I had this unit under an extended warranty. I talked to Bob. It was hard to understand him with that warranty time and I would have to pay for the repairs. I told him I was charged for the warranty, Epson did not give the money back so they were responsible. Turns out I was right and they shipped out a replacement to me. George Margolin did tell me of a similar problem. Run the nozzle clean several times and it will clean the head up, and you will be set to go. Otherwise call Bob.

Not the end of it.

I turned on my HP notebook and got this:

You may be logged in using a temporary session ID.

So I could not get to My Documents folder, or any

email.

Turns out the only way around it was to create a new user with administration rights. From that see if I can find the files and copy them to the new folder. The even say to try to resolve this problem this weekend also. Computers are such fun!

## Black Cat Crossing Your Path

As one version of the belief goes, if a black cat crosses your path, bad luck will befall you.

Another version claims that if a black cat walks towards you then it brings very good luck to you -- but if it walks away from you, then it takes its good luck with it!

In ancient Egypt, the Goddess Bast was a black, female cat. Christians, wanting to rid society of all traces of other religions, convinced the ignorant that black cats were demons in disguise and should thus be destroyed. In the process, they also destroyed the kindly women who cared for the cats, believing them to be witches.

Being demons, a black cat crossing your path would create a barrier of evil, cutting you off from God and blocking the entrance to heaven. ("Silly Superstitions", ...)

In England, black cats are thought to bring good fortune. All things considered, I have two wonderful black cats. A few other interesting cat-related superstitions I came across (from "Silly Superstitions", ...)

A few other interesting cat-related superstitions I came across (from "Silly Superstitions", ...)

\* If you can take the one white hair off an otherwise all black cat without getting scratched, you have a very powerful good luck talisman.

\* Cats can physically see spirits, so they make excellent guardians against evil spirits. They also love ...

# Finding Ghosts In Your Computer

by Mike Morris, Editor, Front Range PC Users Group,  
<http://www.frpcug.org>

v y tkvgtgzv\*cv+ i o ckn0eq o

Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

You think I am kidding? The Microsoft Knowledgebase article on this subject refers to "...ghosted" devices..." and "Phantom devices...."

Before we get started with an explanation, four facts

1. I owe a thank you to fellow Front Range PC Users Group member Howard Norlin for suggesting this article.

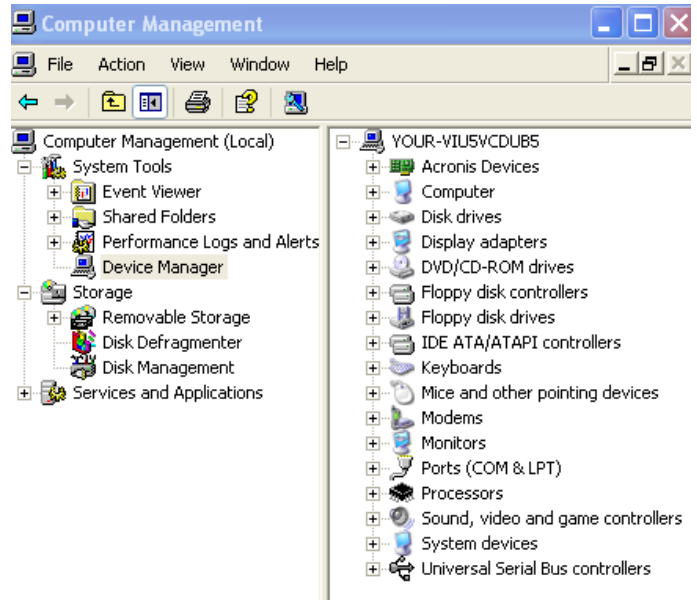
This article is based on the Microsoft Knowledgebase Article ID 315539 for Windows XP Home and Professional. Connect to

<http://support.microsoft.com/search/> to locate the article. Enter the article number, 315539, into the search box. The article title is "Device Manager does not display devices that are not connected to the Windows XP-based computer."

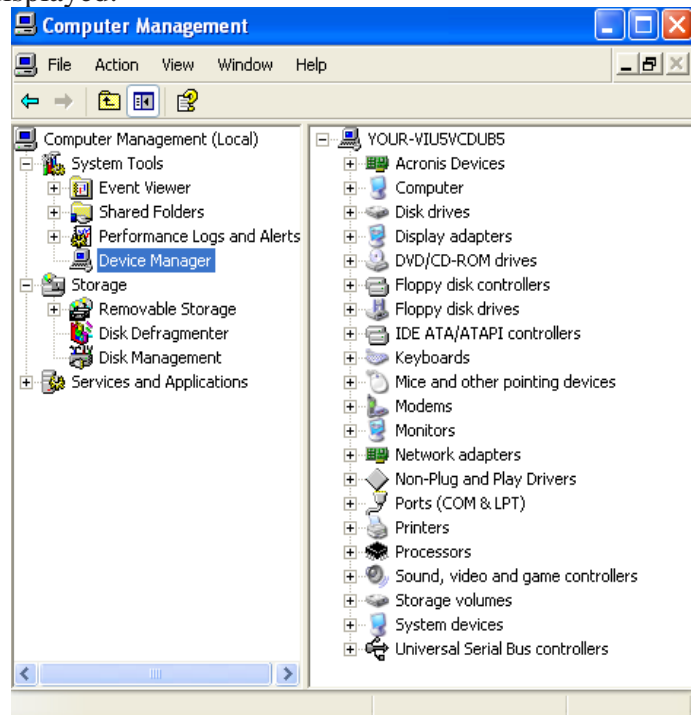
2. Under the "STATUS" heading of this article, it is by design. [that means that "(t)his behavior..." is a feature, not a bug].

3. Yes, I am aware of the famous movie about the movie in a theater in decades. I decided not to use the movie title in this article in order to avoid copyright issues.

