₹100 only!

iBall Supplement free with December 2010 issue

9 779746 617001

5th Anniversary

SIMPLE CLEAR ADVICE IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Computer active

FREE CD
Full Software
PLUS
tools & utilities with this issue

December 2010 Vol.5 Issue 60

50 easy PC fixes

We solve your most common PC problems quickly and easily

ON TEST

8 Security suites tested

The latest...
Software, Printers, **Notebooks,** Smartphones, **Multimedia players** and much more!

FEATURE

Put your webcam to good use by holding online video chats

GET CHATTING VIA VIDEO LINK

TRIED & TESTED

ANDROID 2.2, 7IN TABLET IS A WORTHY IPAD RIVAL

SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB

NEXT GEN PUBLISHING

SAMSUNG
Laserprinters

SAMSUNG

SCX-3201/XIP
PRINT|COPY|SCAN

Free
3year on-site Warranty

3 year on-site Warranty
@ ₹ 499

ML-1666/XIP

The world's smallest multifunction printer meets the world's smallest printer.

PRESENTING ML-1666/XIP AND SCX-3201/XIP. THE WORLD'S SMALLEST LASER AND MULTIFUNCTION PRINTERS*.

- Full starter toner
- 16ppm speed
- 1+ 2 year on-site warranty#

Printing simplified, now that's printelligense

*Get additional 2 year warranty on ML-1666/XIP for free & at ₹ 499 for SCX-3201/XIP. Visit www.printerwarranty.in for details

For sales enquiry, please contact: North:Chandigarh/Punjab/J&K/HP-Indrajeet Singh: 09779167603, **Delhi&Gurgaon**-Gurmeet Singh: 09650688664, **East Uttar Pradesh**-Ashish Mohan: 09935654600, **Haryana**-Indrajeet Singh:09779167603, **Rajasthan**-Rajneesh Chandel:09928996096, **Western UP/Uttarkhand**- Manish Singh:09997544667; **East:Bihar/Jharkhand**-Subhash Kumar:09334031470, **Orissa**-Ganga Prasad Ram:09338455599, **West Bengal/North East**- Saurav Paul:09831550844; **West:Chhatisgarh & MP**-Vaibhav Kumar: 09755558809, **Mumbai**-Mohd. Ayyub:09819812233, **Pune/Goa/Nagpur**-Sameer Pareek: 09881900229; **South:Andhra Pradesh**-Koteswararao: 09848435860, **Karnataka**-Vinay MC:09880460391, **Kerala**-Binu Jose:09895581228, **Tamil Nadu/Puducherry**-Sundaralingakumar: 09884090907

TO BUY
Call:30308282
SMS: LP
to 56070

Keep It **Real**
Always Buy Original
Samsung Toner Cartridges

EASY TONER MANAGEABILITY. EASY TONER AVAILABILITY.

Corporate Office: Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd. 2nd, 3rd & 4th Floor, Tower-C, Vipul Tech Square, Sector–43, Golf Course Road, Gurgaon-122002 Haryana (India) *As of March, 2010. Source: Samsung Internal Research Data. As per the body-size & footprint in A4 laser & multifunction printer category.

Cheil 0525/10

SAMSUNG Laserprinters

SAMSUNG

SAMSUNG COLOUR LASER PRINTERS

The intelligent colour specialists

CLX-3186FN/XIP
PRINT | SCAN | COPY | FAX

CLX-3186/XIP
PRINT | SCAN | COPY

CLP-321N/XIP

CLP-326/XIP

Printing simplified, now that's printelligense

For sales enquiry, please contact: North:Chandigarh/Punjab/J&K/HP-Indrajeet Singh: 09779167603, **Delhi&Gurgaon**-Gurmeet Singh: 09650688664, **East Uttar Pradesh**-Ashish Mohan: 09935654600, **Haryana**-Indrajeet Singh:09779167603, **Rajasthan**-Rajneesh Chandel:09928996096, **Western UP/Uttarkhand**- Manish Singh:09997544667; **East:Bihar/Jharkhand**-Subhash Kumar:09334031470, **Orissa**-Ganga Prasad Ram:09338455599, **West Bengal/North East**- Saurav Paul:09831550844; **West:Chhatisgarh & MP**-Vaibhav Kumar: 09755558809, **Mumbai**-Mohd. Ayyub:09819812233, **Pune/Goa/Nagpur**-Sameer Pareek: 09881900229; **South:Andhra Pradesh**-Koteswararao: 09848435860, **Karnataka**-Vinay MC:09880460391, **Kerala**-Binu Jose:09895581228, **Tamil Nadu/Puducherry**-Sundaralingakumar: 09884090907

TO BUY
Call:30308282
SMS: LP
to 56070

Keep It **Real**
Always Buy Original
Samsung Toner Cartridges

EASY TONER MANAGEABILITY. EASY TONER AVAILABILITY.

Corporate Office: Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd. 2nd, 3rd & 4th Floor, Tower-C, Vipul Tech Square, Sector–43, Golf Course Road, Gurgaon-122002 Haryana (India) *As of March, 2010. Source: Samsung Internal Research Data. As per the body-size & footprint in A4 laser & multifunction printer category.

Cheil-0525/10

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Samsung KONECT PLUS

SAMSUNG

CONNECT WITH YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMMES IN HIGH DEFINTION.*

Buy a Samsung Konect Plus monitor and get a DTH connection of your choice + 3 months subscription# FREE.

With KONECT PLUS, the Multi Function Monitor from Samsung, experience multifunction connectivity options and the magic of superbly elegant and eco-friendly design. So, watch TV, play games or do whatever. Do more. Do much more.

LCD Monitors

3 Years On-Site Warranty

Call:30308282
SMS:Samsung to 58070

Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
2nd, 3rd & 4th Floor, Tower-C, Vipul Tech Square, Sector–43, Golf Course Road, Gurgaon-122002, Haryana (India)

5000:1 Dynamic Contrast | 1080p FULL HD | HDMI | Multimedia Stereo Speaker | Remote Control

*HD content only on supported broadcast
*Terms & conditions apply. For more details log on to www.konect.gifts2redeem.com or visit your nearest dealer.

*Images are illustrative and may differ from the actual product.

FOR SALES ENQUIRY, PLEASE CONTACT: NORTH: Chandigarh/HP-Sunil Batra-9915709669, **Punjab**-Ranjeet Sharma-9878069108, **Jammu&Kashmir**-Anil Sumbli- 9419187980,**UP East-**Ashish Singh-9793777994, **UP West-**Nitin Arora-9837251666, **Uttarakhand-**Devinder Raghuvanshi- 9927006713, **Delhi-**Rahul Yadav-9871924193, **Haryana-**Rajesh Arora-9355032636,**Rajasthan-**Mohan Jhalani- 9829057153; **EAST:Patna&Ranchi-**Manoj Ojha- 9937021415,Guwahati-Debasish Saha- 9435040267, **Bhubaneshwar-**Manoj Ojha-9937021415,**Kolkata-**Anuj -9830090450; **SOUTH: Andhra Pradesh-**Tarun Mehta-9849763450,**Karnataka-**Sharad-9900199650, **Kerala-**Byju George-9895714609,**Tamil Nadu-**R. Sundaram-9962130306;**WEST:MP/Chattisgarh-**Ashutosh Sharma-9669220001,**Mumbai/Goa-**Sumeet Jain- 9892406644, **Gujrat-**Sandesh Ghotge-9821780215, **Pune/ROM-** Rohit Deshkar-9922112438, **Nagpur-**Amit Patil-9922966624

Cheil - 0484 / 2010

Branch offices

Ahmedabad
Chandan House, 3rd Floor,
Mithakhali Six Roads, Ahmedabad - 380006
Tel: +91-79-4000 8000 Fax: +91-79-4000 8080

Bangalore
Pramod Udupa, Account Manager
#903, 9th Floor, 'B' Wing,
Mittal Towers, M. G. Road, Bangalore - 560001
Tel: +91-80-66110116 Fax: +91-80-66110117

Chennai
Salma Jabbar, Regional Manager
Unit No. 30, 3rd Floor, Modern Towres,
No. 35/23 West Cott Road,
Royapettah, Chennai - 600017. Tel: +91-44- 65612566.

New Delhi
Harshvardhan Verma, Assistant Manager Advertising
Block No. 24 & 30, 1st Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate,
Phase III, New Delhi - 110020.

Pune
401B, Gandhi Empire, 2, Sareen Estate,
Kondhwa Road, Pune - 411040.
Tel: +91-20-32930291 Fax: +91-20-26830465

Mumbai
2nd Floor, C Wing, Trade World, Kamala Mills Compound
Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai 400013
Tel: +91-22-43525252 Fax: +91-22-24955394

Editorial email addresses

Sorry, but we can only give technical help and consumer advice through published replies in the magazine – we cannot take phone calls or answer letters personally.
For subscription enquiries, see the details above.
For editorial enquiries, please write at the email addresses given below.

Opinion, feedback and enquiries: ca@nextgenpublishing.net
Technical help: noproblem@nextgenpublishing.net

Visit our website: www.computeractive.in

Computer active

Vol. 5 Issue 12

Editor & Publisher
Amit Tewari
Senior Feature Writer
Anirban Roy
Copy Editor
Aswathi Nair
Guest Editor
Priya Pathiyan
Contributors
Kabir Barat, Mark Wilson, Niall Magennis, Paul Townsend, Paul Allen, Rohinton Mehta, Rob Beattie, Scott Colvey, Tim Smith
Creative Director & Head Production
Atul Bandekar
Design
Nandkishor Sawant
Image Desk
Deepak Narkar, Ninad Jadhav
Illustrators
Ian Jackson, Nick Palmer, Tom Steyer, Ajay Paradkar
Photography
Mahesh Reddy, Sharonjit Samrai
Product Manager
Perseus Master
Asstt. Operations Manager Circulation
Sanjeev Roy
Asstt. Circulation Manager
Kapil Kaushik, Delhi
Subscription Supervisor
Sachin Kelkar
Tel: +91-22-43525220 Fax: +91-22-24955394
Email: subscriptions@nextgenpublishing.net

DISCLAIMER
Readers are reminded that the opinions expressed, and the results published in connection with reviews and/or laboratory test reports carried out on computing systems and/or related items, are confined to, and are representative of, only those goods as supplied and should not be construed as a recommendation to purchase. Whilst every precaution is taken to ensure that reliability and good business practices prevail, the Publisher cannot be held responsible for the overall trading activities of any supplier referred to, or advertising within, this publication.

Next Gen Publishing Ltd.
2nd Floor, C Wing , Trade World, Kamala Mills Compound
Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai 400013
Tel: +91-22-43525252 Fax: +91-22-24955394
Email: ho@nextgenpublishing.net

© 2007 Incisive Media.
All rights reserved.
Published with the permission of Incisive Media.
Reproduction in any manner in any language in whole or in part without prior written permission from Incisive Media & NGPL with regard to their respective content is prohibited.

Published by Khushroo Bhadha on behalf of Next Gen Publishing Ltd., 2nd Floor, C Wing, Trade World Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg Lower Parel (W), Mumbai 400013. **Printed by** Khushroo Bhadha Next Gen Publishing Ltd., 2nd Floor, C Wing, Trade World, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai 400013. **Printed at** Kalajyothi Process Pvt. Ltd, 1-1-60/5 RTCX Roads, Hyderabad - 20. **Published at** Next Gen Publishing Ltd., 2nd Floor, C Wing, Trade World, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai 400013.
Newsstand distribution - India Book House
Editor: Amit Tewari

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Logitech

Amazing!
The mouse that works on glass...

...plastic, metal, cloth, stone, wood.

Plug & play

2.4 GHz

Virtually no drop outs

Power switch On & Off

Extended battery life

3 Years

Replacement warranty

Plug & forget, nano-receiver

Our range of wireless mice

Starting from ₹999/-

Anywhere Mouse M905

Bluetooth® Mouse M555b

Wireless Mouse M505

Wireless Mouse M310

Wireless Mouse M215

Logitech Electronic India Pvt. Ltd., Website: www.logitech.com

North: Regional Manager: +91-98717 14777, Chandigarh: +91-97797 77299, Delhi: +91-99990 04436 / 99901 82431 / 99906 60456, Ghaziabad: +91-93583 41213, Jaipur: +91-98293 56663. **South**: Regional Manager: +91-98400 20986, Bangalore: +91-98453 27979 / 90083 02009, Chennai: +91-98940 29920, Coimbatore: +91-98944 44006, Hyderabad: +91-98855 67670, Kochi: +91-98478 56133, Vizag: +91-99898 94824. **West**: Regional Manager: +91-98196 01119, Ahmedabad: +91-98980 14437, Indore: +91-98263 30711 / 93003 88512, Mumbai: +91-99306 78177 / 98200 48261, Nagpur: +91-93250 91399, Pune: +91-98509 60003, Raipur: +91-78699 13100. **East**: Regional Manager: +91-98300 10400, Bihar & Jharkhand: +91-93041 38585, Guwahati: +91-94351 99120, Kolkata: +91-98317 53920.

DDW/LOG/6754

Transcend®

Transcend Memory Modules

Transcend's server-grade DDR3 modules are equipped with thermal sensors, which ensure the best possible system performance while protecting the DRAM modules from potentially catastrophic failure. In addition, Transcend's Mac memory also offers a full line of industry–standard options for upgrading your Apple computer memory capacity and productivity to increase systems performance.

DDR2- 240-PIN
DDR2-800/667/533 ECC DIMM
TS256MLQ72V8U

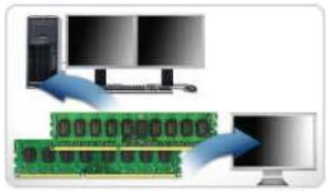
DDR2- 240-PIN
DDR2-800/667/533 FB-DIMM
TS512MFB72V8R-T

DDR3- 240-PIN
DDR3-1333/1066 ECC DIMM
TS512MLK72V3N

DDR3-240-PIN
DDR3-1333/1066 REGISTERED DIMM
TS512MKR72V3NL / TS1GKR72V1N

For Mac Pro
TS4GAPMACP8R-T

Onboard thermal sensor for better system thermal control (ECC/Registered-DIMM)



Excellent reliability and compatibility

Improved memory bandwidth

Low power consumption

Mediaman
Since 1997

Brings you Transcend®

www.mediamangroup.com

Mediaman Infotech Pvt. Ltd: Authorised Distributor for India
2nd floor, Vidyarthi Bhavan, Tribhuvan Road, Mumbai - 400004. Tel. 022-43441111 (100 lines) Fax: 022- 2387 7418
E-mail: sales@mediamangroup.com **Ahmedabad:** 079-40031905; **Bangalore:** 080-41472052; **Baroda:** 09376737537
Chennai: 044-45566604; **Cochin:** 0484-6466839; **Coimbatore:** 09443630971; **Goa:** 0832-2424291; **Gurgaon:** 011-51608136;
Kolkatta: 033-22368197; **NewDelhi:** 011-26436249; **Pune:** 020-64001815; **Secunderabad:** 040-27722068

www.transcendusa.com

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Transcend

ARE YOU READY?

TAKE A SPEEDY RIDE WITH TRANSCEND TO WITNESS THE ULTIMATE JOURNEY

Buy Transcend - TRON limited edition products to enter sweepstakes for Digital Photo Frame PF730 and many other TRON giveaways! Take action now and enjoy the exciting adventure!

Digital Photo Frame **PF 730**

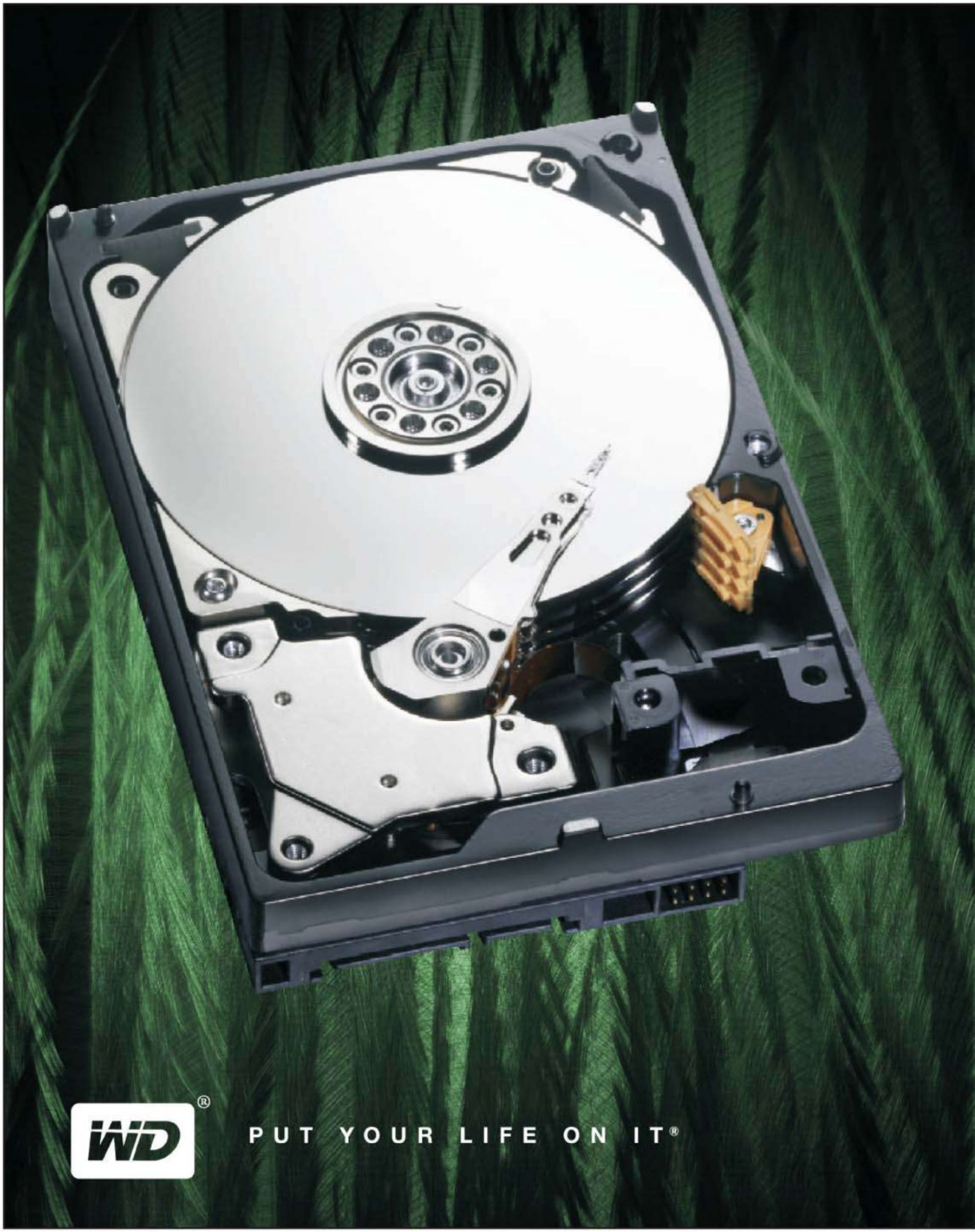
Mediaman

Brings you Transcend®

www.mediamangroup.com

Mediaman Infotech Pvt. Ltd: Authorised Distributor for India
2nd floor, Vidyarthi Bhavan, Tribhuvan Road, Mumbai - 400004. Tel. 022-43441111 (100 lines) Fax: 022- 2387 7418
E-mail: sales@mediamangroup.com **Ahmedabad:** 079-40031905; **Bangalore:** 080-41472052; **Baroda:** 09376737537
Chennai: 044-45566604; **Cochin:** 0484-6466839; **Coimbatore:** 09443630971; **Goa:** 0832-2424291; **Gurgaon:** 011-51608136;
Kolkatta: 033-22368197; **NewDelhi:** 011-26436249; **Pune:** 020-64001815; **Secunderabad:** 040-27722068

www.transcendusa.com



More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

The world's largest capacity internal hard drive.

WD Caviar® Green™

3TB Desktop SATA Hard Drives

Available in capacities up to 3 TB. WD Caviar® Green™ SATA hard drives reduce power consumption and offer best-in-class acoustics and operating temperature. Based on WD's exclusive WD GreenPower Technology™ they are ideal for PCs external storage and other devices that require lower power consumption and cool, quiet operation.

Massive capacity.

WD leads the way; pioneering capacity to deliver a massive 3 TBs of storage on a single drive.

Reduced power consumption.

Reduced power consumption makes it possible to build systems with higher capacities and the right balance of system performance, ensured reliability and energy conservation.

Cool and quiet.

WD GreenPower Technology yields lower operating temperatures for increased reliability and low acoustics perfect for ultra-quiet PCs and external drives.

For further details on WD products, call : WDDIRECT 011-26293660
or write : wddirect.india@wdc.com

*For Technical support / WD Express Service, Call Toll Free : 1800-11-9393
or 1800-200-5789 or Call : 011-26384700 or Email : wdexpress.india@wdc.com

Western Digital
www.westerndigital.com

Western Digital, WD, the WD logo and WD Caviar are registered trademarks in the U.S. and other countries; WD Caviar, Green and WD GreenPower Technology are trademarks of Western Digital Technologies, Inc. Other marks may be mentioned herein that belong to other companies. Product specifications subject to change without notice. ©2010 Western Digital Technologies, Inc. All rights reserved.
One gigabyte (GB) = one billion bytes. One terabyte (TB) = one trillion bytes. Total accessible capacity varies depending on operating environment. (Examples of the number of photos, songs, videos and any other files that can be stored on a hard drive are provided for illustrative purposes only. Your results will vary based on file size and format, settings, features, software and other factors.)

Computer active
Simple Clear Advice

Contents

FROM THE EDITOR

We are five years old in India. It has been an eventful and satisfying journey. All of us at Computeractive are grateful to you dear readers, for your support and encouragement over the years.

No Problem! has been a widely read section in the magazine. Our cover story this month collates 50 most common problems and their solution.

Life on the internet can be risky, if proper precautions are not taken. Hackers, viruses, spyware, email scams, spam, phishing, ID theft, Wifi exploits are always on lookout for the gullible. A robust, simple, easy to use solution is required for the general user. We have reviewed the latest versions of Internet security suites available, detailing the pros and cons of each.

As always a CD with useful software is bundled. I hope you will enjoy reading and implementing.

Amit Tewari
a.tewari@nextgenpublishing.net

ADDRESS CHANGE!
We have shifted our office from Mahim to Lower Parel. Our new address is mentioned below:
Next Gen Publishing Limited
Computeractive, Trade World,
C-Wing, 2nd Floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg,
Lower Parel(W), Mumbai 400013
Tel: 022-43525252 Board

FOR DETAILS of subscriptions, back issues, email addresses, our technical helpline or how to contact us for any other reason, please read the Computer Interactive pages and the last page.

INTERACTIVE

20 **Letters**
What the readers have to say

106 **Best buys**
The best hardware and software products as recommended by us

108 **Net Chart**
Top websites and downloads

24 **News**
All the latest stories from the world of computing

TRIED & TESTED

46 **ASUS G53J**
Let the games begin!

32 **Nokia N8**
Much anticipated smartphone is a multimedia powerhouse

53 **Canon EOS 60D**
Peomising high end pro-sumer camera

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Windows®. Life without Walls™.
ASUS recommends Windows 7.

ASUS®
Inspiring Innovation • Persistent Perfection

N SERIES

HEAR THE POWER · FEEL THE POWER

ard definition video to Full HD 1080p. ASUS N Series notebooks with SonicMaster. Experience the new ndard.

multimedia sta

Superior Multimedia Speakers

Wooden Pattern Palm-Rest

Aluminum Finish

gy Pvt Ltd.
sus.in | E-mail: info_india@asus.com
00-2090-365 | For enquiries SMS ASUS-CA to 567678 or 9220092200

ASUS Technol
Website: www.
Toll free No.: 1

N series is powered by Intel® Core™ i7 processor

ASUS ne

ailability of products is subject to change without prior notice. Products may not be available in all markets. Products & accessories shown are for representation purpose only; actual ASUS India is not responsible for any typing errors in specifications. Kindly check with your local dealer for exact details. *Brand and product names mentioned are trademarks of their ks: Celeron, Celeron Inside, Centrino Logo, Core Inside, Intel, Intel Logo, Intel Core, Intel Inside, Intel Inside Logo, Intel Viiv, Intel vPro, Itanium, Itanium Inside, Pentium, Pentium Inside, Xeon Inside are trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries. ASUS N Series Notebook is powered by Intel® Core TM i5 Processor Technology. *Condition apply

The prices, specifications and products/accessories may va respective companies. Trader Viiv Inside, vPro Inside. Xeon a

Contents

Vol. 5 Issue 12
December 2010

HOW TO

94 **Computing at your fingertips room**
We look at what the future holds for finger-based computer interaction

96 **Tales from the cutting room**
Improve your home videos with professional editing tricks and techniques

100 **Photo editing on the webroom**
Create brilliant-looking photos without down-loading software or spending money

103 **Get chatting via video link**
Put your webcam to good use by holding online video chats

54 **On test**
Defend ourself!

Image Courtesy: corbis

92 **Game Review**
Sniper: Ghost Warrior
Lara Croft and the Guardian of Light

COVER STORY Page 62

We solve 50 of the most common computer problems experienced by our readers

WORKSHOP

15 EASY TO USE **STEP-BY-STEP** PAGE - page 75

76 **Keep emails safe from prying eyes**

80 **Sort your digital photo collection with ease**

84 **Master the Microsoft Office clipboard**

87 **Make web pages easier to read**

88 **Go beyond Google to find old friends**

87 **Hints and tips**

88 **Macintosh Hints and tips**

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Welcome to the world of

iball

MOBILE PHONES

SHAAN | SLEEC | SENIOR | POSH | TOUCH | FLIP | WATERPROOF

Over 18 million iBall products sold | *www.iBallMobiles.co.in*

Decmber CD Contents

Dear Readers,

Windows 7 is undoubtedly the best version of Windows yet. We've collected together some of the most useful tools that will make it even better. Some, like the internet browsers and the Thunderbird email software will work on other versions of Windows as well so there's no reason to feel left out.

We have also got special versions of Ashampoo Internet Accelerator and NovaPDF Lite.

Please feel free to write back to us for any software that you would like to see on our CD.

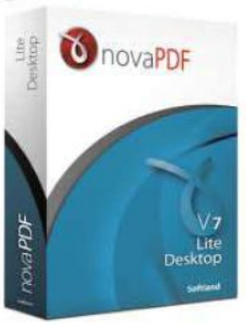
Editor ***ca@nextgenpublishing.net***
Editor

Full Software

Ashampoo Internet Accelerator 3.20

Ashampoo Internet Accelerator analyzes your computer and optimizes all the relevant settings with a single click. You don't need to know anything, just select the automatic optimizer and you're done. The new version also includes an Internet connection speed test tool so you can test your performance directly. In addition to automatic optimization advanced users can still access all the individual settings and adjust them manually.

How to Register for Full version : Register online to obtain your serial code



NovaPDF Lite Desktop 7

novaPDF is a PDF creator for Windows that allows you to easily create PDF files (searchable and optionally PDF/A compliant). With novaPDF, everyone from novice users to professionals can create high-quality documents in industry-standard PDF format, by simply selecting the "Print" command from virtually any application.

How to Register for Full version : Register online to obtain your serial code

MULTIMEDIA

Disk to vhd converter

The idea behind this is pretty cool, they use the Windows Volume Snapshot capability, to create consistent point-in-time snapshots of the volumes you want to convert. It will create one VHD for every disk but it will only include the partitions you select. The really cool thing about this: You can run it ONLINE!

iTunes 10.1.10

iTunes is a free application for Mac and PC. It plays all your digital music and video. It syncs content to your iPod, iPhone, and Apple TV. And it's an entertainment superstore that stays open 24/7.

Mozilla Thunderbird Portable Edition 3.1

Mozilla Thunderbird, Portable Edition 3.1 has been released in Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Dutch, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil and Portugal), Russian and Spanish (Spain and International) packages. It's the popular Mozilla Thunderbird email client bundled with a PortableApps.com launcher as a portable app.

VLC Media Player 1.1.5

VLC media player is a highly portable multimedia player for various audio and video formats as well as DVDs, VCDs, and various streaming protocols without external codec or program.

OFFICE

SysInternals Desktops 1.02

Desktops allows you to organize your applications on up to four virtual desktops. Read

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Express love to your elders.

with a perfect Gift!

iball

Your eyeball view.
Our technology new.

AASAAN

Old is Bold

- Large Keypad
- Large Buttons
- Large Display Fonts
- Emergency SOS Button
- Enhanced Audio Function
- One Touch Wireless FM
- Bright LED Torch
- Fluorescent Orange Backlight for Easy Readability
- Senior-friendly usage

SOS

- A siren to alert people nearby
- 5 automatic SMS
- Starts calling above numbers to talk

SENIOR

iball

MOBILE PHONES

SHAAN | SLEEC | SENIOR | POSH | TOUCH | FLIP | WATERPROOF

Over 18 million iBall products sold | www.iBallMobiles.co.in

Best IT World (India) Pvt. Ltd.: Email: sales@iball.co.in **Mumbai** - 022 - 6774 5100 / 3081 5100 / 9820723393, **Ahmedabad** - 079-2743 6373, **Bangalore** - 080-4124 3646, **Bhubaneshwar** - 0674- 329 7372, **Chandigarh** - 0172- 325 8816, **Cochin** - 0484- 232 4706, **Chennai** - 044- 4214 7432, **Dehradun** - 0135- 324 4481, **Guwahati** - 094357 31463, **Goa** - 094036 64304, **Hubli** - 0836- 425 7375, **Indore** - 0731- 404 2509, **Jaipur** - 0141- 5134815, **Kolkata** - 033- 3008 5100, **New Delhi** - 093120 86932, **Lucknow** - 0522- 400 5840/ 391 5840, **Nagpur** - 0712-325 3811, **Nashik** - 098605 39199, **Pune** - 020- 2432 1298, **Patna** - 0612- 326 0947, **Raipur** - 0771- 329 3674, **Ranchi** - 0651- 324 4199, **Secunderabad** - 040- 2789 4847.

Full Software

Ashampoo Internet Accelerator 3.20

NovaPDF Lite Desktop 7

email on one, browse the web on the second, and do work in your productivity software on the third, without the clutter of the windows you're not using.

TeamViewer

simple single-click column sorting, however, columns are easily shown or hidden.

Similarity

Similarity is a useful program that helps you to find and

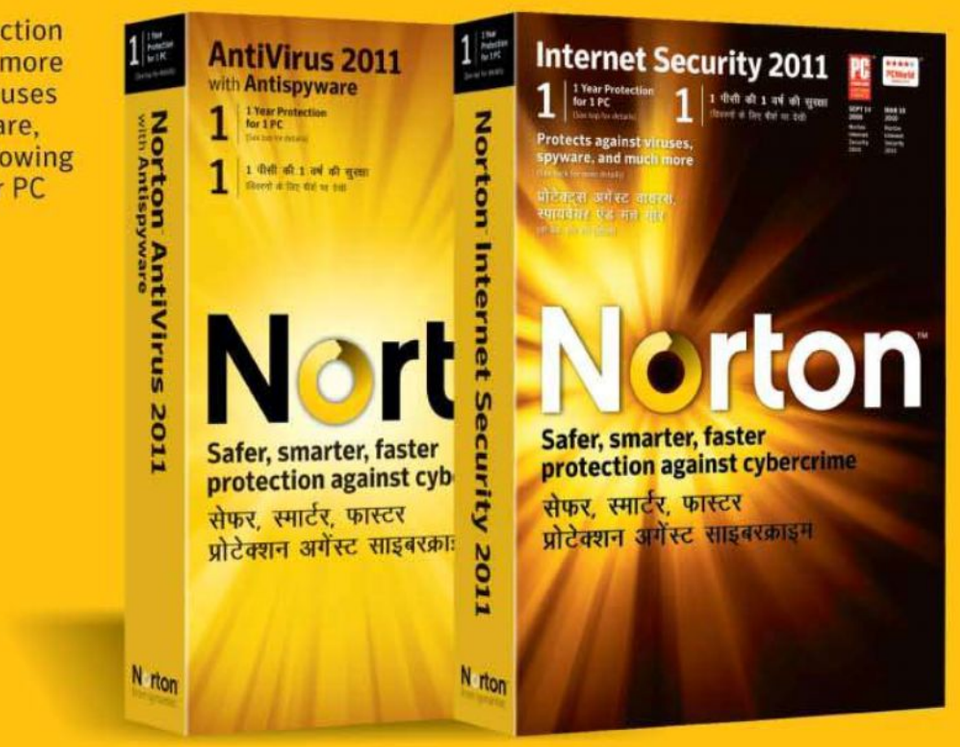
More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Norton Internet Security 2011

Fastest and Lightest Internet Security Suite*

Norton™
by Symantec

Fast protection that does more to stop viruses and spyware, without slowing down your PC



Surf, shop & bank online safely with the industry's fastest, lightest threat protection

All Norton products are available in 1/3/5/10 user packs

Norton™ Internet Security 2011 is ranked #1 in overall performance

It scans 61% faster and uses 41% less memory than the competitive average.*

PERFORMANCE	Overall Score	Time to Install (in seconds)	Scan Time (in seconds)	Memory Usage (MB)
Norton™ Internet Security 2011	162	41	26	23
ESET Smart Security 4	134	43	68	61
Kaspersky Internet Security 2011	115	130	52	30
McAfee Internet Security 2010	98	526	53	70
BitDefender Internet Security 2011	88	408	36	42
Trend Micro Internet Security 2011	88	196	65	60

*Refer: http://www.passmark.com/ftp/antivirus_11-performance-testing-ed2.pdf

Toll-Free Support : 1800 102 4235/ 000 800 100 7601

LETTERS YOUR SAY

We want your opinions! Write to us on any of the topics covered in Computeractive

Handy hint

As a follow up to your article about comfortable computer use, in issue 296, I have a simple but fundamental suggestion.