The Device Manager feature in Windows can be used for several purposes. Perhaps one of the best known uses is troubleshooting. Here is one method of obtaining access to Device Manager, using a series of mouse clicks:



Click on Start/Click on Control Panel/Double click on Administrative Tools/Double click on Computer Management. Then, under System Tools, click on Device Manager. A list of device categories is displayed:

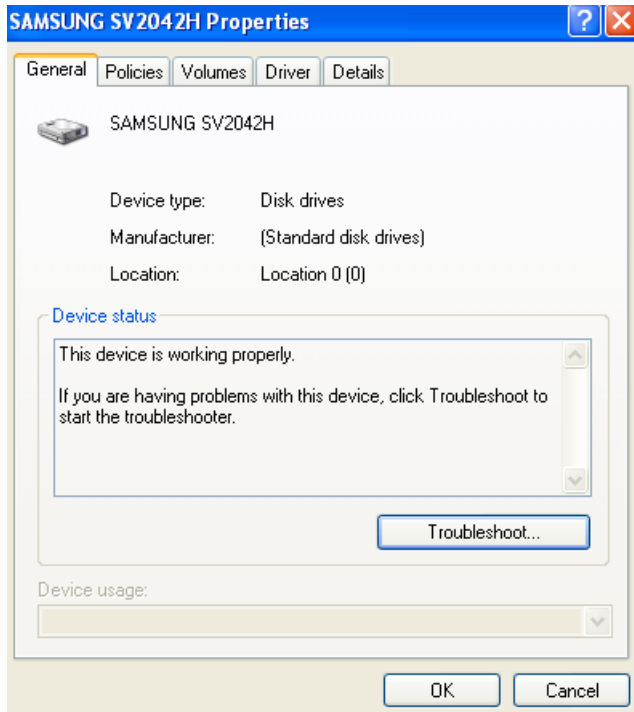


Everything is displayed that you might expect. On the Computer Management Menu Bar, click on View, then on "Show hidden devices." Examine the result:

Look carefully, and you will see the "Printers" category has been added.

One may speculate—and debate—why the printer is, selecting the “Show hidden devices” option still does NOT provide a complete list of hardware or software items that are—or have been—connected to the computer. That result is the origin of the phrase “ghosted devices.”

Why should you care?



Perhaps for the majority of users, knowledge of this issue is not critical. However, as mentioned earlier, Device Manager can be used as a troubleshooting aid. For example, if I click on the + sign to the left of Disk Drives listed in the right panel of Device Manager, and then double click on the device displayed, a device-

The window offers several options for troubleshooting a malfunctioning device.

If the malfunctioning device is not listed when the “Show hidden devices” option is selected, it is time to use the procedure described in the article 315539. Note that the article makes reference to USB devices and docking stations for laptop computers.

There is another type of “ghost” revealed when using the procedure described in the Microsoft article. If you have been using your computer for any reasonable length of time, the probability is high that you have installed/uninstalled hardware and software since the

original purchase. Using the “show\_non\_present\_devices” command will reveal leftover drivers that were pqv\*dwv"ujqwnf"jcxg"dggp+tg o qxgf"fwtkpi"vjg"wpkp-stall process—“ghosts” hiding in your computer.

It is time to answer the two questions I am certain everybody has:

É" S<"Fkf"K"vt{"vjg"rtqegfwtgA  
É" C<"[gu0

É" S<"Fkf"K"lpf"cp{"õijquvuöA  
É" C<"[gu0""K"hwqpf"cfkxgt"htqo"cxktwu"rtqvg-  
tion software package I uninstalled a long time ago. It was listed under the “Non-Plug and Play Drivers” category.

I wonder if I can now join the ranks of “Ghost Daaaaaa0ö""Vjgtg ô K"\*cn o quv+"uckf"kv0

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9Xcz5fjw" ! 9Xcz5fjw" ! 9Xcz5fjw" ! 9Xcz5fjw" ! 9Xcz5fjw" ! 9Xcz5fjw" ! 9Xcz5fjw" !

Newlyweds

A young couple got married and left on their honeymoon. When they got back, the bride immediately called her mother. "Well," said her mother, "so... how was the honeymoon?" "Oh, mama," she replied, "the honeymoon was wonderful! So romantic..." Suddenly she burst out crying. "But, mama, as soon as we returned he started using the most horrible language - things I'd never heard before! I mean, all these awful 6/ngvgt"yqt fu#"[qw]xg" Iqv"vq"eq o g"igv" o g"cpf"vcmg" me home... PLEASE MAMA!"

"Honey," her mother said, "calm down! Tell me, what eqwnf"dg"uq"cyhwnA"Y J CV"6/ngvgt"yqt fuA\$

"Please don't make me tell you, mama," wept the daughter, "I'm so embarrassed they're just too awful! COME GET ME, PLEASE !!!"

"Darling, bubeleh, you must tell me what has you uq"wrugv000"Vgmn" {qwt" oqvjgt"vjgug"jqttdng"6/ngvgt" words!"

Still sobbing, the bride said, "Oh, mama...words like: Dust, Wash, Iron, Cook..."

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## What To Do When . . . You Receive An Email Attachment You Can't Open

Sometimes the things that are meant to protect us also can frustrate us. Such is the case with antivirus settings and programs. Occasionally, that security throws up roadblocks for safe, legitimate content.

### A Faulty Default Setting

You might need to temporarily disable a key security setting in Outlook Express to open and view an email attachment.

Check a default setting in Outlook Express that blocks the opening of attachments. Click Tools, Options, and the Security tab. Under Virus Protection, if it's selected, clear the box next to Do Not Allow Attachments To Be Saved Or Opened That Could Potentially Be A Virus (do this only if you are certain the attachment is legitimate and one you are gzrgev+kpi+0"Enkem"Cr rn{"cpf"QM."cpf"vt{"cickp"vq"qrgp" the attachment. Once you open the attachment, enable the security setting again.

### To Be Safe, Save It First

Even though a good antivirus program scans emails cpf"cwcej o gpvu."c"ecwvkqwu"wugt" o ki j v"ucxg" c"Łng"cpf" let the program scan it on the hard drive.

Ucx+kpi "c"uvvddqtp"Łng" o c {"cnuq"jgnr" {qw"qrgp"kv0" Yg"fqpø"mpqy"cn"v j g" fkhggtgp"Łng"v {rgu"vjcv" o ki j v" have to be opened this way, but an HTML (Hypertext Octmwr"Ncpicwig+"Łng"ku" c" iqqf"gzc o r ng"qh"qp0"

Kh" {qw"vt {"vq"qrgp"cp"cwcejgf" J VON"Łng."Kpvgtpgv" Gzrnqtgt" y kn"cvgo r v"vq"qrgp"v j g"Łng"htq o" {qwt"

Temporary Internet Files folder. But nothing displays in the browser, except for the Done and Restricted sites messages in the Status Bar. The restricted message gives you a hint as to what is causing the problem: your security settings. Instead of messing with the settings in either OE or IE, however, change qpg"ugv+kpi" rgtvck+kpi "vq"v j g"cvcejgf" J VON"Łng0"

Kp"QG."tki j v/enkem"v j g"Łng"cpf"ejqqug"Ucxg"Cu0"Chvgt" {qw"ucxg"v j g"Łng."nqecvg"kv"qp" {qwt"jctf"ftkxg."tki j v/ click it, and choose Properties. On the General tab, see if Unblock is an option. If it is, click Unblock and OK vq"tg o qxg" c"uchgv {"hgcwvtg" hqt"v j ku"Łng"qpn {"Pqy" y jgp" {qw"vt {"vq"qrgp"kv" c i ckp."v j g"Łng"u j qwnf"fkurnc {"0"

Wpdnqem+kpi "c"Łng" y kn"cnny" {qw"vq"xkgy"kv" y kvj qwv" tinkering with the security settings of Outlook Express.

Cp" J VON"Łng"ecp"dg"qrgpgf"htq o " y kvj kp"QG"kh" you disable the security setting for attachments we described. However, because it does far more good to mgg r"v j cv"ugv+kpi "gpcdngf."kvøu"Łpg"vq" hqnnqy"v j g"uvgru" qwv+kpgf" jgtg"vq"qrgp"uwej "Łngu"htq o "v j g" Fgumvqr0"

### Adjust The AV App

Sometimes friendly sources may unwittingly send {qw"cp"kpghvegf"Łng0"Cp"cpv+kxtwu"rtqi tc o "ecp"rtqvgev" you in this scenario. But when you can't open a ng i kvk o cvg"Łng"htq o "c"vtwuvgf"uqwteg."fqpø"qxgtnqqm" the possibility that the culprit could be overzealous settings in your AV program. If need be, temporarily disable the program or change its settings to access the Łng0"

### Get With The Program

Y jgp"QG"ecpø"Łpf"v j g"tki j v"cr r" y kvj" y jkej"vq"qrgp" the attachment, you'll see the following error message: This File Does Not Have A Program Associated With It For Performing This Action. If this happens, OE might display the Open With dialog box. That dialog box also contains a link to a Web site that will help you look for the right program.

Ugg"kh"v j g"Łng"v {rg" {qwøtg"vt {kpi "vq"qrgp"ku"tgeqipk|gf" on your system. In WinXP, click Start, My Computer, Tools, and Folder Options. On the File Types tab, look hqt"v j g"Łngøu"gzvgpukqp0"Kh"kvøu"nkuvgf." {qw" o c {"pggf"vq" change the program associated with it. Click Change



to launch the Open With dialog box or click Advanced type. If the extension is not listed, add it to the list by clicking New and typing the extension.

### Seek The Sender's Help

When in doubt, ask the sender what program to use suggests, verify that it's the most recent version of that application. You also may need to ask the sender to

by Rachel Derowitsch

Our member Nancy Chester was having problems with her Vista notebook. It would disconnect from the network after one to two hours. After working with HP sent it back to them for repairs. Conway let me know:

YOU WILL BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING - - -  
Pcpe {"Lpcnn {" iqv" c" Lz" vq" jgt" XKUVC" pqv" uvc { kpi " qp" vjg" kpvgtpgv" / " vj tqwi j" vjg" Y TV76 I U "" N [ PMU [ U" ROUTER - - AND it happened AFTER she had sent the VISTA laptop in to HP for service - - only to have it returned a day later with NO action taken. So those at an upper tech level couldn't but that magazine you put us onto SMART COMPUTING solved the problem for her - - after she had talked with them on some other issues - - MAN WHAT A RESOURCE that magazine is.

I asked what they did in case anyone else had such a problem. Nancy said:

Terry what he did was to go to Linksys Web Site for Wireless Network. (192.168.0.1 in address line Made maximum number of users 253. I then copied each page of settings in the Web Page so that I could refer back if there was a problem. Then he went into Wireless Network Connections, clicked Properties, then double clicked Internet Protocol TCP/IP. He then set a static IP address of 222 in my Vista only put the proper numbers in the other boxes below the static. My Vista has not fallen off the internet once since that day. Praise be! Nancy

## Dumb Things to Avoid While Using Your Computer

by Vinny La Bash, a member and regular columnist of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.,

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To paraphrase a recent TV commercial, we all do dumb things, but doing them with your computer doesn't have to be one of them.

Most of us know that our computers work better when they are plugged into an active electrical outlet, but ask any service technician how many times he or she has encountered that situation, and you may be surprised at the answer. Every one of us, no matter how experienced, has done at least one dumb thing with our computers. Maybe you pressed a wrong combination of keys and changed a setting you didn't mean to disturb. Maybe nothing much happened or you ended up crashing your system.

Whatever does or doesn't happen, paying attention to what you're doing combined with a dash of forethought can prevent most dumb mistakes.

David Letterman has his top ten lists. I offer my top six. My list will do little to entertain you, but it will help you to be smarter about using your system.

**Dumb Computer Mistake # 6:** Failing to install or keep your anti-virus and anti-spyware programs up-to-date.

Some people think that keeping these programs current is too much trouble. Others quibble because sometimes they have to disable their anti-virus program to install another application.

Don't be misguided. Viruses and spyware can gum up your system to a point where your machine can be rendered useless and inoperable. You could be a victim of fraud or risk turning your machine into a "zombie" where a third party can use your computer for criminal activities. Innocent people have been arrested and charged with downloading child pornography. They had no idea that their machines were compromised for

illegal purposes, yet they found themselves in deep trouble.