Virtually all right-handed computer users will operate their mouse with their right hand. If at the same time they are using a pen to write, or needing to turn the pages of a book, they will be continually putting down the mouse to pick up the other article and then picking up the mouse again.

So I seriously suggest computer users should experiment with holding the mouse in the left hand (or the right, for those that are left-handed). They will then have the desk more uniformly arranged: keyboard or laptop in the centre, mouse on one side, writing or reading material, or telephone, on the other.

It will certainly feel strange at first, but I urge perseverance. I am confident that you will soon discover the advantage of this mode of operation.

After all, lots of other common activities use boath hands, including driving a car and using a knife and fork. So if we have two hands and arms, then it seems sensible to use them to our full advantage.

Dhananjay P

Address perks

I have had a personalised web address and have used it for a couple of years now without any problems at all, so was interested in your article in issue 294 about getting a personalised email address. I use it to run in the region of 40 email addresses, used for online purchases, finance, friends, relations, competitions, different retail businesses and so on. Creating a new email address whenever necessary is simple.

There are two major advantages of having a personalised email addresses that you did not mention in the article.

First, if you ever have to change your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to get a cheaper deal or better features, you don't have to change your email addresses or tell all your friends. Instead you simply redirect your personalised email addresses to the one provided by the new ISP.

Second, I have never received spam emails to any of my personalised addresses. If I did start getting spam, I could tell how the sender found me by seeing which of my many addresses it had been sent to. I could then remove that address.

Gourav Makwana

Free and easy

I am surprised that, 'an IT professional', has found Ubuntu Linux so tricky (Letters, in an earler issue).

I am no geek. Most of what I

Easy life

So Harish Kamat, who has

you need in Windows.

Maybe he was just unlucky. I certainly cannot understand why he thinks Ubuntu can't play MP3 files. I have an MP3 musical podcast from the BBC playing as I type this, brought to me via the excellent open-source tool Audacity, which was downloaded and installed seamlessly by a tool built into Ubuntu.

Harish Lokhande

Windows, so had no problems there. I've also had no trouble with sound or video, while The Gimp and Openoffice Draw are great for photographic work and image manipulation. My HP scanner worked brilliantly as soon as I plugged it in. My only major problem is with a lovely Canon printer that I purchased. It won't work, but that isn't the fault of Linux; Canon only pretends to offer any help with Linux drivers. Lots of people in forums have tried to help, but to no avail. A HP printer burst

which recently encouraged me to give Ubuntu a try. I have been Microsoft-free for months now.

Like the majority of computer users I have a simple menu of requirements: word processing, spreadsheets, emails, internet, photos and music. Ubuntu meets all my needs at least as well as Windows. In fact, it's mostly better and often incomparably faster. I have needed minimum recourse to the various help sites – intuition has almost always been enough – and the sense of security is greater than anything I ever felt with those clunky, over-complicated (and expensive) security packages that

manner of someone who only understands simple addition? Here's my experience.

I am in my mid-sixties, and have used a PC, self-taught, for seven years. Last year, after a disastrous hard disk change, my computer refused to start. My original XP disk refused to re-install because there was 'a damaged or incomplete installation' already there. I am self-employed and need my computer for estimates, invoices, Vat etc, so in desperation I turned, as a temporary measure, to a copy of Ubuntu Linux that I had installed to play with.

I was already using Openoffice in

– I don't have to do that any more.

I've had a Linux-only computer for more than a year now, and I doubt I will ever return to Windows. My only regret is that so little computer magazine content is directed at Linux users – although this is getting better, so thanks, Computeractive. Linux magazines are very expensive and most of the content goes way above my head, but there are numerous online forums where enthusiasts are waiting to help out those with less knowledge than themselves. So try Linux all you who, like me, know very little. It's free, folks.

Amit Gupte

looking colours.
So start typing a
email us at
ca@nextgenpu
or write to us at:
Next Gen Publis
2nd Floor, C Wi
World, Kamala M
Compound, Se
Marg, Lower Pa
Mumbai 400013
Last month's w
Mohammed At

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

THE ULTIMATE FORCE

ASUS®

Inspiring Innovation • Persistent Perfection

TUF SABERTOOTH X58 MOTHERBOARD

Designed for Ultimate Reliability

TUF SERIES 5 Year Warranty Guaranteed Reliability

*Terms and conditions apply

Best Motherboard Brand

Editor's Choice - IT PriceVAR (Techplus Media)

Experience the SABERTOOTH X58 Advantage!

- Run through the strictest tests to ensure server-grade reliability
- Military-standard certified TUF Components
- Exclusive CeraM!X Heatsink Coating Technology

SABERTOOTH X58

- LGA1366 socket for Intel® Core™ i7 Processors
- Intel® X58/ICH10R
- 6 x DIMM, max. 24GB, DDR3 1866MHz
- NVIDIA® SLI™ /ATI® CrossFireX™ Support
- True Dual x16 PCI Express 2.0 support
- True USB 3.0 & SATA 6Gb/s RAID Support

All specifications are subject to change without notice. Product availability may vary by region.

ASUS - No.1 in Quality and Services - The Wall Street Journal Asia

* Conditions Apply

www.asus.in | Toll Free No. 1800-2090-365 | Email: reachus@asus.com

Computer Interactive

&

ZION™
Infinite Technologies
Dynamic RAM

QUIZ 44

Now, the fun at Computer Interactive gets even more rewarding! Take a crack at this ZION-Computer*active* Quiz and win! The contents of this issue contain the answers! So, read, find the answers and shoot before December 20 to win a zany ZION RAM or multimedia memory card.

Mail to *ca@nextgenpublishing.net* with the subject-line: ComputerInteractive Quiz No.44

1) Epson PM325 is a-
- a) Photo Printer ❑
- b) Scanner ❑
- c) Copier ❑

2) Segate GoFlex TV is a-
- a) Television ❑
- b) Media Player ❑
- c) Notebook ❑

3) ASUS Rampage III is a-
- a) Intel chipset based MBD ❑
- b) AMD chipset based MBD ❑
- c) NVidia chipset based MBD ❑

CONGRATULATIONS!
The winner of Quiz no.43 is Sushil Shetty, Bengaluru

Name: _____
Address: _____
_____
City: _____ **Pin Code:** _____
Tel. No. _____ **Mobile:** _____
Email: _____
Subscription No. *(For subscribers only)* _____

The decision of the judges will be final and binding and no queries shall be entertained. The employees of Verbatim and Next Gen Publishing cannot participate in this contest. Participants can also send their entries by fax or photocopies at the Next Gen mailing address listed on colophon page. Winners will be decided by Lucky draw.
Winner Will be awarded with 1GB PC667 DDR ZION RAM

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

YUBZ®

Why You Busy?

WWW.YUBZ.COM

YUBZ Magnum Bluetooth Speaker Brings You the Ultimate Wireless Experience!

MAGNUM is a portable and multi-functional Bluetooth speaker which could be used in conjunction with Bluetooth-enabled mobile phone, iPod Touch, computer and game console. Empowered by Sound Space™ technology, you can expect the broadest multi-dimensional acoustic effects.

Made for Bluetooth®-enabled devices

Works with iPhone OS 3.0/3G S

Sound SPACE

Bluetooth®

Compatible with

4 X AA Battery for 10-hour Music Playing

Copyright © 2006-2010 YUBZ ® All rights reserved. | Art# 1065

J.S. Equipments

G11, Matru Mandir, 278, Tardeo Road, Mumbai - 400 007
Tel: 022-2381 0713 / 2381 0718 / 2387 1741 **Fax:** 2386 0976
Email: jse@vsnl.com **Web:** www.jseindia.com

Graphic Cards

XFX adds a new dimension with its AMD Radeon HD 6870 and HD 6850

Industry leader XFX has added a new dimension to gaming with its XFX AMD Radeon HD 6870 and HD 6850 graphics cards. This latest series of AMD Radeon graphics cards is AMD's introduction of a 3-D gaming and multi-media solution for desktop computers, plus one of the first HDMI 1.4a and DisplayPort 1.2 solutions for Stereoscopic 3-D on the market.

This advance into Stereoscopic 3-D ushers in a new era of gaming that takes it to the next level. With up to 120 Hz active shutter technology, the quality of 3-D achievable with the AMD Radeon HD 6870 and HD 6850 is unprecedented in comparison to previous 3-D solutions created by other manufacturers. The AMD 3-D experience is truly immersive and seamless.

As part of the AMD Open Stereo 3-D initiative, AMD has teamed up with other Open 3-D ecosystem partners to provide consumers with "more choice, more innovation and lower cost."

XFX AMD Radeon HD 6870 and HD 6850 graphics cards kick down the doors into a new realm of gaming as the second generation of DirectX 11-capable graphics cards. 1GB DDR5 ram is filling enough for even the most hungry gamer and the core speed (775 MHz in the HD 6850, 900 MHz in the HD 6870) can keep up even in the most intense of gaming scenarios.

Shaders at speeds of up to 800 in the HD 6850 and 960 in the HD 6870, ensure that graphics are consistent, crisp and life-like. The chipset is based on the previous dual engine architecture, but it's been revamped for improved gaming action.

With the new series XFX debuts the XFX 3E Technology, a new trilogy that incorporates AMD Eye-Definition, AMD Eyefinity and AMD EyeSpeed. AMD Eye-Definition, which utilizes AMD's HD3D technology, supports rich, life-like visuals and offers explosive HD gaming performance.

These high-powered cards feature exclusive AMD Eyefinity multi-display technology that expands the view of the gaming landscape for the ultimate immersive entertainment.

IN BRIEF...

GENIUS LAUNCHES NEW SERIES OF EARPHONES

Genius, the Taiwan based international leading company in computer peripherals announced their latest launch of the hot new GHP-02

Mobile Phone

Motorola reveals FLIPOUT in India

, these
ature a
nd an in-line
t helps adjust

with a unique form-factor and innovative features.

The FLIPOUT runs on Android version 2.1 and features an innovative square pivot design that opens to reveal a five-row QWERTY keypad with a separate row

You can personalize the FLIPOUT with bright expressive battery covers that come in-box---Licorice (Black), Fairway Green, Poppy Red and White. The stylish and pocket-perfect Motorola FLIPOUT is fully equipped to run in the background. The phone enables easy one hand messaging and previewing of incoming messages without opening to quickly manage conversations and be constantly in touch with colleagues, friends and family.

r superior soun
headphones also
gold-plated plug
volume control th
volumes easily.

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

EPSON
EXCEED YOUR VISION

See Beyond the Usual

with Inkjet Printers and All-in-Ones that save on costs, not on quality

EPSON is the registered trademark of Seiko Epson Corporation, Japan

MICRO PIEZO™

thINK:

incredible prints, inexpensive inks

See Epson Inkjet Printers & All-in-Ones that are perfectly suited for both home & office, with features such as WiFi and with low cost, high quality ink cartridges starting at just ₹250/-.

Print | Scan | Copy

Epson Stylus™ TX121

Low cost ink cartridges starting at just ₹250/- each; Water, fade & smudge resistant prints; 5760 dpi print resolution

MRP: ₹3,999/-

Print | Scan | Copy

Epson Stylus™ TX220

Water, fade & smudge resistant prints; 5760 dpi print resolution; Memory card slot & PictBridge; 1.5" LCD

MRP: ₹5,999/-

Print | Scan | Copy | WiFi

Epson ME™ OFFICE 900WD

Laser print quality All-in-One; Smart duplex printing; Print speed of up to 36ppm; WiFi/Ethernet; Low cost water, fade & smudge resistant prints

MRP: ₹13,999/-

Features vary from model to model. Check product brochure for exact features.

EPSON SERVICE

Contact: 099866 60251 (9AM - 6PM) (Mon - Fri) or email: think@eid.epson.co.in
Epson Helpline: For product info, service or to order a cartridge - 1800 425 0011 (9AM - 6PM) (Mon - Sat)
For service - 1860 3000 1600 (9AM - 6PM) (Mon - Sat)
www.epson.co.in

SMS EPSON TO 58558

IN BRIEF...

SONY INTRODUCES ULTRA STYLISH WALKMAN E-SERIES IN DELIGHTFUL COLORS

Sony is all set to add vividness in your life with the ultra chic and super stylish range of E-Series Walkman. Available in delightful colors like Gold, Red and Black, this innovative product is designed for the young and the young at heart. Combining fun, form and function, this Walkman delivers a rich audio performance with clarity and precision and has an easy user interface. With the new E-series, consumers will be constantly entertained as the player offers up to 50 hours of audio and 10 hours of video playback time on a single charge. The E-series is available in 4GB and 8GB capacities for Rs.4990 and Rs.6990 respectively.

Mobile Phone

Intex Technologies introduces 'V.SHOW'

Intex Technologies, one of India's fastest growing mobile phones, IT hardware and electronics companies, announced the launch of INTEX 'V.SHOW' – a path- breaking mobile handset with an inbuilt projector to combine projection with mobility. This is India's first projector phone to be launched by a domestic mobile handset company.

INTEX V.SHOW is all set to change the way people perceive mobile entertainment. It actually brings entertainment at palm's length and enables the user to project movies, pictures, music videos (saved in the phone and from Internet) and other Internet content up to 61 inches of screen/wall with a high intensity projection of 10 lumen and QWVGA resolution. Projection can be enjoyed up to a distance of 12 ft (between the screen/wall and the phone).

Intex's Centre for Design and Development has ensured that the product matches to the

Indian operating conditions and entertainment prerequisites such as- a long life battery so that one can watch a film for as long as three hours and a film quality of 25 Frames Per Second (FPS) – which is as good as the FPS used in movies. Other features include insertion of 'Bolt' in the software – an ultra fast mobile Internet browser and a Tripod stand as one of the accessories in the box (for an easy, hands-free visual experience). The phone is a touch-screen Dual SIM (GSM + GSM) variant and has another coveted feature - Dual Screen mode (phone screen mode and projector screen mode are simultaneously active). It comes with Dual Camera and a Dual Card memory slot of 8 GB each to expand the internal memory of 64 MB.

Net Book

Tata Teleservices and Acer Launch Embedded Netbook—'Aspire One'

Tata Teleservices Limited, the country's youngest and fastest-growing pan-India dual-technology telecom services provider, and Acer India today announced the launch of a Next-Generation Netbook—the Aspire One AOD 260. Embedded with Tata Photon Plus, Aspire One will offer high-speed Internet access for connectivity on the go, at broadband speeds. The Netbook is packed with powerful features and performance capabilities, to boost productivity and enhance the mobile computing experience.

Tata Teleservices Limited also announced a strategic alliance with Acer India, wherein the new device—Aspire One—would be made available at all TTSL retail outlets in Mumbai and Delhi, in the first phase of launch. This is the first time, ever, that Acer India has inked a strategic alliance with TTSL to offer a high-end Netbook with advanced features and an embedded Photon Plus device, which will offer access speeds of up to 3.1 Mbps.

Designed for all-day mobility and connectivity, the Acer Aspire One AOD 260 Netbook will leverage the capabilities of HSIA technology on TTSL's CDMA network and provide users with broadband connectivity, enabling them to access advanced data applications and services on the move. The Netbook sports a 10.1" screen with LED back-lit and 16:9 aspect ratio, Intel Atom N450 CPU, a 1.3 megapixel camera, 1 GB DDR2 RAM, 160 GB HDD 5400 RPM, six-cell battery with eight hours of life, Windows 7 Starter preloaded, three USB Ports, Bluetooth connectivity and in-built wireless capability, amid many other features.

The product is priced at Rs 17,999 + taxes and will be available in Delhi and Mumbai in the initial launch phase.

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Software

Rashi announces 6th Edition of CBF

Rashi Peripherals recently announced the commencement of the sixth edition of Channel Business Forum (CBF) to be from Nasik and Amravati simultaneously from 12 November onwards and will end at Kota in January

- Profit, Power,
nership. CBF –
need to change
ess is done.

categories aiming to cover more than 5000 partners within three months' duration. The phase 1 of CBF – VI has begun

there was a debate on the Assembled V/s Branded concept, whereas CBF – II in 2006 spoke of Rashi's digital vision and

beyond. CBF – III took a trip through TRENDZ 2007 and CBF – IV in 2008 showcased how Rashi is refueling IT

through the 4 Ps
Product and Par
V propagated th
the way IT busi

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

OUR STAR RATINGS

With every product we review, we tell it like it is and give it Computeractive's authoritative star rating.

Here's what those stars mean:

Excellent	★★★★★
Worth it	★★★★☆
OK by us	★★★☆☆
Poor	★★☆☆☆
Awful	★☆☆☆☆

OUR STAMP OF APPROVAL

The Buy It! stamp of approval is a sign that a product has exceeded our high expectations in both quality and value for money. If you see the Buy It! logo you know we were impressed with the product and we think you will be too. The Try It! Stamp is our equivalent award for software and services that are free of charge.

A list of products that we think are the best available in various categories can be found at the back of the Tried & Tested section

PRICES

The prices we print are the suggested retail prices set by the manufacturer. Products can often be found much cheaper on the internet or in shops.