**Dumb Computer Mistake # 5:** Indiscriminately  
kpuvcnkp i "htgg yctg"cpf"ujctgyctg"{qw"Łpf"qp"vjg"  
internet.

If you are guilty of this it's only a matter of time before you get infected with a piece of sloppily written software that will cause your system to behave erratically or crash. If you follow dumb with dumber by installing pirated software, don't ask me for help.

**Dumb Computer Mistake # 4:**"Ujctg"{qwt"Łngu"cpf"  
peripherals with the immediate world.

Vwtp"qhh"Łng"cpf"rtkpvgt"ujctkpi0"Wpnguu"{qw"fq"vjku"  
you could open your computer to access by using a public wireless hotspot with your laptop. Even if you don't use a laptop be aware that Windows, by default, has administrative sharing for the root of each drive. You can turn this feature off in the Systems Administration portion of the Control Panel.

**Dumb Computer Mistake # 3:** Browse through the  
kpvgtpgv"ykvjqwv"c"Łtgy cmm0

People new to computers are most likely to make this mistake. They tend to be entirely unaware  
vjcv"vjg{"pggf"c"Łtgy cmm"dgecwug"pqdqf{"vqnf"  
vjgo"y jcv"c"Łtgy cmm"ku"qt"y j {"vjg{"pggf"qpg0"  
This lack of knowledge exposes them to every virus, worm or malicious hacker in the computer universe. Fortunately, this exposure can be easily corrected. Many modems and routers have built-in  
Łtgy cmm"rtqvgevkqp0"Rgtuqpcn"Łtgy cmmu"ecp"gcukn{"dg"  
downloaded from the web. Go to [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com) and download one of the best all around network security programs in existence. The best part is that this excellent program is free to the general public.

**Dumb Computer Mistake # 2:** Picking weak passwords.

Every hacker in the known universe understands that many people use their children's or grandchildren's name as a password. Cracking that kind of security is as easy as breathing. Don't use a family member's birthday or social security number as a password either. It's the kind of information that is all too easy

to obtain. Don't create passwords from a dictionary. Hackers have programs which automatically compare passwords against dictionary entries.

Passwords should be at least 8 characters long, and be a combination of upper and lower case characters and numbers. The common objection is that they are hard to remember. That also makes them hard to crack. Create a phrase that you can easily remember  
cpf"wug"vjg"Łtuv"ngvvg"qh"gcej"yqtf"cnqpi"ykvj"  
logical numbers. For example, "Our vacation in  
Lc ockec"dgi kpu"qp"vjg"Łhvj"fc{"qh"Cwi wuv0"dgeq o gu"  
OviJbot5do8. A password like that is impossible to guess and is not found in any dictionary.

**Dumb Computer Mistake # 1:** Never backing up  
{qwt"fcvc"qt"u{uvgo"Łngu0

Even if you never do any other dumb thing while computing, failure to back up your data can negate everything else if you lose important information. There are too many things that can go wrong for you not to be backing up your data. Hard disk crashes, Łtg"qt"ycvgt"fc o cig."vqtpcfqu."jwttkecpgu."o c i pgvke" interference, and theft are just a few of the many things that can damage or destroy data.

Backing up data can be time consuming and inconvenient, but losing your data could be catastrophic. There are many strategies you can use to protect your data, but any strategy is better than none. Fqp0v"vj kpm"vjcv"ogtgn{"eqr{kpi{"qwt"fcvc"Łngu"vq"cp" external disk constitutes backing up. Make copies of your essential data to three CDs or three sets of CDs. Keep one set at home, but in a different room than where the computer is housed. Keep another set at the qhŁeg"kh"{qw"y qtm"hqtc"nkxkpi0"Kh"{qw0tg"tgvtgf"cum" a friend to keep a set for you. Do the same for your friend. The third set of disks should be kept in a secure place like a safe deposit box.

Data is the only irreplaceable thing on your computer. You can replace hardware, operating systems and application software, but you can't go to a store and buy a replacement copy of your data.

The dumbest thing I can remember doing is backing  
wr"o {"fcvc"Łngu"vq"c"TCO"fkum0

# Improve Computing Pleasure with Free Widgets for Windows and Mac

D{"Ktc" Yknumgt."CREWI "Fktgevt="Eqnw o pkuv."Vjg"  
Gzc o kpgt."Dgcw o qpV"VZ="tcfkq"cpf"VX"ujqy"jqv""  
Ky knumgt\*cv+crewi0pgv

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## WEBSITES

<http://widgets.yahoo.com>

<http://widgets.yahoo.com/gallery>

Many of us are extremely busy, and often lack the time to search the internet for items of frequent interest.

Many of us have dull and boring desktops displayed on our monitors, often using the default images of our computer or software maker. Fortunately for us, there is a free service offered by Yahoo!, called “widgets”.

Widgets, also known as “gadgets” by some web services, are small programs that display a wide variety of information on the otherwise wasted space on our desktops. This information is automatically updated on a frequent basis, providing the user with current data without loading another program or browsing to a website, as widgets are displayed on the desktop on a full time basis.

Widgets is the name for the products distributed by Yahoo!, and gadgets are distributed by other web service providers. While similar in appearance and function, widgets and gadgets are generally not interchangeable, and in order to conserve system resources, users should choose gadgets or widgets, but not both.

Yahoo!’s widgets can be found at [widgets.yahoo.com](http://widgets.yahoo.com). Upon opening that page, the user is greeted with a button to download the widget engine, which includes about a dozen popular widgets, including a picture htc o g"\*fkurnc{u"fkikvcn"rjqvqu"qp"fgumvqr+."ygcvjgt" display, notepad, daily planner, maps, stock ticker, and others. The opacity of widgets can be controlled to make them nearly opaque, hiding the desktop behind the widget, to almost totally transparent, fully displaying the desktop. Widgets can be dragged and dropped anywhere on the screen. I have a lot of icons on my desktop, and my widgets cover several of the icons, but this is not a problem as I drag the widget out of

the way whenever I want to access those previously covered icons.