TECHNICAL TERMS AND JARGON

While we try to keep our reviews free from technical language or jargon, it is sometimes unavoidable. See the Jargon Buster column for concise explanations of highlighted words.

HOW WE TEST

Computeractive's reviewers follow strict guidelines to ensure the opinions expressed in the magazine are fair, accurate and independent. Every product or service we review is thoroughly examined and tested by experts. The manufacturer has no involvement in our tests and is never told the result of a review prior to publication. Please note that our reviews grade products, not customer service.

We welcome feedback on our reviews – send us an email to *ca@nextgenpublishing.net*

SMARTPHONE

Nokia N8

Much anticipated smartphone is a multimedia powerhouse

Nokia's N8 handset has finally landed, boasting the all-new Symbian 3 platform. Unveiled in June, the N8 boasts a dazzling array of multimedia features in a bid to tempt mobile buyers away from Android, BlackBerry and iPhone handsets. Nokia hasn't skimped on the specifications, and the 3.5in 640 x 360 Amoled touch screen offers a visual experience close to other high-end devices, such as the Samsung Galaxy S. With dimensions of 113.5mm x 59mm x 12.9mm, the N8 fits nicely into the palm of the hand, and it's not too heavy at 135g. The scratch-proof anodised aluminium casing gives the device a stylish appearance and protection from everyday use.

Symbian 3 is an improvement over previous versions, but it is still not at the level it should be. There are three home screens packed with widgets and applications that can be viewed in landscape and portrait modes, a nice touch that many other smartphones lack. Each home screen is divided into four rows, which can house four application shortcuts or display one widget such as email or social networking updates.

In our tests we found that customising the home screen was a bit of a chore. It was not possible to move widgets between panels. Instead, each of the three screens has to be customised individually, and even then it was fiddly. There is no sense of integration like there is with Apple iOS4 or Android home screens. Pressing the Home button brings up a more detailed classic menu catering to Nokia fans, and the company has been generous with the apps it has preloaded onto the phone.

A middling 680MHz processor means that the N8 isn't the fastest of devices, and a split-second delay between initiating and loading an application is apparent. While this delay doesn't hinder performance generally, there were periods when the device slowed down significantly and had us twiddling our thumbs. As the N8 is capable of multitasking, users need to be careful not to keep too many apps running in the background and inadvertently using up battery.

It seems Nokia has decided to play it safe with the interface by making tweaks to the old Symbian platform, instead of going for a complete redesign. The N8 comes with a full touch screen Qwerty keypad and while it is one of the best Nokia has created, it is still short of the great input interfaces offered by the iPhone 4 or Galaxy S.

Typing in portrait mode brings up a classic alpha-numerical keypad which is a tad disappointing, considering this is method smartphone users are no longer accustomed to. It's little things like this that make it clear Nokia is reluctant to move on. The decision not to go with a mini Qwerty is baffling. Thankfully, when the device is used in landscape mode a full Qwerty appears. Unfortunately, the keys such as the space bar, enter, delete and shift are simply too small and make inputting text quite awkward.

The default browser is made to look distinctly average when up against mobile browsers such as Safari and Opera Mini in terms of speed and formatting.

The N8 shows as much of the web page as possible but users still have to click on a double-ended arrow in the bottom right hand corner and then it's another three clicks before being able to navigate to another address. The font is readable when a web page is loaded, but pages do not automatically resize to fit the 3.5in touch screen, which is disappointing. Pinch-to-zoom is another letdown as resizing is jerky and doesn't always zoom in on the intended area.

Being touted as a multimedia device, we'd expect the N8 to excel in this area. The HDMI output is the standout feature, allowing the device to be connected to larger HD displays. This could have useful multimedia and business uses as it allows HD films and presentations to be transmitted onto bigger screens without the need for a PC. Bluetooth 3.0 with A2DP, Wi-Fi and 3G round off the wireless connectivity options.

The jewel in the crown for the N8 is the 12-megapixel Carl Zeiss-powered camera on the back. Nokia claims that it is the best camera in a phone and, judging by the snaps we took, we think the manufacturer has a point. With autofocus, face recognition, 2x digital zoom and Xenon Flash, our pictures appeared crisp and clear. The N8 is also capable of video recording in HD in 720p at 25fps with 3x digital zoom, and Nokia claims three hours and 20 minutes of recording time.

Nokia touts a maximum of 720 minutes talk time and 400 hours standby, and the device lasted two days with medium use.

WE SAY

Great camera, decent battery but disppointing OS

OVERALL: ★★★☆☆

DETAILS

Contact: Nokia India
Buy: www. nokia.co.in

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

TABLET

Samsung Galaxy Tab

Android 2.2, 7in tablet is a worthy iPad rival

The Samsung Galaxy Tab just went on sale, and while it may feel as though we've been bombarded with new tablet models this year, this is one of the few devices actually available to

many of which will be useful to the business user. There's a daily news briefing, voice search and ThinkFree Office, a Microsoft Office compatible document viewer that lets users view, save and organise files such as Word

holding the Tab in the hands, without having to place it on a table or lap.

normal mobile phone, although you either need to use it as a speakerphone or have a headset plugged in. We can't really see the phone connection as being a big selling point for the tab. However, calling quality was good.

The features include a GPS receiver, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and 3G, accessed via a SIM card slot on the side of the device. It runs a 1GHz Cortex A8 processor, with a PowerVR SGX540 graphics card. For storage there's 16GB of internal storage and a Micro SDHC slot that offers a further 32GB of RAM. There's also 2GB of internal phone storage for apps. Video recording and HD video playback are supported. The 1,024 x 600 resolution screen has a widescreen display and media quality is crisp and clear. There is a 1.3-megapixel front- and 3.0-megapixel rear-facing camera. Shots were of good quality and it was easy to share video files and pictures through the on-screen menus.

The Samsung Galaxy Tab is a worthy rival to the Apple iPad. Android 2.2 is a great operating system, it adds a camera and phone capability, and the battery life is excellent. The Tab is also a good size and weight to hold over long periods, and text input is no problem due to the width of the device and the decent keypad. The real negative for us was the price.

DETAILS

Contact: samsung India
Buy: www.in.samsung.com

the obvious trade-off is the 7in screen compared to 10in from Apple. At 385g, the Tab is around half the weight of the iPad.

The Tab runs Android 2.2, offering wireless tethering and Flash support, a big one-up on the iPad. The latest Google mobile OS is certainly speedy, and any task carried out on the Tab runs smoothly and quickly, from screen rotation to browsing to opening and switching between apps. The Tab features a pull-down menu that you can drag down the screen to open. This includes an update of any new instant messages, emails or Skype chats, and users can also control the Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, sync and brightness settings from the menu.

The Tab comes pre-loaded with a wide selection of apps,

WE SAY

Android 2.2, nice size and weight, confortable holding over long period

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

you can al
sync with Imap, Pop3 or Exchange accounts.

Using the web on the Tab is a pleasure. Pages load up quickly and the screen rotates very smoothly depending on whethe you want landscape or portrait mode. The standard Android browser offers a multi-window option, which makes it easy to scroll through any web pages you have open. A slight niggle that the zoom in and out isn't quite as smooth as on other touch-screens we've used, and a bit jerky. It also takes longer reformat to fit the space.

The touch-screen took a bit getting used to as it's not quite sensitive as devices like the iPhone, and so required a firme push when trying to bring up th virtual keyboard to enter text into a search bar for example.

There are two text input methods offered on the Tab, th standard Qwerty layout and Samsung's Swype method. Th keys are a rectangular shape, with the height about twice tha of the width, and we found it quite easy to type without making too many mistakes. Th width of the device meant it wa comfortable to input text while

SMARTPHONE

Samsung Galaxy 3

Android smartphone for beginners

The cheaper, slightly altered relative of the high-end Galaxy S, the Samsung Galaxy 3 is an entry level android phone. Costing only half of the Galaxy S, this phone compromises on some features, to justify the price.

This device is minimalist in its design, with the power button, 3.5mm audio output and micro USB occupying the top. A silver bezel adds to its look.

The Galaxy 3 sports a 3.2-inch touch screen, capable of a maximum resolution of 240x400, the G3's screen response is decent and the touch screen keyboard, praise-worthy. We were disappointed with the OS version - Eclair. Although upgradable to Froyo, it would have been great to have the device pre-installed with Version 2.2.

Coming to the performance, the data speed was quite impressive, you have the option of HSDPA up to 3.6 Mbit/s or use the built-in wireless receiver. The browser worked smoothly and in about 14 seconds, a 600KB webpage loaded fully using HSDPA. USB 2.0 allows efficient transfer of data and music.

The supplied headphones are of good quality and using the equalizer you can customise the sound. The reception is clear , though the speakerphone lets down a bit. The modest 3.2 mega-pixel camera, however, is average. Images taken at full resolution seem fuzzy at times.

Google maps is available for download – free. The phone has a long battery life.

To conclude, the Galaxy 3 is a durable Android phone , a good option for users migrating to Android.

WE SAY

Good Social networking, nice keyboard

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

DETAILS

Contact: Samsung India
Buy: www.in.samsung.com

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

kleensafe

PROFESSIONAL SCREEN CLEAN

The world's safest way to clean your camera lenses and display!

Available in : 200 ml 50 ml 10ml packs

Scratchgard is the No.1 Product & available for entire models of:
Mobile, PDA, Camera, I-Phone, I-Pod, PSP, Laptop & LCD screens

scratchgard™
screen protection

For more information & secure purchase visit **www.scratchgard.in**

Available at quality retailers

DISPLAY

BenQ 2420HD

A true HD wonder

The Benq V2420HD is a 24in wide screen high resolution LCD monitor with LED backlight and several advanced options . The monitor is perfect for watching movies. With a high 1900x1080 pixel resolution, it plays high-definition videos at an aspect ratio of 16:9. This display size is becoming common, even though 16:10 is better for pure computer applications, like web browsing.

Unfortunately, the screen cannot be wall mounted. The supplied stand allows slight movements, but no swivel or height adjustments. The V2420 is svelte, if you have space restrictions but still want a large screen, the V2420 is the answer. What keeps it slim is the LED backlighting, this uses less space than older 'cold cathode' versions, while also consuming less power. Additionally, LED back lit displays tend to have better contrast and brightness.

Picture quality was impressive: with bright and detailed images. HD videos looked fantastic on the panel and we were more than happy to sit in front of it for hours together.

This reasonably priced, impressive monitor, may be too wide for users who require the screen for work. But, if you watch a lot of video/television on your PC or are an avid gamer, the v2420 is the perfect choice

WE SAY

Superb all rounder

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

DETAILS

Contact: Benq India
Buy: www.benq.co.in

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

ZEN THE MASTER

ZEN Pad

8GB Memory Card

Pouch with Keyboard

FEATURES

Internet · Email · Ebook Reader · Photos · Videos · Youtube · Music Player · Notes · Calendar · Social Networking

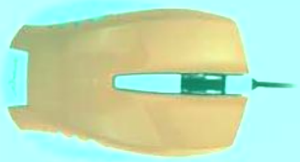
E-BLUE

http://www.e-blue.jp

DYNAMIC
COLOR PAL SERIES

BLACK – ELEGANCE

BLUE – FREEDOM



ORANGE – OPTIMUM

WHITE – PURITY

PURPLE – WISDOM

1480 dpi

enzatec

http://www.enzatec.com

SP-307
Desktop Mini Speaker

SP-303
Portable Speakers

HS-502
Multimedia Headset

BT-501
Bluetooth Stereo Headset

HS-701
Gamer Headset

HS-301
Ultra-Lightweight Headset

H. T. IMPEX
Importers of Computer Peripherals

A/2 Sheriar Baug, A-Block, 2nd Floor, R Bhatt Marg, Opp J J Hospital Gate No.6, Noor Baug, Mumbai - 400009.

• Tel: +91 22 66102080/ 66102090 • Fax: +91 22 23775014 • Email: sales@zenthemaster.in • Web: www.zenthemaster.in

All logos and Trademarks are of their respective owners

Also available at: STAPLES · Jumbo · Reliance Digital

MEDIA PLAYER

ASUS O! Play HD2

First media player with USB 3.0 option

Asus O! Play HD2 media player allows you to play videos, watch photos and listen to digital music on a TV.

Via a network, it can also access Internet services and access files stored on its internal hard drive (not supplied). A USB 3.0 port speeds up transfer of data.

As the name suggests, the player outputs full HD video at 1080p with an array of connectivity options. It is also compatible with a wide variety of audio , photo and video formats.

The box contains a remote control with batteries, a manual, a cooling plate, hardware kit, power supply and an analog AV cable. We missed a USB 3.0 cable. The body is black lacquered, all the connectors are at the rear. The front has slots for memory cards, USB (2.0) / e-SATA and the infrared receiver. The device supports storage devices formatted up to 2 TB. In our test, we mounted a 1TB HDD by simply removing a screw at the bottom of the unit and installing the cooling plate and hard disk in the slot. The supplied remote control is better compared to earlier models.

All major connectivity options are present. Along with HDMI, there are composite, component, optical and coaxial ports. There is also a 100 Mbps Ethernet jack which ensures a transfer speed of 6 MB/s . The multi card reader can read SDHC, Compact Flash and MS/MS Duo cards. An eSATA port enables quick copying from hard disks.

The interface is smart yet easy. The player can play most commonly used formats, including some rare ones like mvb and iso. The HD performance was stunning.

The O! Play HD2 is a brilliant player with ultra fast USB3 connectivity. We were impressed with the concept of integrating a hard drive, since they are cheaper compared to traditional HDDs. The price may seem a tad high for consumers who are looking for a basic media player.

WE SAY

HDD, Good interface, but a bit pricey

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

DETAILS

Contact: Asus India
Buy: in.asus.com

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

THE IQ PRO™

ENCOMPASS EVERYTHING

with the IQ PRO range of Flash Drives and Micro SD cards

- Lifetime* warranty
- Enjoy unmatched quality
- Committed to customer satisfaction
- Increased capacity for optimum use

Chandigarh 9023734592, **Chennai** - 044-32965772, 9962292910, **Cochin** - 0484-3261256, 9447041158, **Dehradun** - 9219600370, **Delhi** 011-32973154, 93
Guwahati - 0361-2464170, 9954045815, **Hubli** - 9743990628, **Jaipur** - 0141-4029975, 9314753839, **Kolkata** - 033-22319628/9, 9830080103, **Lucknow** 988
Ludhiana - 0161-5094392, 9316648059, **Mangalore** - 9845847496, **Mumbai** 022-40914600, **Patna** - 0612-232
9304836094, **Pune** - 020-41269019, 9371665458, **Raipur** - 0771-4270340, 9827468824, **Ranchi** - 0651-2330584, 9386784858, **Secunderabad** - 040-3
66382390, 9391308746, **Siliguri** 9830085354, **Vijaywada** 9394539815, **Vizag** 9394071876.

CAMERA

Samsung ST80

A different take on the normal point and shoot

Samsung has never been one to take a backseat when it comes to experimenting with new innovative products. Their newest launch, the point-and-shoot ST80 is enough evidence of this. The ST80 has several new features, distinguishing it from a normal point-and-shoot camera.

The 14.2 megapixel ST80 is a slim camera, that easily fits in your pocket. It's sturdy, ergonomic design makes it easy to handle. Like its predecessors, the ST80 too has an easy-to-use interface. The camera has a ready-to- use charger, hence you don't need to detach the battery unit from the camera while charging . But the problem with this feature is, you can't use the camera while the battery is charging.

The ST80 has a micro SD slot for storage which seems a little strange, because although the micro SD card is cheap and easily available, you require a separate adapter to connect it to the computer.

The front of the camera is similar to any other point-and-shoot camera. But surprisingly it does not have a mode dial button. All the controls except zoom and shutter release are in the menu. The back portion consists of a 3inch touchscreen, with good and smooth response.

Finally the most intriguing feature, unlike any other point-and-shoot, the ST80 has a built in Wi-Fi. This enables direct streaming of photos and videos to the web or mail from the camera. This functioned quite well in our tests.

In the performance segment we noticed that the response time was quite impressive. However, we noticed slight shutter lag in low light conditions. We were disappointed with the measly 3x optical zoom. The ISO, white balance and exposure can be changed manually. The image and video quality are good. Focusing was sharp and fast. The camera experienced some problems while shooting low light indoor shots.

All in all, ST80 is a decent camera .

WE SAY

MicroSD storage, decent image, Wi-Fi Streaming

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

DETAILS

Contact: Samsung India
Buy: www.in.samsung.com

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

KNOW HOW YOUR OPPONENT WILL REACT NEXT

Kaspersky Anti-Virus and Kaspersky Internet Security - Expert protection for your digital assets

• Real-time protection against viruses and spyware • Scanning of websites and emails for malicious codes • Protection for your digital identity • New Safe Surf feature for online security • Feature-rich and effective Parental Control • Robust application control • Safe Run mode for apps and websites • Hassle-free • User-friendly • Low on system resource usage

IT'S CHAN-TASTIC!