The widget engine works on Windows XP with service rcem"4."Ykpfqyu"4222"ykvj"ugtxkeg"rcem"6."Xkuvc."qt" Macs with OS X 10.3.9 or higher. An internet connection is necessary in order to update the widgets, cpf"734"ogicd{vgu"\*okpkowo+"tco"ku"tgeqo o gpfgf" for improved performance.

Among the default widgets included with the widget engine, I personally have the stock ticker and weather widgets loaded and running, and also have a TV widget which displays the shows for the next few hours on the channels of my choice.

The stock ticker widget is very easy to use, and is automatically updated every few minutes. The default listings are for popular quotes, such as the Dow Jones Industrial Averages, NASDAQ, Yahoo!, and similar issues. It is very simple to modify the listing to show any desired quotes and indices, and the number of issues displayed is only limited by the space available on the desktop.

The weather widget is customizable for any city or zip code, and graphically displays the weather for Łxg"fc{u."ewttgpv"eqpfkvkqpu."vgo rgtcvwtg."cpf" o qqp" phases. By moving the cursor over the weather widget \*uq o gvko gu"kv"cnuq"tgs wktgu"c" o qwug"enkem+."c"dcnqqp" opens which displays the humidity, barometric pressure, wind chill or heat index, wind direction and speed, and the time of most recent update.

The widget I seem to refer to the most is the TV widget called “TV Tracker”, which can be downloaded from the Widget Gallery. Once downloaded and installed, a city and zip code is selected, which displays the on-air, cable, and satellite options and carriers locally available. Selecting the appropriate carrier displays a two hour grid of what is on television. Different genres, such as sports and movies are highlighted in different colors for easy viewing. Clicking on a highlighted title will “fetch” the description and details of the movie or sports event, displaying it in a sub-widget adjacent to the primary widget. I will be honest and say that there are several cable channels available to me that I simply never watch, and TV Tracker easily allows for the display of only selected channels, making the display that much easier

to follow.

The widget gallery, widgets.yahoo.com/gallery, ewttgpn{"nkuvu"6464"Ykpfqyu"ykf igvu"cxckncdng"hqt" download, and 3977 widgets for Mac, in a variety of categories. As I type this, Yahoo! is featuring Motor Trend Magazine's "Gas Alert Savings" widget which displays a localized list of the lowest priced gas stations in the area, and is available for both Windows and Mac. Widgets can be searched by name, type, or date. The widget categories listed in the gallery are ncvgu"\*6464"ykf igvu+."wrfcvgu"\*437:"ykf igvu+."hwp" (" icogu"\*797"ykf igvu+."fcvg" ("vkog"\*692+."pgyu"hgghfu" \*;74+."u{uvgo "wvknkvkgu"\*576+."ukijv"cpf"uqwpf"\*776+." iggm"uvwhh"\*342+."ecog"xkgygtu"\*495+."ykf igv"vqqnu"\*85+." cr r"\*cr rnkcvkqp+"gpjcpegtu"\*32;+."ugcte j"vqqnu"\*574+." cpf"xctkqwu"\*okuegnncpgqwu."638+0"Gcej"ecvgigt{"oc{" contain hundreds of different widgets, all of which are available for free download.

I have downloaded several other widgets, and selectively load them when I want, and stop them when no longer wanted. In Windows, widgets as a group can be controlled by clicking on the widget icon in the system tray, near the clock. The widget icon is a black background, with two diagonal and interlocked gears. Right clicking on the widget icon displays a comprehensive menu of options which allows the user to control the appearance and function of widgets, load and unload widgets, and otherwise control their behavior.

Some widgets that I selectively use are news feeds which display real time news headlines from hundreds of sources, live weather radar, streaming audio from dozens of radio stations from all over the globe, and many others. Although I have never used it, there is even a pregnancy calculator widget!

Widgets can be a fun adjunct to improve the satisfaction and use of our computers.

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## Automobile Computers

By Bob Elgines, Editor, Colorado River Computer Enwd."C \ "Gnikpgu | \*cv+ttc | 0pgv www.ccr.org

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Is your Engine Check light on? Do you need a smog test? Is your engine running rough? Is your transmission shifting improperly? Did you know you can read your automobile computer results with a simple plug in device?



All autos from 1996 and newer have common plugs and codes mandated by the Federal Government. Some late 1995 models are also equipped with this type of computer and will have on the label under the hood "OBD II" listed. Prior to 1995 some Engine Check Lights in the car were on timers or mileage meter, and would come on after 50,000 miles and really had nothing to do with the operation of the engine or computer.

"OBD II" is the model of your Powertrain Control Oqfwng"\*RE O+/"vgt okpqnq i {"hqt"vjg"qp/dqctf" automobile computer that controls engine and drive train. Some automobile models will use more sensors and controlling devices than others. There ctg"Eqpvkpwqwu"Oqpkvqtu."uwej"cu"OkuLtg."Hwgn" System, and Comprehensive Components, and Non-Continuous Monitors, such as EGR System, O2 Sensors, Catalyst, Evap System, Secondary Air, and A/C Systems.

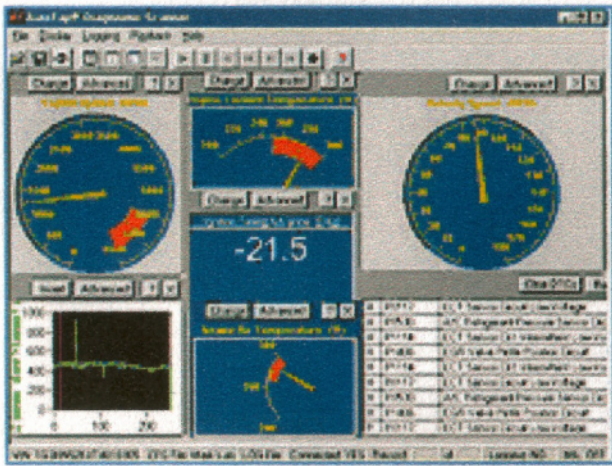
New car dealers charge you \$100 to plug their reader in called a diagnostic test, and guess at what to

replace. An example is EVAP codes can appear for several things such as leaky hoses, gas cap, EVAP solenoid, EVAP pump, etc. All these have to do with the evaporation of fuel from your gas tank. They will replace them one at a time charging you labor and diagnostic charges for each item, that can be \$200 plus parts for each replacement.