KASPERSKY lab World's leading anti-virus software

www.kaspersky.co.in

india.info@kaspersky-asia.com | +91 40 4033 9680

ROUTER

Linksys E3000

Next generation router, Good looking and decent performance

Linksys known for premium routers offering good security and performance, have launched four new routers – E1000, E2000, E3000, and E2100L. These new routers are a fresh take on the older, but popular WRT series.

We review the E3000 this issue, which on the surface looks quite similar to the WRT series (like the WRT610N) in terms of shape and size. The installation process is effortless - pop in the CD, install the driver and the router is ready to distribute your bandwidth!

We used synthetic benchmarking package to simulate various network traffic scenarios. The hardware used consists of an Intel Centrino 2 laptop with an Intel Wifi Link 5300 AGN wireless chip. The E3000 was tested under everyday conditions. The high test results showed that the router performs well and handles interference adequately. It is not enough to look at the highest scores as they represent performance in an ideal scenario. Average scores are a more realistic indicator of day to day performance.

A distance of 10 meters may create a difference in performance between routers; hence it wouldn't be fair to say that a high-end router performs better than a cheaper model, at this distance. Also remember that the 802.11n protocol using MIMO technology is a complex technology in which the throughput is increased by working with reflections of signals. Therefore it is possible that a router performs better at 20 meters than at 10 meters.

The E3000 is equipped with Gigabit WAN port, this ensures faster throughput from WAN to LAN, or from the Internet to the home network. Although this is by no means the fastest in its segment. The performance as an average over various distances and real life scenarios remained good. The E3000 also consumes less power in comparison to other routers. This is crucial, since routers are usually on Power On mode throughout the day.

The test results conclude that the E3000 is a solid, complete model that is a step forward from current models

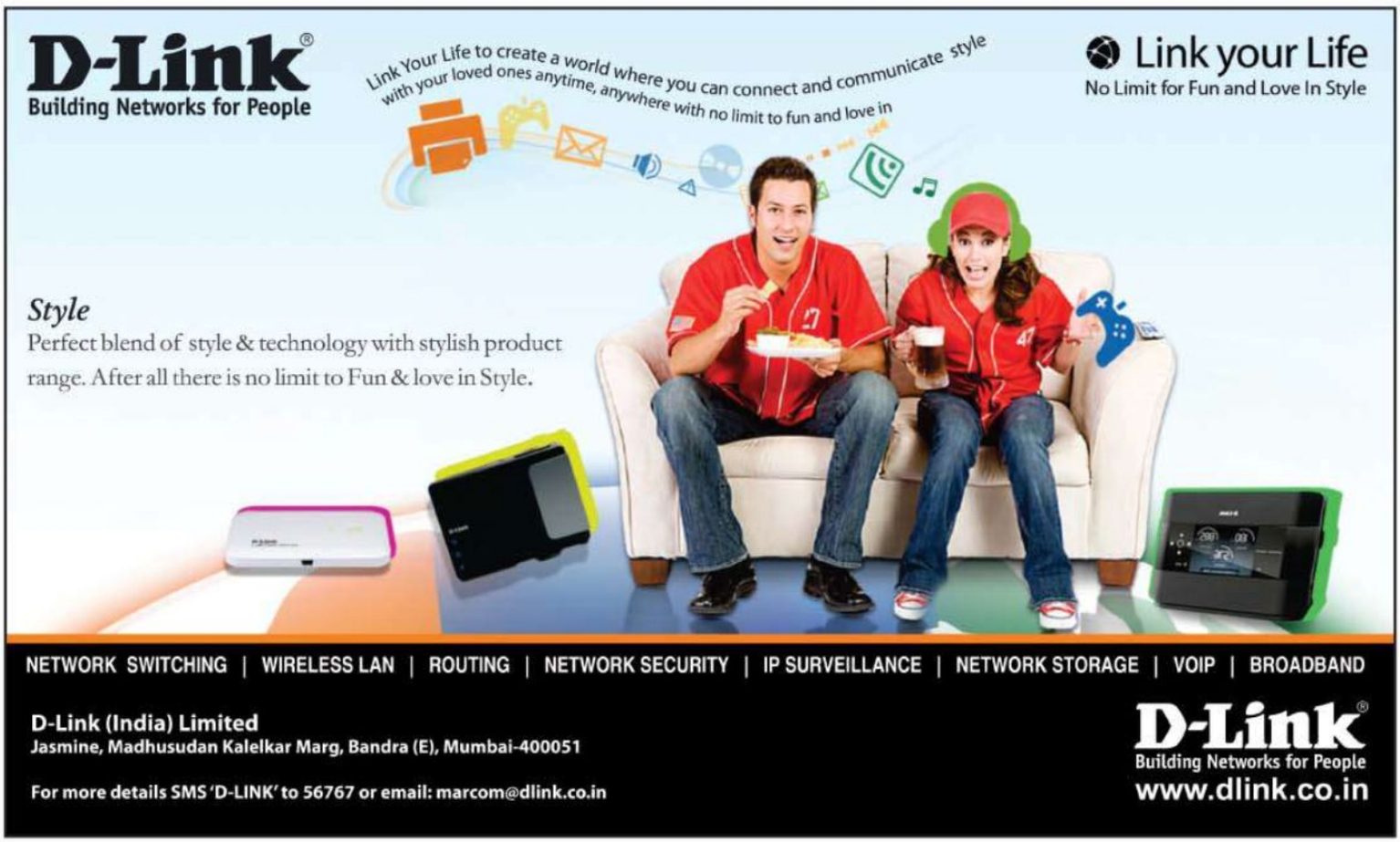
WE SAY

Easy to install, decent wireless performance

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

DETAILS

Contact: Linksys India
Buy: www.linksysbycisco.com



More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

SMARTPHONE

LG P500 Optimus One

Android entry from LG after a long time

With the launch of the latest version of Android - Gingerbread around the corner, one cannot help but wonder why manufacturers still choose to work with Eclair (2.1). LG P500 Optimus One, employs the latest version of Android 2.2 – Froyo.

This sleek, compact model houses a responsive, 3.2-inch HVGA touch screen, bordered by four easy to access keys. The narrow power and volume rocker buttons add to the look, but may prove to be a hindrance for users with large hands. As with the other Android phones, the Optimus One connects to various Google web services, as well as your Gmail contacts. Also present is Google Goggles, a visual search engine, that helps translate text, book covers, posters etc. by simply clicking pictures of the same.

Froyo adds voice control (only in English, for now) that allows you to access features without touching the screen. Internet connections can also be shared with other devices, via wireless tethering.

Although ordinary looking, the widgets present on the home screen are efficient. A special mention, for the AppAdvisor application, that enables convenient selection from the offered applications. In spite of these attributes, the Optimus One seems to take a back-seat, when pitted against HTC and Samsung.

Its raw touch screen layout seems unpolished, in comparison to that of the other two brands.

On the performance front, the LG P500 is a decent device, capable of handling multi-tasking. The multimedia output, is satisfactory. However, the weakest link of this phone, despite the macro and face-detection options, is its 3 mega pixel camera. Fitted with an autofocus option, but no flash, it hunts for focus in low- light conditions. The result is, low quality images. The Video recording also patchy and not HD.

On the whole, the LG P500 Optimus One is recommended if you want to get on to the Android bandwagon, while on a limited budget. Available in Black and Gray.

WE SAY

Nice screen, Android 2.2, Average camera

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

DETAILS

Contact: LG India
Buy: www.lg.com/in

MapmyIndia
www.mapmyindia.com
INDIA'S BEST MAPS & GPS NAVI-TAINMENT EXPERIENCE!
Range starts ₹ 7,990/- onwards.
Now! with Door to Door Navigation
MAPMYINDIA
Travel with confidence!
First time in India!
Door-to-door navigation to house addresses in 13 cities & 3 million places
Find nearby places like ATMs, restaurants, offices, apartments, petrol pumps etc.
Navigate at street level in 902 cities and reach 5,76,000 towns & villages
Turn-by-turn voice instructions to your destination in English, Hindi and 7 other local Indian languages
Traveling abroad? Get international maps on your MapmyIndia Navigator
Intelligent, super-fast, predictive search with auto-correction of spellings
Movies, music, bluetooth & reverse camera for your in-car entertainment & connectivity
No subscription or data charges. No downloads.
Available at 600 car showrooms, car accessories outlets & electronics stores across India, including:
GM TOYOTA FIAT Ford Mahindra
MARUTI SUZUKI TATA CARNATION CARPLUS
croma landmark JUMBO REDINGTON Authorized Distributor
PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2010
call: 011-46009999
+91-9999 333 223/4
sms: GPS to 56767

Computer active BUY IT!

SOFTWARE

Nuance Dragon Naturally Speaking 11 Premium

Speech recognition takes a giant step towards retiring the keyboard

Voice-recognition software has come a long way in recent years, and in order to put Dragon NaturallySpeaking 11 to the ultimate test we decided to use the software to dictate this review.

The initial setup process takes 30 minutes, but it's time well spent. Users are required to go through a set of steps including creating a user profile, which asks you to input your name, age range and whether you have an accent or not. Microphone sound quality is then checked and the final stage of the setup involves training NaturallySpeaking 11 to understand your voice.

Nuance's claim that it can be trained in under four minutes has merit, but users are advised to spend as much time as possible training the software as this will save frustration further down the line. However, for those who simply can't wait to get cracking, it is possible to continue training after the initial installation; accuracy can then be improved at a later date.

Training is carried out by the user reading passages of text out loud. There are many passages to chose from, including John F. Kennedy's inaugural speech and lines from Alice in Wonderland. A headset is included in the box and comes with an adjustable microphone. It has a snug fit, which is important considering it will be heavily used.

When dictating this review, the accuracy of the Dragon NaturallySpeaking 11 programme was quite astounding. Nuance claims a 99 per cent accuracy rate, and while we wouldn't go quite this far, it's very impressive.

The success of the software was always going to be judged by how mistakes are corrected. Thankfully corrections are easy to make and the more the software is used, the less likely it is to make the same mistakes. It is possible to correct a word by saying 'correct' followed by the erroneous word. The correct word can then be repeated or the user can choose from the alternatives displayed by the software. Additionally users can choose dictate the word letter-by-letter with the 'spell that' command; this also helps the software learn new words and is particularly useful when users want to add names of people and places. When a word needs to be corrected but appears multiple times in the text, NaturallySpeaking neatly numbers all the words and asks the user to choose appropriate one.

As well as speeding up the creation of documents, it is also possible to issue commands, such as 'save the file', 'print the file' and 'open/close document', as well as carry out common tasks in Microsoft Word such as copying and pasting.

A handy quick reference card resource is supplied with the software and lists a number of sample commands. It is a good idea to keep this close at hand while getting used to the software.

Another great feature is that the application is capable of reading back dictated work, in your own voice. This aids proof-reading since if there are any errors you have your original dictation recording to remind you what the correct word should be.

As well as dictating documents in full, the user can initiate commands including sending e-mails and dictating status updates. Browser windows can also be opened by saying a command such as "start Firefox".

Surfing the internet is particularly impressive using the software. It is possible to enter the web address and navigate to a site without having to touch the mouse or keyboard by using commands such as 'click' and then the link, or saying a URL followed by 'go there'. If the software was to be used in conjunction with a laptop possessing a touchscreen, it could make using the internet a much more intuitive experience.

As the software can be synced with Microsoft Outlook, Gmail, Mozilla Thunderbird and Lotus Notes programs, it will be an asset to administration tasks. Subject fields, recipients and the body of the text can all be inputted by voice alone.The ability to compose emails quickly and send them without touching a keyboard will no doubt help business users save time by helping overcome a backlog of emails quickly, for example.

All the more impressive is the fact that the software is compatible with the majority of applications on the market today. These include Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, as well as the previously-mentioned email clients.

We do have a few gripes, though. New users will always have to set up a unique profile, so the Nuance application can't be described as pick-up-and-dictate software. Somewhat unsurprisingly, the software is also guilty of hogging system resources as well.

We ran it on a Windows 7 laptop with a dual-core processor, and when the setup detected that we did not have 4GB of RAM it informed us that the software 'may not perform as well as expected'. However the speed of the dictation was still impressive, despite the test laptop only having 1GB of RAM.

There was occasional lag and, when dictating this review, the program was the most resource-heavy application, using up significantly more memory than a Firefox window with six active tabs. This could be an obstacle for enterprise users who are looking to run the software on a relatively low-powered computer, simply because the system might not be able to handle its heavy demands.

Nuance is clearly trying to bring speech recognition into the mainstream; it has been promoting the software in adverts on television and has also released two applications for the iPhone.

If you're new to voice recognition, it will feel strange at first. However, it doesn't take long to get used to and it helped us to dictate this review (well over 1,000 words) in no time at all.

Overall this is a great tool that is highly addictive. We recommend it to users who are considering making the move to dictation, and also to those who may have had bad experiences with previous versions. There are some issues with the software, but they're relatively minor.

WE SAY

Quick, accurate, compatible, with multiple program

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

DETAILS

Contact: Nuance India
Buy: www.nuance.com

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

PIXMA

Canon

Delighting You Always

PIXMA CELEBRATION Time

Buy a PIXMA All-In-One Printer and get a

Giordano Watch worth Rs. 3850/- Free*

Offer valid from 1st October to 31st December 2010 or till stocks last.

Eligible Models

Photo All-in-One Printers **MP258 MP287 MP496 MP497 MP558 MP568 MP648 MP996 MG5270 MG6170 MG8170**

Business All-in-One Printers **MX328 MX347 MX357 MX876 MX7600**

***Conditions apply. For the free watch please visit www.pixmatime.com**

The final gift may vary from the image shown above

Call Canon at 1800 180 3366 / 39010101, E-mail: csp.marketing@canon.co.in or log on to www.canon.co.in

CANON INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED, 2nd Floor, Tower A&B, Cyber Greens, DLF Phase III, Gurgaon 122002 • Ph : +91-124-4160000

Jargon Buster

Techno babble demystified...

Analogue Signal whose value varies continuously over time. For example, when a person speaks, the sound wave is an analogue signal, varying smoothly as they talk. Analogue signal information differs from digital signals, which move sharply between fixed values. To help visualise this, consider the difference between an analogue watch face with sweeping hands and a digital watch display, which jumps from one number to the next.

Animated GIF Stands for Graphics Interchange Format, a popular file format for storing graphic images, often for use on websites. An animated GIF is simply a string of these images, creating the illusion of moving pictures when played back.

Annotation A comment or mark added to an image or a document, much like sticking a Post-it note on an office memo to highlight a point of interest.

Attachment A computer file, such as a word-processor document or spreadsheet, sent along with an email message.

Bluetooth A technology that allows devices (computers, phones, printers, etc.) to communicate with each other wirelessly.

Boot disk A disk containing the operating system components essential for getting a PC up and running. Usually, the boot disk is the computer's hard disk but in times of strife, a suitably-prepared floppy disk can be used to kick-start a PC.

NOTEBOOK

ASUS G53J

Let the games begin!

ASUS G53J is the successor to ASUS ROG's exciting current model G51J. The G53J is not just a regular upgrade, it is an impressive monster of a laptop.

We eagerly unboxed our review piece and marvelled at this notebook. Solidly built, the rubberised matte black lid sports a metallic silver ASUS logo and an engraved ROG logo adding class to its looks.

This mean machine has a 15.6in LED backlit display. The chiclet style full size keyboard feels great with a decent touchpad quality. A Blu-Ray drive and 2 USB ports are placed on the left while the right side is occupied by 2 more USB ports, 1 HDMI, VGA, mic-in and speaker out ports. The multi card reader and the status LED's are located on the front.

As expected, the configuration is top notch. Intel's HM55 chipset powered by an Intel Core i7 720 QM CPU bundled with an 8 GB memory, two 750 GB hard drives, an Nvidia GTX 460 GPU and a 3D-ready 15.6-inch screen (1366 x 768). What more can one ask for? Although, we felt slightly let down by the screen resolution, 1920x1080 would have made it a killer HD monster. For 3D gaming, NVidia's gaming goggles are included.

On the performance front, G53J is a clear winner. We played popular games like F1 2011, Batman Arkham Asylum and FIFA in 3D and the effect was magical. No lag, no bleeds and no interlacing occurred during the session. The HD experience was also satisfactory . Our reference Hi-Def Blu Ray videos played superbly. The sound effects were also adequate. During synthetic benchmarking using 3D mark 07, the laptop scored a decent 7108.

Few minor niggles that we had with this laptop were the cheap plastic around the keyboard as well as the proximity of the charging connector to the USB port. The charger is also quite heavy to lug around. Although the price may seem a little high, you should not mind shelling out extra cash for this gaming laptop .

WE SAY

Rugged, killer look, awesome 3D performance

OVERALL: ★★★★★

DETAILS

Contact: Asus India
Buy: http://in.asus.com

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Festival,

the season of Gifts

imagine

Atria
Inorbit
Mariplex

gets you an opportunity to win fabulous gifts

No purchase, No invioce, No payment

JUST VISIT...