The next model up costs \$80 to \$90 and the difference is more readings, memory and allows updates via the ygd\*vjgtg\*jcxg"pqv"dggp"cp{"wrfcvgu"ukpeg"3;; ;+0"Vqr" models will cost \$200 to \$250, but allow you to plug the results into your computer via a USB connector giving you much more information and possibly allowing some adjustments.

Oquv"Fcvc"Nkpm"Eqppgevqtu"\*38"rkp+"ctg"wpf"gt"vjg" dash just left of the steering wheel. Below-right is a dcuke"fgLpkvkqp"qh"jqy"vq"wpf"gtuvcpf"vjg"eqfgu"vjcv" you will read. There are at this time 7000 different codes with several being for Diesel engines only. You have Generic Codes and special Manufacture Codes.

Below is an example of a readout on a PC of the more expensive model readers.



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## Southwest Computer Conference

[www.theswcc.org](http://www.theswcc.org)

Leadership Workshops. Vendor Presentations and Meals. Door Prize Drawings. You will have an opportunity to network with computer club members who have similar interests: share ideas and experiences as well as solutions to problems. You will also have the chance to meet and talk with vendors.

The conference begins on Friday afternoon, May 30 and continues through Sunday, June 1 at the Town and Eqwptv{"Tguqtv" ("Eqpxgpkqp"Egpygt"kp"Ucp"FKgiq0"

The conference registration fee is \$60 per person, if postmarked by May 1. If your registration is post-octmgf"d{"Oc{"37."vjg"hgg"ku"&97="Oc{"38"vj tqwi j" the conference date the fee is \$100. Your conference registration fee includes admittance to all workshops and tech sessions, the Vendor Expo, meals and vendor presentations, a Welcome Bag and T-shirt and a chance to win door prizes featuring some of the latest and greatest technology products.

Vjg"Vqyp"cpf"Eqwptv{"Tguqtv" ("Eqpxgpkqp"Egpygt." 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego is offering attendees a special group rate of \$119.00, single or double occupancy. To make your reservation, please call their vqm/htgg"tgugtxcvkqp"pw o dgt"\*: 22/99/CVNCU+"d{"Oc{" 1 and identify yourself as attending the Southwest Computer Conference. Information about the hotel may be found at: <http://theswcc.org/hotel/hotel.htm>

The Conference rate is available from May 22 through June 6, 2008, on a space-available basis. Bring the family - plan a vacation over the Memorial Day weekend and end it with the Conference. Check out places to visit in San Diego at: <http://theswcc.org/hotel/hotel.htm>. You can also take the train to San Diego - stops in back of the hotel.

A user group with at least one member in attendance at the Conference may also enter their Digital Photo Contest 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The contest guidelines may be found at: <http://theswcc.org/Contest/photo/photocontest.htm>. Attendees do not need to belong to a user group -- bring a friend

Questions - contact Judy Taylour at [JudyTaylour@theswcc.org](mailto:JudyTaylour@theswcc.org).

# SOUTHWEST COMPUTER CONFERENCE

Friday, May 30 - Sunday, June 1, 2008

Town and Country Resort & Conference Center

Registration Fee: \$60.00\*

## ATTENDEE INFORMATION – PLEASE PRINT

*Please complete one form for each person attending the conference*

Attendee First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

User Group Name / URL \_\_\_\_\_

User Group Officer Position / Title \_\_\_\_\_

Member  / Guest  (Please check whether you are a UG member or the guest of a member)

Not a member of a computer club

Special Needs  Vegetarian  Hearing  Mobility

Operating System  Windows  MAC  Linux

T-Shirt Size  Medium  Large  X-Large  XX-Large (Register by 5/1/08 to ensure receiving your requested T-shirt size. Registrations received after that date will receive an XL T-shirt.)

I will arrive Friday evening for dinner  I will arrive Saturday

**Registration postmarked by 5/1 - \$60.00\*      Registration postmarked by 5/15 - \$75.00**

**Register from 5/16 to 5/31 - \$100.00**

To make hotel reservations (no later than 5/1/08 to obtain the \$119.00 conference room rate), call 1-800-77-ATLAS and mention the Southwest Computer Conference.

I would like to volunteer to:  co-facilitate a workshop

help at the conference, as needed, on  Friday  Saturday  Sunday

I'd be interested in attending a workshop on \_\_\_\_\_

### MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SW Computer Conference

Mail registration form(s)  
with check to:

Judy Taylour  
18727 Nadal Street  
Canyon Country CA 91351

judytaylour@theswcc.org  
www.theswcc.org  
http://swugc.blogspot.com

# Would You Sign This Contract?

By Rob Rice, a computer specialist living in Anchorage and a member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City

www.ccokc.org  
ctvkengu\*cv+kur0eq

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Qm."jgtg0u"vjg"fgcn="K"qhhtg" {qw"cdki."78/kpej."ujkp{" new Filch Plasma Screen TV and I will sell it to you if you will agree to have a camera installed in your home so I may watch you watching the new television. Sound fair? You also agree that should you disable or inhibit the free operation of the camera in any way, you forfeit the television and your money. Neither am I responsible for any damages to your home from the equipment or its use nor do I guaranty privacy or even that the television will work.

Would you sign such a contract? Many of us, in a sense, have already agreed to something like the above scenario when we clicked on the End User License C itgg o gpv"GWNC+. "vjg"eqpvtcev"vjcv"ceeq o rcpkgu" most software these days.

It pretty much goes without saying that most of us do not read EULAs. They are often long, dry, and hard to understand documents written in a very small type face and crammed in a tiny window. Even if there is something bad in it, what are the chances it will have any real affect? After all "I'm one among millions".

We may often think of ourselves as just one among many cattle feeding in the pasture, so "The chances of lightening striking me are remote". But lightening did hit hundreds of folks in the form of a Recording Indus- vt {"Cuuqekcvkqp"qh"C o gtkec"TKCC+"nc y uwkv0" J w p f t g f u" of persons have been sued for allegedly downloading o wuke"knng i cnn {0"Hqt"gz c o r ng."TKCC"Ln g f" c"nc y uwkv" against 12-year-old Brianna LaHara, whose mom had paid a \$29.99 service charge to KaZaA for the compa- ny's music service, said Brianna, "I got really scared. My stomach is all turning," "I thought it was OK to download music because my mom paid a service fee hqt"kv0"Qwv"qh"cm"rgqrng." y j {"fkf"vjg {"rkem" o gA\$"\*3+

But what we have learned since Brianna's case came to light is that many intellectual property owners are

using eavesdropping techniques to monitor end user eq o rnkcepg0" Y jgvjgt"kv0u"kpvgtegrvkpi"fcvc"vtchLe"qxgt" an Internet connection or placing spyware on your computer the name of the game seems to be intima- tion through litigation. Of course heavy-handed tactics do tend to produce mistakes and bad public feeling, such as RIAA's disastrous lawsuit where they sued a deceased great-grandmother who reportedly had never qy p g f" c"eq o r wvgt0"\*4+

But what is interesting is that software that tends to operate in a dubious manner will typically tell you up front, or give you some hints in its EULA. Take for example this classic EULA that was analyzed by Dgplc o kp"Gfgn o cp"dcem"kp"4226." jg"ku"cp"cuukucpv" professor at the Harvard Business School and a mem- ber of the Massachusetts Bar. It is Gator, an advertis- ing pop-up software that often came embedded in weather monitors, organizers and clock synchronizers, (The company changed its name to Claria Corpora- tion. GAIN stands for Gator Advertising Information P g v y q t m + V j g " G W N C . " y k v j " q x g t " 7 . ; 2 2 " y q t f u " q h " v g z v . " informed the user that:

"You agree that you will not use, or encourage others to use, any unauthorized means for the removal of the GAIN AdServer, or any GAIN-Supported Software from a computer."

That includes removing it with Adaware or SpyBot, which listed it as spyware.

"Any use of a packet sniffer or other device to intercept or access communications between GP and the GAIN AdServer is strictly prohibited."

Meaning you cannot monitor what it is doing while it is on your computer!

Mr. Edelman's website is a very good resource for the wary and worth a look, (<http://www.benedelman.org/pgyul334;26/30jv o l+0>)

Sony has faced some embarrassing headlines as of late with their music CD's EULA and rightly so. Take for example these observations by the Electronic Frontier Foundation regarding the contents of the Sony EULA:

Kh" {qw"Ln g "hqt" dcpmtw r v e { . " { q w " j c x g " v q " f g n g v g " c m n " v j g " music on your computer.

É" V jg"GWNC"uc{u"Uqp{/DO I "y knn"pgxgt"dg"nk-  
able to you for more than \$5.00.

É" Kh"{qwt"jqwug"i gvu"dwt ingf."{qw"j cxg"vq"fgngvg"  
all your music from your laptop when you get home.  
That's because the EULA says that your rights to any  
copies terminate as soon as you no longer possess the  
original CD.

É" [qw"o wuv"kpucnncp{"cpf"cmn"wr fcvgu."qt"gnug"  
lose the music on your computer. The EULA imme-  
diately terminates if you fail to install any update. No  
more holding out on those hobble-ware downgrades  
masquerading as updates.

É" Kh"{qw"o qxg"qww"qh"vjg"eqwvpt{."{qw"j cxg"vq"  
fgngvg"cmn"{qwt"o wuke"V jg"GWNC"urgekŁecnn{"hqtdkfu"  
\$gzrqtv\$"qwwukfg"vjg"eqwvpt{"y jgtg"{qw"tgukfg0"\*5+

Most EULAs that I have read place all of the burden  
cpf"Łpcpekc"tgurqpukdknkv{"wrqp"{qw0"[qw"rc{"vjg"  
money, you take the risk, and you take the liability.  
The software company decides everything in its favor  
and takes no responsibility what-so-ever even for the  
software doing what it claims to do! It would seem  
that you in effect given up your legal rights in ex-  
change to use a piece of software.

Ok, so you read the license agreement but the mind  
numbing experience had you re-reading the same  
sentence over and over and by the time you were done  
{qw"hgnv"nkmg"vjg"Łtuv"fqew o gpvgf"ecug"qh"uq o gqpg"  
having actually died from boredom. What is worse,  
you still don't know what it said! But cheer up, there  
is help available. For example, The Electronic Frontier  
Foundation has a helpful article titled, "Dangerous  
Terms a User's Guide to EULAs" by Annalee Newitz.  
\*6+"Kv"fguetkdu"uq o g"qh"vjg"o qtg"fdkquw"vgt o u"hqwpf"  
in some EULAs and what to look out for. Such as:

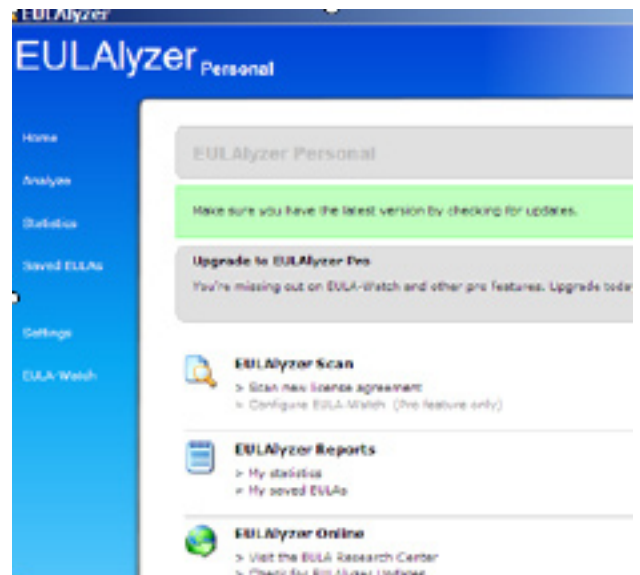
1. "Do not criticize this product publicly."
2. "Using this product means you will be monitored."
3. "Do not reverse-engineer this product."
- 60) \$Fq"pqv"wug"vjku"rtqfwev"ykvj"qv jgt"xgp fqt)u  
products."
5. "By signing this contract, you also agree to  
every change in future versions of it. Oh yes, and  
EULAs are subject to change without notice."