Ed Hardy By Christian Audigier ICING
Cygnett
Klipsch
CAPDASE
Edifier
KOSS
SENNHEISER
Targus
speck best case scenario
and many more...

Validity till Gift last

*conditions apply

RSG Infotech Pvt. Ltd.

306, Atria Mall, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai 18 Tel: 67363501/2
F-58, Level 1, Inorbit Mall, Link Road, Malad (W), Mumbai 64 Tel: 42680900
21, Level 1, Mariplex Mall, Kalyani Nagar, Pune 411 014 Tel: 020 27034082/3
info@imaginestore.in | www.imaginestore.in

rsg

Jargon Buster

Techno babble demystified...

GSM (Global System for Mobile communications) The digital mobile phone system used in the UK and many other countries.

Interface In the context of software, the ëlook and feel' of a program, such as its buttons, menus and windows. In hardware terms, it usually refers to a physical connection, like a parallel printer interface.

Internet An global network that links millions of computers, using phone and cable links. Users connect to server computers, which act rather like a local phone exchange. A modem connects your PC to the server from home, allowing you to become part of the internet.

LCD (liquid-crystal display) Technology used to create low-power, slim display panels. Used in everything from digital watches to flat-screen monitors.

LED Light Emitting Diode. A low-power electronic device that emits light when an electric current is passed through it.

Mb (megabyte) A measurement of storage capacity, usually for computer memory. 1Mb is equal to 1,024Kb (kilobytes).

MHz (Megahertz) A measure of how fast the processor in your PC works ñ 800MHz Pentium III, for example. As a rule of thumb, the higher the number the faster a PC will be.

NOTEBOOK

Lenovo Idepad Y560

Classy multi media performance

To say that the Lenovo Y560 is a classy laptop, wouldn't be an exaggeration. The matte finish of its plastic body contains small reflective elements, which accentuate the looks when viewed at certain angles. A delicate bronze band bordering the cover, enhances what otherwise would appear as a dull brown-black desert. The hinge is sturdy and holds the cover quite firmly.

Two USB, HDMI, ethernet, VGA, mic in and speaker out slots are located on the left, while a USB, eSATA ExpressCard34 slots and the optical drive are on the right. The multi card reader is located on the front. The ExpressCard34 slot can be used to upgrade to a FireWire or USB 3.0 or a 7.2 audio output if required. .

The keyboard consists of tightly packed classical keys with minimal space between them. The directional keys are offset to achieve better access. Typing on this keyboard is a pleasure. The Synaptics TouchPad (V7.4) is a modern multi-touch pad with multiple features like pinch to zoom, two finger scroll etc. There is also a horizontal and a vertical scrollbar (unmarked) to the right and underside of the pads. The mouse pad has a large area.

The 15.6in display supports a maximum resolution of 1366 x 768 pixels (16:9). The processor is Intel's Core i7 CPU Q740 @ 1.73 GHz with 4GB memory and 500GB of storage. ATI Mobility Radeon HD 5730 with 1GB of memory does graphic duties.

The Intel Core i7-720QM has 6 MB of level 3 cache and the TDP is 45 watts. This CPU is one of the highest-performing processors currently. It has the dynamic overclocking Turbo Boost feature, which is automatically activated. The applications in use determines the number of cores required. Therefore it does not matter to Core i7-i5 CPUs if a program uses single or multiple cores.

Speakers play an important role in games and entertainment. The Y560 features powerful JBL stereo speakers, placed just above the keyboard. The sound is enhanced by good bass, enriching games and music.

Lenovo has created an amalgamation of quality features and the best hardware to create the 15.6-inch Lenovo Y560. All these work together resulting in a great performance and make the Lenove Y560 a must-buy.

DETAILS

Contact: Lenovo India
Buy: www.lenovo.com/in/en

WE SAY

Great sound, good in HD but average battery life

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

SCANNER

Digitek Handyscan

Handy portable scanner

Scanning is an essential part of digitization. A scanner helps to create a digital version of documents and images. As mostly they are desktop models, it is not very easy to carry them around. This is not the case any more, Digitek has a solution.

The Digitek Handyscan is a wand like unit that allows you to scan almost anything. The handyscan is comfortable to use and is less than a foot long. The matte finish ensures protection from fingerprints and smudges. The raised AA battery compartment is finished silver giving a premium look. The micro USB port on side allows transfer of images, directly to your computer.

On the top there is a miniscule screen along with a setting button. To setup the device, insert batteries and the micro SD card and turn the power on. Choose the required options of colour or monochrome and the definition. The Handyscan can scan in two definitions- 600 DPI (Dot per Inch) and 300 DPI. Before starting the scan, you need to calibrate the device to achieve optimum results.

The power button is positioned above the battery compartment and doubles as a Start scan button. After calibrating, the Handyscan is relatively simple to use. To scan, press the button once and move the scanner over the object. In our test, we scanned an A4 document in 7(monochrome) and 15 (Colour) seconds respectively in 600 DPI mode. In 300 DPI mode it took 3.5 and 2 seconds in colour and monochrome respectively.

The icing on the cake is that the Handyscan not only scans documents, it can also scan walls, curtains, bedsheets etc. The output of the device is satisfactory, although the price may seem a bit steep, but given its quality and utility, the Handyscan is an nifty device.

WE SAY

Unusual form factor, a handy device enabling scanning of different objects

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

DETAILS

Contact: IMS India
Buy: www.imsmercantiles.in

Jargon Buster

Techno babble demystified...

NetMeeting A software program developed by Microsoft and available free of charge. Allows you to talk and share data with other computer users over the internet; either audio only or, if you've a camera, visually.

Operating system A crucial piece of software which is so important that it loads automatically when you switch on a computer. Windows 98, 2000 and XP are operating systems, as is Mac OSX, Linux, and Palm OS5 (for the Palm handheld computer) Operating systems govern the way the hardware and software components in a computer work together.

PC Card A credit card-size device for adding anything from a modem to a hard drive to a notebook PC. Requires a PC Card slot (standard on almost all notebooks).

PCI Peripheral Component Interconnect. A high-performance expansion slot for desktop PCs, allowing simple installation of PCI components like sound cards and modems.

PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) A palmtop computer about the size of a pocket calculator. Usually without a keyboard and with a touch-sensitive screen, it will use text recognition for data entry. Most PDAs are supplied with contact management, diary and memo software, while many can access the internet and download email using a mobile phone or normal phone line.

NOTEBOOK

HTC Sense interface upgrade

Hands-on with the extra services and functionality on HTC handsets

HTC unveiled the Desire HD and Z devices and the latest version of the critically acclaimed HTC Sense user interface recently.

The company has taken the basic Android platform and given it an interface that provides an unparalleled user experience. HTC has now added extra services that it hopes will appeal to business users.

The most prominent feature is HTCSense.com, which allows users to remotely manage, control, back up and customise their HTC HD or Z from a PC. The features bear more than a passing resemblance to those offered by the BlackBerry Protect security app launched by RIM in early July but this is no bad thing. HTC is hoping that the features will help to attract more business users to its brand.

Impressively, if a Desire HD or Z owner leaves their device at home, for example, they can send and receive text messages via the site at no charge. Users can also set the phone to divert calls to any other number until it is retrieved. This is an excellent feature that will save consumers and businesses a lot of aggravation, and ensure that important calls or messages are not missed.

If a Desire HD or Z is lost, its location can be shown on the internet via GPS. Users can also trigger the device to ring loudly, if for example it is lost somewhere inside their house, even if the device has been set to silent. The handset can be locked and all content can be erased remotely, while all data can be synchronised from the cloud to a new handset. A message can be displayed on the device if it is lost so that anyone who finds it can ring a number pre-determined by the owner.

Users with multiple email accounts can have all messages sent to one inbox, which is another useful business feature.

All the familiar features (such as the seven customisable home screens) remain, but little additions make all the difference. A small but important addition is the 'leap view', which allows users to quickly rearrange the order of their home screens by pinching the display and moving the panels around. When users press and hold widgets, the option to 'edit' now appears alongside the ability to remove the app. These are context sensitive so not all widgets can currently be edited.

The navigation experience has also been altered for the better. HTC owners can download maps for cities for free. These maps are then cached, so there is no roaming charge when abroad and no loading times when zooming in and out of the map itself.

Interestingly, the latest HTC devices come with an e-reader function, and books can be purchased from Kobo. Users are also able to annotate and highlight text within the books, which is another useful function blurring the lines between smartphones and dedicated e-readers.

The Desire HD is also capable of sending video to any DLNA-enabled device using the 'Connected Media' app. Music, video and photos can be streamed to a PC, laptop or TV wirelessly or via cable.

It is unclear when the latest HTC Sense user interface will be available for existing handsets. The manufacturer is determining which of its current models have the technical specifications to support the upgrade.

WE SAY

The latest iteration of HTC Sense is impressive, and shows that the manufacturer is not resting on its laurels. The creation of HTCSense.com in particular is going to provide business users with peace of mind as information is backed up securely.

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation »»

Buy a Toshiba laptop, get a chance to play with Sachin. Also win 1000 exciting prizes.

The experience of a lifetime is here. Now, just don't buy the best but play with the best.
To participate in the BOWL TO SACHIN lucky draw*, log on to *www.toshiba-india.com/bowl* and register.
So, buy a legend, bowl to the legend & win exciting prizes.

***** PRIZES TO BE WON *****

Tanishq
Gold vouchers

For more information
Log on to www.toshiba-india.com/bowl
or call: 1800-200-8674 / 1800-11-8674

*Offer valid for purchases between 1st October 2010 to 31st January 2011. Terms & conditions apply.

OFFICE SUITE

Microsoft Office for Mac 2011

Plenty of new features and the welcome return of some old ones

In comparison with the 550D, this model appears to be more substantial with regard to feel and density. The grip is strong, with a solid rubber exterior.

New versions of Microsoft Office always arrive with a long list of tempting new features in their wake. But for many users (business users in particular) the most welcome aspect of Office for Mac 2011 will be the return of two old favourites. The Mac version of Outlook Express was jettisoned back in 2001 and replaced by an entirely new email program called Entourage.

Microsoft spent several years fine-tuning features such as Entourage's support for Exchange Server, but it was never really on a par with Outlook in the corporate environment and even struggled with relatively simple tasks such as importing emails stored in Outlook .pst files.

So Microsoft has gone back to the drawing board for Office 2011 and abandoned Entourage altogether, replacing it with a completely new Mac version of Outlook. Existing Entourage users may find the new Outlook's interface a little more cluttered, especially when working with new features such as the 'conversation' view that groups email threads together so that you can easily follow the course of an email conversation.

However, business users will be happy that the Mac and Windows versions of Outlook can now work together on equal terms, and that the Mac version can even import .pst files at long last.

We were also pleased to see that we were able to smoothly import all our existing Entourage emails, contacts and calendar info with no problems at all, although the fact that the Office 2011 installer doesn't remove earlier versions of Office could cause a little confusion if you forget to delete the previous version yourself. We also found it leaves a hell of a mess in your Microsoft User Data folder as you end up with two sets of files and sub-folders for the two versions of Office.

The business focus of the new Outlook is further emphasised by the fact that it's not included in the Home and Student Edition of Office 2011 , and is only available in the more expensive Home And Business Edition, which costs more.

The other returning feature is Visual Basic for Applications (VBA). This had been available in previous versions of Office for Mac, but was unceremoniously dropped from the last version in 2008, apparently because Microsoft couldn't finish it in time. This was a real problem for many business users who used VBA to create customised macros for use in their organisations, and suddenly found that their macros no longer worked with Office for Mac. For these users, the return of VBA alone might well be enough to make Office 2011 a must-have upgrade.

Microsoft also says that it has fine-tuned the file compatibility of the Mac and Windows versions of Office to ensure that even complex macros and spreadsheet features will work equally well on both platforms.This improved cross-platform file compatibility extends to other types of documents as well, such as Word or PowerPoint documents containing complex page-layout elements.

In fact for business users it's this focus on cross-platform compatibility that will probably be the most important aspect of Office for Mac 2011, more so perhaps than any of the individual new features found within Word, Excel or PowerPoint (there's still no Mac version of Access).

In addition to the return of Outlook and VBA, Mac users also gain the ability to collaborate more closely with colleagues using Office 2010 for Windows. New co-authoring features mean that users of Word and PowerPoint (but not Excel, for some reason) can simultaneously edit documents, monitoring each other's changes and even exchange messages without having to leave the application.

Most business users will probably be ready to upgrade at this point, yet we've scarcely even mentioned the new features found in the individual Office applications.

The key addition here is the arrival on the Mac of the infamous 'ribbon'. Like its Windows counterpart, the ribbon toolbar is a common feature in all the main Office applications, creating a consistent interface design across applications and platforms. Some Mac users will grit their teeth at the sight of the ribbon, seeing it as an attempt to corrupt Office for Mac and make it more like its Windows counterpart. In truth, though, the ribbon is really just an extension of the Elements Gallery that was introduced in Office for Mac 2008, so it's hardly a jarring break with interface continuity.

Another eye-catching feature is 'dynamic reordering' which provides a 3D view of the layers within Word and PowerPoint documents (similar to the Flip 3D view in Windows 7).

This makes it easy to organise complex page layouts containing multiple elements on different layers. PowerPoint also gains the ability to broadcast presentations across the internet, while Excel's new 'sparklines' feature makes it easy to quickly create graphs that illustrate small sections within a larger collection of data.

Word gets a nice new full-screen viewing mode, and there are improved graphics tools available across all three applications. Overall performance also seems improved, with all the Office applications running very smoothly even on a modest 1.8GHz MacBook laptop.

Some Mac purists may feel that interface changes such as the introduction of the ribbon dilute the essential 'Mac-ness' of the suite but, if integration into the corporate environment is important for your organisation, Office for Mac 2011 will be a most welcome upgrade.

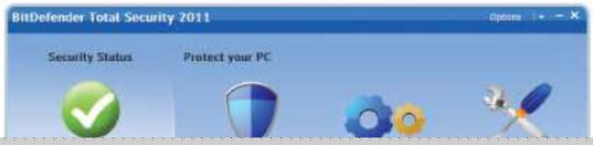
WE SAY

A little less Mac-like than previous versions, but Office 2011 compensates for this with improved cross-platform compatibility and collaboration features for business users.

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

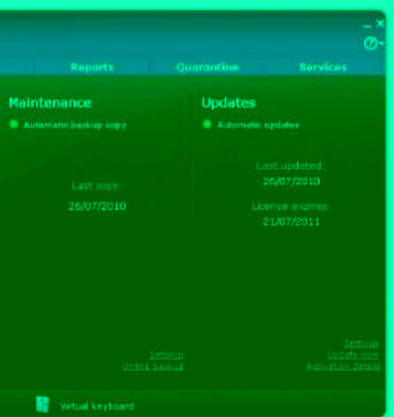
More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com



Scans are fast and core system security seems to be extremely effective at detecting and blocking or removing threats, with regular updates ensuring the software is constantly refreshed. Our only real issue here is that while the

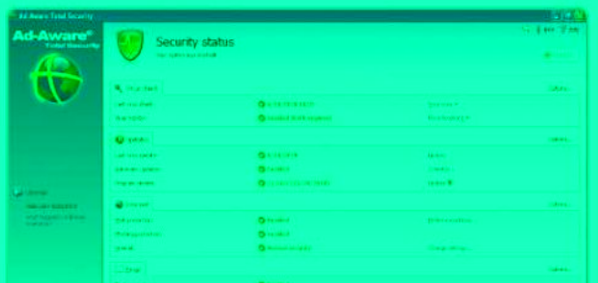
Protection 2011

ed its 'Cloud' anti-virus solution earlier
irst step for the company in the freeware
elatively new form of protection called
ce', which recruits a community of its
instant protection against new threats.
tection 2011 brings this technology to
tools, which includes a range of
d improvements.
-in virtual keyboard to help protect
nvolve logging keystrokes on a
browser allows you to view websites,
ge that malicious content will not find its
er, a gaming mode prevents
game sessions and file encryption and
letion) adds extra peace of mind for
ut the safety of important data.
ed together nicely into a clean interface
to key tools such as the firewall, anti-
protection, anti-spam and one-click
em vulnerabilities means it's easy to
tection.
ludes backup tools that can be scheduled
days of the week, optimization in the
d disk defragmentation and parental
rotect children from unsuitable content
nternet. All of this is easily accessible
er straightforward configuration that
s or those new to security software.



spy ware detection and removal, Lavasoft also makes some all-round home security software. Ad-Aware Free continues, though, and the latest version also includes protection from viruses.

Total Security is more complete, with extra security features such as a firewall and protection from phishing attacks. The anti-virus component is more advanced compared with the free version – it includes removal of rootkits and behaviour-based scanning. The latter, also known as heuristic scanning, helps protect users from new viruses by constantly monitoring the computer for suspicious behaviour. The main screen provides a breakdown of the different parts, with alerts for anything that needs attention. It's not quite as welcoming as other security programs we have seen and you will need to spend time exploring the advanced options.



The backup utility was fiddly to use, especially when it came to accessing the 1GB of online storage space that is included with the software. There is also a Tuner section that attempts to speed up the computer and protect your web browsing.It also defragments the computer's hard disks and looks for items such as invalid shortcuts. Setting it up was not particularly user-friendly (you are simply presented with a long list of options and checkboxes), but it did let us undo any actions we made.

Ad-aware Total Security requires 1.5GB of free hard disk space, which is pretty big for a security suite. Kaspersky Pure needs 375MB, and Norton 360 just 300MB. Despite its size, there wasn't a noticeable impact on performance after installing the software on our test computer.

Two graphs at the bottom-left of the main screen let you keep an eye on exactly how much demand Ad-Aware Total Security is placing on your computer. One shows total system activity and the other indicates how much of this is down to Ad-Aware.

Other features include parental control settings, data recovery and a tool to securely delete sensitive files. Ad-aware Total Security certainly covers all bases, but although the main

Panda Globa

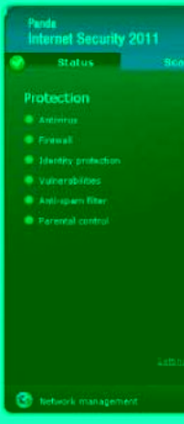
When Panda relea
this year it was the
market, utilising a
'collective intellig
users to help deliv

Panda Global P
its headline suite o
additional tweaks

As well as a bui
against threats tha
keyboard, a virtua
safe in the knowle
way to your comp
interruptions durin
shedding (secure d
those concerned al

All of this is wo
that includes acces
virus scans, identit
tools to scan for sy
ensure sufficient p

The suite also in
for specific times
form of clean-up a
control features to
when browsing the
and the majority o
would suit beginn



security settings were easy to setup, some of the other features weren't.

Kaspersky Internet Security 2011

Every summer we see a new crop of computer security suites, of which several are usually named after the year to come. Kaspersky Internet Security (KIS) 2010 might have a predictable name, then, but it has some interesting tricks up its sleeve.

It includes all the options you'd expect, with a Scan My Computer section offering Full and Quick scans and regular updates to keep you safe from the latest nasties.

The Application Control module gives programs that it knows are safe, such as Firefox, free access to your PC while blocking or limiting the access given to ones that are not trusted. Programs are assigned to a one of the four trust levels automatically.

The biggest addition to this version of KIS, however, is the Safe Run tool. This uses a technology called sandboxing to run programs in a safe environment where they cannot harm Windows. Programs running in Safe Run mode are marked with a glowing green border, and KIS can be set so that certain programs are always launched in this special mode. We put it to the test by entering Safe Run and attacking Windows by deleting folders and parts of the Windows registry. On exiting Safe Run all the real copy of Windows was intact and unharmed.

Another neat feature is the Vulnerability Scan, which looks for security problems with Windows or any other software that might be exploited. We were impressed by how it presented potential security issues in Windows alongside a simple Fix Me button.

So far so good, but KIS 2010 won't be ideal for everybody. Although it does a good job of concealing most of the complicated technology it uses, the suite can sometimes be too complex.

Digital Identity Protection, for example, is listed alongside the handy Safe Run feature, but clicking its only option, Settings, opens a dialogue box that will baffle most computer users. If you want comprehensive PC security with loads of clever tools and advanced features, KIS 2010 is a great choice. Those who want simplicity above all else should look elsewhere.

o

AVG Internet Security Business Edition 2011

AVG is one of the latest security software vendors to harness cloud technologies. Its 2011 products incorporate the snappily named People-Powered Protection to gather malware data from connected users worldwide and process this to provide a rapid response to new threats.

The AVG Internet Security Business Edition 2011 package offers a centrally managed solution suitable for five to 200 PCs (Windows only) and throws in Exchange server and file server protection for good measure.

The key component is the remote administration tool, which can be installed on any networked workstation and allows full management of remote AVG clients via an agent installed on each PC.

Installation proved very easy, and intelligently chosen defaults allowed us simply to press 'Next' through most of the wizard. A Firebird database is provided, or you can use SQL Server, SQL Server 2005 Express or Oracle 10g/11g.

A Lite version can be used that just installs an update proxy server and allows basic installation scripts to be created. Database and update server roles can be divided between different systems if needed to provide a degree of load sharing.

Client PC information can be imported from Active Directory during install. The admin console can install (or update) AVG remotely, or create scripted network installs, both of which can be configured with a simple wizard. All client components and settings can be chosen from a list.

The console is fairly easy to understand even for less technical users, and includes comprehensive client status plus quick links to common help topics. Remote tasks such as forced updates, rollbacks or reboots can be selected from a list.

A good range of predefined HTML graphical reports is included but, although there's a comprehensive list of report parameters to choose from, the template layouts can't be modified.

On the client side, the interface has had a makeover compared to previous AVG versions. It's a lot clearer, with simple scan and update buttons in the left pane, but still shows links to each individual security module.

A new 'Fix' button gives one-click troubleshooting for modules reporting errors. Optionally, Windows 7 PCs can install a sidebar widget to start scans and updates, plus links to AVG's assorted social networking sites.

For web protection there's also an optional AVG browser toolbar plus a Link Scanner that also links with browsers and MSN, ICQ and Yahoo instant messaging clients.

The AVG Firewall replaces the Windows firewall, and profiles can be controlled from the notification area applet.

Scanning priority can be set to adjust automatically depending on user activity, reducing annoying slowdowns. We found this to work well, and AVG services used well under 100MB of RAM in normal running.

ESET Internet Security 2011

ESET Internet security has always been a leading choice among the vast options available for Internet Security software. The earlier version of this software earned good reviews from its users.

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

nce

nd management
support

Administrator 4 to

eset

your digital worlds

ESET Smart Security 4

Fast, Effective protection with Antivirus,
Antispyware, Personal firewall & Antispam

- Time-tested perform
- High scanning speed
- Flexible deployment
- Professional technica

ESET NOD32 Antivirus & ESET Smart Security Business edition comes with **ESET Remote** control thousands of endpoints from a single console.

For more information contact:
ESS Software Distribution & Consulting (P) Ltd
Ph no: +91-22-66049999; +91-22-66049900
Email: sales@esetindia.com | www.esetindia.com

we protect

The installation of this package was a cakewalk and it took about a minute to complete this process. We were not required to restart our system after the installation.

The interface is organized and enables efficient use. The default mode for this program is standard, making it simple for general users. Although the options are limited in this mode, it is sufficient for normal use. Whereas, in the Advanced mode the options grant you more control over the software.

The ThreatSense technology protects your system from new viruses, without requiring setting up a manual scan for the system.

The actual scan proceeds at a slow pace. In the test, it detected a few malware and viruses missed by majority of other suites. We do hope that ESET increases the speed of its scan process in the future versions.

The installation size of the software is 148MB and it consumes 58 MB of memory space. This software adds less than 7 second to the boot time, which is lower than other antivirus suites.

Overall NOD32 is a fairly simple program to work with. The performance remains top notch. The only aspect where it comes second to the toppers on this list:Norton & Kaspersky is scan time.

Escan Internet Security 2011

MicroWorld Technologies has been a part of the Internet Security segment, for quite sometime. Its latest version of Internet Security has upgraded protection and interface. The user interface has been upgraded from the earlier version. The suite contains a full version of the anti virus along with Firewall, Anti-Spam, Privacy Control, Web and mail protection.

The software is easy to install and the start up is immediate. When you pop in the CD, a splash window opens, giving you options. You can scan the entire system without installing the software. The installation takes a few clicks and

roughly around 5-7 minutes.

Once installed, like any other internet suite, a small icon is placed on the taskbar for easy access. The main window has been radically altered, compared to the previous edition. The main window features three buttons- scan, update and tools. Seven 3D icons are lined up at bottom for easy access to File anti-virus, Mail anti-virus, Anti-spam, Web protection, Firewall, Endpoint security and Privacy control.

The web protection protects from sites that could be harmful to your computer. The Mail anti-virus takes care of all your incoming mails and ensures your system is immune to phishing. The main scanning section allows you to scan your internal as well as optical and external drives, separately.

The option that impressed us the most is the Firewall system. Compared to the previous version, there has been a marked improvement. Now the firewall is able to protect all the ports

The Privacy control as well as Endpoint Security function smoothly. Overall, Escan Internet security is an adequate security package available at a reasonable cost.

Norton Internet Security 2011

The 2010 edition of Norton Internet Security introduced an important new feature called 'reputation-based monitoring', which allowed it to identify potential new threats by

SECURITY SUITES COMPARED

MANUFACTURER	MICROWORLD	PANDA	LAVASOFT	KASPERSKY
Model	Escan Internet Security 2011	Global Protection 2011	Ad-Aware Total Security	Internet Security 2011
Anti-Virus	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anti-Spyware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anti-Phising	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anti-Spam	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parental Control	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Identity Protection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intrusion Protection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Standard Subscription	1 Year	1 Year	1 year	1 Year
Autommatic Updates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scheduled Scans	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rating	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

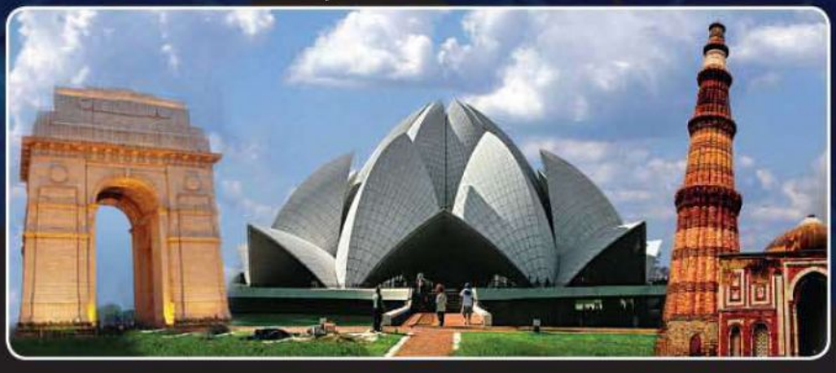
World's 3rd Largest Exhibition of Photographic Equipment & Accessories...

Photofair 2011

DIGITAL CAMERAS, PRINTERS, SCANNERS, DIGITAL LABS, ALBUMS,
IMAGING SERVICES, STORAGE DEVICES, FRAMES, ACCESSORIES.

6th to 9th January 2011, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

ONE FAIR, ONE CITY



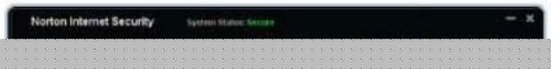
BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

Organised By:

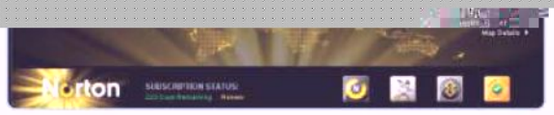
ALL INDIA PHOTOGRAPHIC TRADE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION™
C-6, First Floor, Taj Building, 210, Dr. D.N. Road,
Fort, Mumbai - 400 001, India.
Tel.: +91 22 2207 6201 / Fax: +91 22 2207 6202
Email: photofair@aiptia.org Website: www.aiptia.org

Co-Organised By:

ASIAN Photography AND IMAGING | Better Photography INDIA'S NO.1 PHOTOGRAPHY MAGAZINE | smart PHOTOGRAPHY INDIA'S NUMBER 1 IMAGING MAGAZINE!



comparing files fo



This new 2011 edition doesn't offer any major new features, but does refine existing features for better protection and performance. The reputation system has been fine-tuned in this version, as has the Insight feature, so that it now monitors all new files that you might download onto your computer using a web browser, email or instant-messaging programs.

Norton's maker Symantec says these security features tend to be quite conservative when scanning a computer, as they don't want to produce any 'false positives' in which a perfectly normal file is incorrectly identified as a possible threat. The program can now also protect those people who don't bother to buy security software until after their PC has already been hit by a virus or some other attacking program. In that case there's a new Power Eraser tool that can be downloaded and which performs a really aggressive scan in order to blitz any files that look even remotely suspicious.

Symantec is also still aware of the reputation Norton products have had in the past for being 'big, fat and slow' (their words, not ours), so they've also concentrated on improving performance so the Internet Security software doesn't slow the computer down while it's running. Norton reckons on scanning times being over 50 per cent faster, and the program takes up almost 50 per cent less memory while running. We certainly didn't notice any problems with our test PC's performance and were able to continue working normally while it ran scans in the background.

As before, Norton Internet Security 2011 includes a number of additional security features to protect users online, such as parental controls to monitor kids' online activities and protection for personal details such as credit card numbers. If you don't want these extra features and just prefer to focus on

Conclusion

There are many reasons to buy an Internet security suite. For many, it's simply a case of thinking 'I'd better have some sort of protection' without any real understanding of the threats.

Others will have specific requirements: you may want a firewall that protects without becoming intrusive, or perhaps you want to control your employees' or children's surfing habits or just take control of spam email. Whatever your reasons, you'll want a product that's well integrated and easy enough to use without creating a pile of extra work.

We found it tough to choose an overall winner. The strong but basic features of AVG are complemented by an aggressive price tag, but we felt better integration of its components is required before it becomes an ideal purchase.

ESET's Internet Security offers a better anti-spam utility but is let down by its scan time. However, it does include a large number of features. EScan's 2011 Internet Security is a solid performer with robust security protection against unknown malware and a good balance of features. It shields the novice user well from confusing details, while providing key information in a clear manner.

The two most expensive packages in this round-up also turn out to be the best. Our Recommended award goes to Symantec Norton Internet Security 2011. Its comprehensive feature set goes hand in hand with excellent usability. Without confusing the user with too much information, the Norton Protection Center provides easy access not only to all the many features, but also to online information in a clear and concise manner.

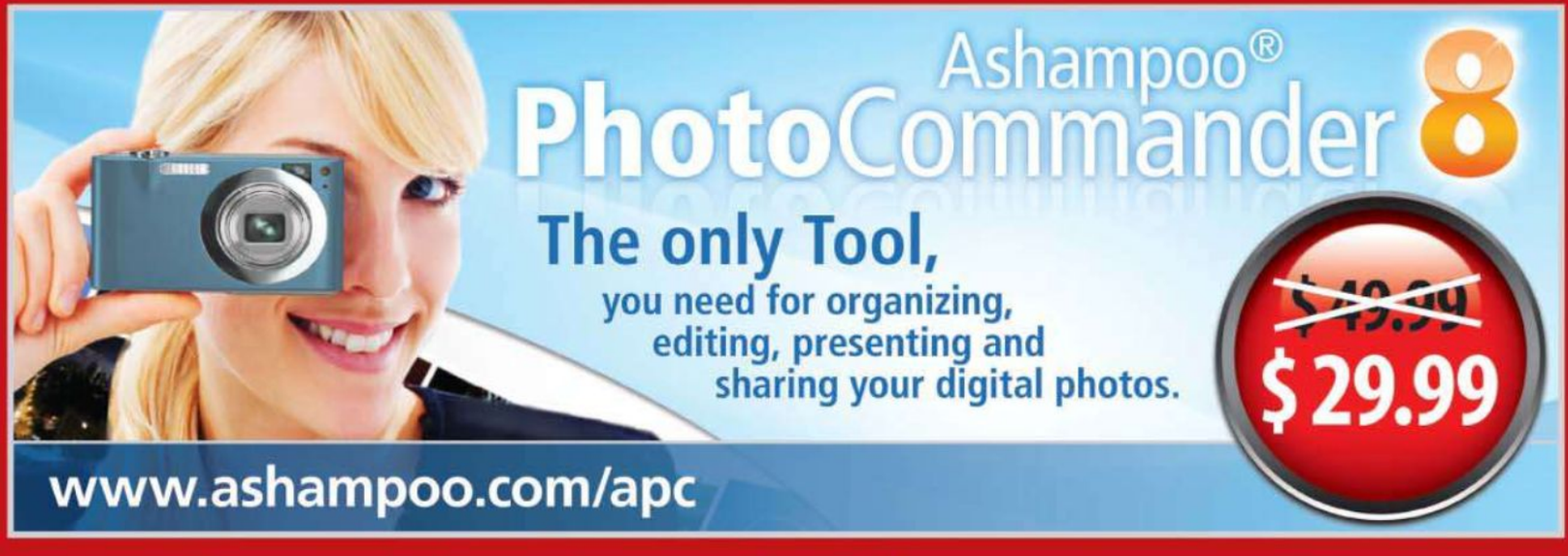
Kaspersky also has a robust anti-virus engine and an enhanced interface, it is a coherent package with significant extra features. So it is our second choice for the Recommended award.

SECURITY SUITES COMPARED

MANUFACTURER	AVG	ESET	MICROSOFT	NORTON
Model	Internet Security 2011	Internet Security 2011	Security Essentials	Internet Security 2011
Anti-Virus	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anti-Spyware	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anti-Phising	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anti-Spam	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parental Control	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Identity Protection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intrusion Protection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Standard Subscription	1 Year	1 Year	NA	1 Year
Autommatic Updates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scheduled Scans	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes
Rating	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Buy the three ultimate Ashampoo programs for a special price now!