6. "We are not responsible if this product messes  
up your computer."

You can also use some of the EULA analyzers that are  
available. While they are not a substitute for carefully  
reading a user agreement they can be very helpful by  
łci ikpi"uwurgev"ugpvgegu."gurkecnn{"y jgp"{qw"j cxg"  
an insanely long contract such as the over 32,000  
yqt fu"hqwpf"cv"vjg"Egpytcn"RcekŁe"Tkntqcf"Rj qvq-  
graphic History Museum's web site. Figuring this  
would bring any EULA analyzer to its knees, I put it  
through the Spyware Guide's on-line EULA Analyzer.  
\*7+"Kv"rgthqt o gf"dgcvkhwmm{"cpf"łci igf"ctgcu"vjcv"vjg"  
Analyzer thought suspicious, including:

You agree to pay us three thousand dollars per unso-  
solicited e-mail sent, or prohibited comment posted to  
the CPRR Discussion Group, or telephone call and  
Łhvggp"vj qwucpf"fqmctu"rgt"g/o ckn"cf ftguu"cf fgf"vq"  
your commercial mailing list in violation of the fore-  
going, plus damages. The CPRR Museum participates  
in Project Honey Pot which allows us to track and help  
catch spammers who harvest e-mail addresses from  
our web pages.

One analyzer that I have been using for several months  
now is the EULAnalyzer by Javacool Software LLC,  
who also publish SpywareBlaster. This is an applica-  
tion that is very simple to use, just click analyze and  
then drag the application's pointer over the EULA  
and automatically copies it into the program. Click  
the "Analyze" button and it gives you its assessment  
almost instantaneously.





The EULAlyzer personal is free for educational and personal use and a Pro version with added features is available for purchase.

If you are still not convinced of the importance of reading the EULA, see just how many people read the agreement. In their EULA they actually offered monetary compensation for reading the document! It stated:

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Compensation will be awarded to a limited number of authorized licensees to read this section of the license agreement and contact PC Pitstop at consideration@pcpitstop.com. This offer may be withdrawn at any time.

Unfortunately it took four months before anyone could read this section in 3000 downloads! For his efforts PC Pitstop gave him \$1000. So there you have it, incentive to read the license agreement!

Reading EULAs can actually be quite an interesting experience. Read enough of them and you quickly learn how bold some companies have become in trying to thwart trade laws. But don't take my word for it, take a look at some of the Microsoft, Google, or as the hardware industry attempts to apply the same yoke on its customers, Lexmark EULAs and see what they have to say, you may be amazed!

3+ "Hqz" Pgyu."ö34/[gct/Qnf"Uwgf"hqt"Ow-sic Downloading" http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,96797,00.html

4+ "Dgvc Pgyu."öTKCC"Uwgu" Fgegcugf" I tcpf oqvjer" http://www.betanews.com/article/RIAA\_Sues\_Deceased\_Grandmother/1107532260

5+ "Gngevtqpkc"Htqpvkgt"Hqwpfcvkqp."öPqy"vjg"Ng-galese Rootkit: Sony-BMG's EULA" http://www.eff.org/rti/flgg/nkpmulcte/jxgul2263670rjr

6+ "Gngevtqpkc"Htqpvkgt"Hqwpfcvkqp."öFcpigtqwu" Terms A User's Guide to EULAs" http://www.eff.org/wp/eula.php

7+ "Ur { yctg" I wkfgou"qp/nkpg"GWNC"Cpcn { |gt." http://www.spywareguide.com/analyze/analyzer.php

8+ "GWNCn { |gt." jvwr<ll y y y0lcxceqqnuqhv yctg0eq o l index.html

This article's reference to the Electronic Frontier Foundation should not be construed as an endorsement of the organization by the author. Rob Rice is a computer specialist living in Anchorage Alaska and a member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City. Rob can be contacted at articles@isp.com.

http://www.spywareguide.com/analyze/analyzer.php  
http://www.javacoolsoftware.com/index.html

jvwr<ll y y y0ldgpgfgn o cp0qti lpg yul334;26/30jv o n  
http://www.eff.org/wp/eula.php

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9x cz 5fjw ! : 9x cz 5fjw ! : 9x cz 5fjw ! : 9x cz 5fjw ! : 9x cz 5fjw ! : 9x cz 5fjw ! : 9x cz 5fjw !

### Spilling Salt

If you spill some salt, you must take a pinch of the spilled salt and throw it over your left shoulder. Historically, salt has been highly valued and considered to be a purifying substance, capable of driving away evil. The Romans paid their soldiers in salt – hence the word "salary". It has long been useful as a preservative, in medicine, and is also used in magick, ritual, and superstition to purify, bless things, and drive away evil.

Taking a pinch of the spilled salt and throwing it over your left shoulder was thought to drive away the evil spirits that lurked there, waiting to cause harm and misfortune.

### Walking Under a Ladder

Excluding the obvious – that something might fall on you from above – the belief that walking under a ladder will bring bad luck seems to stem from the ladder forming a triangle with the wall and the ground. This represents the "Holy Trinity", and if you violate this by entering the space, it puts you in league with the devil, and you're likely to incur God's wrath. Ceeqt fkp i "vq"Vkc"Fc yuqp"\* ; : 624278: B ; : 0nkpeqnp0 ce0wm+. "öVjg"tgcuqp":Kv0u"dcf"nwem"vq" y cnm"wpfgt" c" ladder' is that hangmen used to use a ladder to hang someone from the gallows, and it was believed that if you walked under a ladder, the hangmen would turn his gaze your way, or 'Death would notice you'. I'm from Yorkshire England, and I was told this by a museum historian."