For more information on other Ashampoo programs go to:

www.ashampoo.com

50 easy PC fixes

We solve 50 of the most common computer problems experienced by our readers

It's a sad fact but computers and problems tend to go hand-in-hand. Thankfully, though, there is always help available. Each issue our No Problem pages help tackle real PC troubles experienced by readers. And to celebrate the success of No Problem, in this special issue we have collected 50 of the most common computer problems and divided them up into seven categories - as well as rounding up a few of the most common myths we receive in our No Problem email inbox.andsettingthosestraight.So. whether your copy of Windows is misbehaving or your computer needs some hardware-related help, you should find the answer here.

WindowsXP

1: Reinstalling XP on a new disk

Q) A while ago I bought a working second-hand computer with Windows XP installed on it. The hard disk has since broken so I need to buy a new one. Can I reinstall Windows XP by borrowing a friend's installation CD? I do not have the original CD but the computer has a sticker with my licence number on it.

A) When Windows comes preinstalled on a computer without installation discs, it's known as OEM (original equipment manufacturer) software, which restricts you to only using that copy of Windows on the PC it came with. Changing the hard disk doesn't constitute an entirely new computer, so you can use the code from the sticker to re-install Windows onto a new hard disk as long as it is in the original computer. However, you may have to reactivate the software before it will work.

2: UAC windows keeps appearing

Q) I run Windows XP Professional and for added security I use a Limited User Account when I connect to the internet. The connection is set to automatically disconnect after 20 minutes of inactivity. I would like to change this but only an Administrator can make the change. If! log in as an Administrator, it only changes

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

the options for that account. How can I change the setting for the limited user?

A) Windows XP has a special function for this task. When you start a program to connect to the internet, right-click the icon rather than left-clicking it. Click the 'Run as .. .' option, select the 'The following user' option and choose Administrator account from the dropdown menu. Enter the password and click OK. The program will start with the rights of an Administrator account. This only works if the Administrator account has a password.

3: Disk Check screen keeps appearing

Q) My Windows XP computer regularly shows a Disk Check screen that reports many problems including 'broken links' and 'truncated files'. It says it has fixed the errors but the message keeps appearing. I have tried running chkdsk.exe from the Run option in the Start menu but although it tells me problems were found, it won't fix them.

A) The chkdsk program will only report on errors, not fix them, unless you explicitly tell it otherwise. An easier alternative is to check the disk from within Windows Explorer. Click on the Start button and then My Computer. Right-click on Local Disk (C:) and then left-click Properties. Within the Tools tab, click Check Now. In the window that appears, select both options and click Start. If problems continue, it may be time to buy a new hard disk. Back up all important files and buy a new disk as soon as possible.

4: Password reset in XP

Q) I have forgotten my Windows XP password and now cannot get past the login screen. Is there any way to retrieve it?

A) Most XP computers have no password on the Administrator account, so you may be able to use this to change your user account password. First, turn the computer off and start it in Safe Mode by switching it on and pressing F5 before the Windows logo appears. In the menu that appears, select Safe Mode. When the login screen appears there should be an extra icon labelled Administrator. Click on this and wait for the Windows desktop to load. Now click Start, Control Panel and then User Accounts. Select your account and then click 'Change the password'. To prevent losing the password again, follow our Workshop on creating a password USB memory key at ***www.computeractive.co.uk/2207873***.

5: A website is appearing on my desktop

Q) I have a web page showing on my desktop with scroll bars on the side. It is attached to the desktop and is not in a browser window. Is there a way to get rid of it?

A) This is caused by a part of Windows XP that works like a basic version of the Gadgets feature in Windows 7 and Vista. Essentially, it lets you display a web page on your desktop. Web pages

Jargon Buster

Techno babble demystified...

- **32-bit** Most home PC are 32-bit but some newer models are 64-bit.
- **64-bitA** 64-bit computer, when used with a compatible 64-bit operating system, can work with more memory than a standard model, which is useful for some applications.
- **Administrator** A user with permission to change how a PC works.
- **ADSL** Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line. A technology that converts an ordinary household telephone line into a fast internet connection.
- **Anti-virus** Software that detects, repairs, cleans or removes virus-infected files from a computer.
- **Bittorrent** File-sharing software that enables

option. In the System section, the entry that is labelled '64-bit capable' will tell you whether your PC's processor can handle Windows 7 64-bit. Before upgrading, it's also advisable to check whether 64-bit drivers are available for the rest of your hardware (your printer, graphics card, scanner and so on). The vast majority of modern hardware has compatible 64-bit drivers, but there are some products that only support 32-bit. If you are unsure, check the manufacturer websites. Alternatively, visit Microsoft's compatibility

A) Windows Vista's User Account Control (UAC) system does serve a useful purpose: it's designed to warn you every time a program wants authorisation to change the system. The fact that Microsoft toned it down in Windows 7, though, suggests that even the company itself realised that the feature was annoying. To disable it in Windows Vista open the Control Panel and clock Add or Remove user accounts. Select an account, then click 'Go to the main User Accounts page' and t

nt of time spent waiting for
ndows Vista is set to go
alled Sleep when the
change this, click on the
ol Panel. Click on the
itle and then on 'Power
ge plan settings' link under
ally Balanced) and then
ver settings'. Now locate
ntry and expand it by
ow change how the
your PC work, as well as
imply choose the
then select Shut Down
enu.

ystem menu keeps

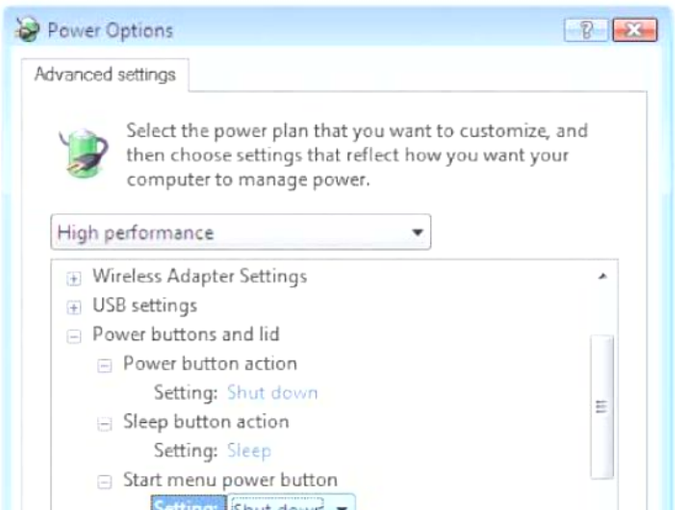
to Vista, I left my original
in case I wanted to go
atically appears when I
e 30 seconds to choose
a. This was useful at first
l using XP it's now more of
an I disable this operating

nge the boot settings
ng Start, right-clicking
lecting Advanced System
m Properties window that
Advanced tab and click the
'Startup and Recovery'
w will appear with a
l installed operating
dows Vista from this list,
from the 'Time to display
ms' box. Click OK to save

educes the time it takes to load commonly used programs by pre-emptively loading them into memory. Soon after the feature was announced, rumours started spreading that if you tweak XP's Registry the same feature can be enabled, thereby speeding up load times. Sadly, this is just a myth. XP has no Superfetch feature and we would advise against making changes to the Registry to try to add one.

8: Stop Windows warning message

Q) Since moving from Windows XP to Vista I have been plagued by an annoying pop-up message called 'User Account Control' that asks me to confirm decisions I have just made. Can I get rid of it once and for all?



▲ The action ofthe Start menu's power button can be changed

something wrong?

A) To help reduce the amo
the computer to start up, W
into a power-saving mode
power button is clicked. T
Start button and then Cont
'System and Maintenance'
options'. Click on the 'Cha
the active power mode (us
click 'Change advanced po
the 'Power buttons and lid
double-clicking. You can
physical power buttons on
the one in the Start menu.
appropriate entry ar
from the dropdown

11: Operating
appearing

Q) When I upgrade
XP installation intac
back. A menu auton
start my PC, giving
between XP and Vis
but since I've stopp
an annoyance. How
system menu?

A) It's possible to cl
within Vista by click
Computer and then
Settings. In the Syst
appears, click on th
Settings button in th
section. A new win
dropdown menu of
systems. Choose W
then remove the tick
list of operating sys
the new setting.

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Windows?

12: Disappearing windows

Q) At seemingly random intervals, all my open windows disappear leaving a view of the empty desktop. I can see outlines of the windows but they are all transparent. Only a quick shake of the mouse brings them back into view. Can you explain this?

A) It sounds like you are accidentally activating the 'Peek at desktop' feature within Windows 7. At the very bottom right of the desktop you will see a small, rectangular button. If you click on it, it works in the same way as the 'Show desktop' button in Vista and XP. If you hover the mouse over without clicking all open windows become transparent, revealing the desktop. To disable this feature, right-click the button and then click on the 'Peek at desktop' option to remove the tick.

▲ Acronis True Image backs up complete hard disks; it can also store incremental changes

13: Auto-arranging windows

Q) Whenever I move a window to the edge of the screen in Windows 7, it suddenly changes shape to occupy half the desktop. Why does it do this and how can I stop it from happening?

A) This is a new feature of Windows 7 called Snap and is designed to make it easier to view two documents side-by-side. In previous versions of Windows, you would need to manually resize them, but in Windows 7 you can simply drag each window to either side of the desktop and they will be resized automatically. If you don't like this, it can be turned offby clicking Start, Control Panel and then Ease of Access. Now click the Ease of Access Center link and scroll down to the 'Make the mouse easier to use' link and click on it. Finally, place a tick in the 'Prevent windows from being automatically arranged .. .' box and click OK.

14: UAC annoyance

Q) I have several programs in Windows 7 that, when

a useful reminder that you should

be careful with a program. However, if you are really determined to avoid the UAC message, and as long as you are using an administrator account, it can be disabled. Right-click on the shortcut for the application and left-click Properties. Click on the Compatibility tab and then click in the box labelled 'Run this program as an administrator'. Click on OK to save the changes. You will still need to confirm the program in UAC if you are logged in as a standard user.

15: Taskbarbuttons

Q) In XP, I had the Taskbar set up so that it wouldn't group similar open programs together. I have now switched to Windows 7 but can't find the 'Group similar taskbar buttons' option. Is it possible to disable the grouping feature in Windows 7?

A) The grouping feature can be disabled, although it's a slightly different process compared to XP. Right-click the Start button in Windows 7 and select the Properties option. Within the Taskbar tab, there is a dropdown menu next to the label 'Taskbar buttons'. To stop similar buttons being grouped together, click the dropdown menu and select 'Never combine'. Since the Taskbar is likely to have lots of buttons displayed on it, you might also want to reduce the size of the buttons by placing a tick in the 'use small icons' box.

16: Homegroup won't work

Q) I upgraded to Windo

devices on networks. It has been created because the old

something more

Jargon Buster

Techno babble demystified...

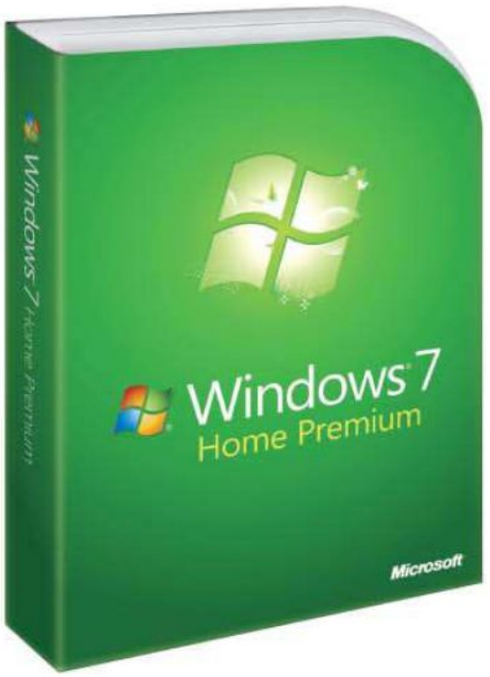
- **Driver** A program that allows Windows to communicate with a peripheral device.
- **Dropdown menu** A list of options that appears when you click a menu bar.
- **Dual core** When two processors are combined in a single chip.
- **DVD+ R** A standard for DVDs that can be recorded to but only once.
- **DVD-R** A type of recordable DVD that can have data recorded to it once only.
- **Encrypt** To scramble data so it can only be read by the sender and authorised recipient.
- **File sharing** Swapping files with other people over the internet.
- **Graphics card** The part of a PC that displays the image you see on a computer's monitor.
- **Hard disk** A high-capacity disk fitted in PCS and used to store programs and files.
- **Homegroups** A simple network setup using Windows 7.
- **Icon** A small image used to identify a file or

system (IPv4) is running out of addresses. It should be set up in Windows 7 but it is easy to enable if it has been disabled. Click on the Start button, type network and sharing center and press Enter. Click on the blue text in the Connections section. This should say something like 'Wireless network connection'. Click on the Properties button and tick the box called 'Internet Protocol Version 6 (TCP/IPv6)'. Finally click on OK and then Close.

17: Get the quick launch back

Q) I recently upgraded to Windows 7 and am generally enjoying it, but one feature I really miss is the Quick Launch section on the Taskbar. Is there any way to get this back?

A) Microsoft decided to drop the Quick Launch bar in Windows 7, but you will be pleased to hear it is possible to resurrect it. First, right-click the mouse on an empty area of the Taskbar and, in the window that appears, click Toolbars and select New Toolbar. Now carefully type the following text into the dialogue box that appears: %userprofile% \AppData\Roaming\ Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch. The Quick Launch bar will now appear just to the left of the clock but in order to view it properly it needs to be moved to the left side of the Taskbar. Right-click the Taskbar and make sure there's no tick next to the Lock Taskbar option (if there is a tick, simply click to remove it). Now drag the Quick Launch section to the desired location.



18:CHEAP WINDOWS7?

Q) I wantto upgrade to Windows 7 as cheaply as possible and have heard there are Starter and Home Basic versions but I can't find them for sale. Where can I buy these and how much do they cost?

A) Sadly, neither the Starter nor Home Basic versions of Windows 7 can be bought in all countries. Home Basic is only sold in only a few countries, while the Starter ed ition is only available preinstalled on low-powered computers such as netbooks. The cheapest version of Windows 7 that is available to customers is Home Premium.

Hardware

19: The wrong router

Q) I've been given a wireless-N router but can't find a way to attach it to my phone line. MyoId router had a phone input that worked fine but although this router has a port labelled WAN, it's too big for the cable from my telephone socket. Is there an adapter I can buy for this?

A) It sounds like you have been given a router that's designed for use with a cable broadband service. If your old router worked by connecting the phone line directly to it, you have what's known as an ADSL broadband service, which is provided over the phone line. If you want to use this new router, you will need to purchase a separate ADSL modem; the phone line will plug direct into this, and a standard network cable will link the modem to the WAN port on the router. However, this isn't ideal as it means having another device that needs to be plugged into a power socket. Instead, it's best to purchase a wireless-N router that's designed for ADSL broadband (these will sometimes be labelled as 'broadband routers'). Contact your ISP, as they may be able to offer you one at a discount if you're willing to sign up for a new fixed-term contract.

20: DVD drive won't open

Q) My computer's DVD drive has jammed shut - no matter how many times I push the button on the front it just won't open, and there's a disc inside. How can I get it open?

A) Almost all DVD drives have a small hole at the front that acts as a quick-release for the drive. To use this, insert a small object (a straightened paper clip is perfect) into the hole and push firmly. The drive door should now pop open a small amount, allowing you to pull the tray out and retrieve the disc. If you have to do this repeatedly, though, the drive is probably malfunctioning: if so, a replacement is often inexpensive.

21: PC MYTH -TWICE AS FAST

Q) I'm thinking of buying a new computer. If I opt for a computer with a dual-core processor, will it be twice as fast as one with a single-core processor running at the same speed?

A) In theory, a dual-core processor has the potential to be almost twice as fast as a single-core model; the fact the two cores need to communicate with each other means it can't quite double the speed. Similarly, a quad-core processor has the potential to be nearly four-times as fast. However, the reality is very different since a lot of software isn't designed to use two or more cores efficiently or even at all. Multicore processors can boost general Windows performance, though, particularly if you want to run tasks such as scanning with an anti-virus tool while doing something else. So, although multi-core processors are generally faster than their single-core counterparts, you shouldn't expect to double speeds with a dual-core nor quadruple them with a quad-core.

22: Bluetooth upgrade

Q) I regularly synchronise the calendar on my mobile

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Small to leave the adapter permanently Bluetooth connected to your laptop

phone with my laptop using the USB cable that came with the phone. I've noticed a Bluetooth option within the software that allows this to be done wirelessly, but I'm pretty sure the laptop doesn't have Bluetooth. How can I tell if my laptop has Bluetooth and, if it doesn't, can I upgrade it?

A) To find out if your laptop has Bluetooth, click Start then right-click Computer (or My Computer in XP). Click Device Manager (this is under the Hardware tab in XP) and locate the Network Adapters entry. Double-click this entry to expand it. If your laptop has Bluetooth the adapter will be listed here. If it's not listed, you'll need to purchase a separate USB Bluetooth adapter. If you plan Small to leave the adapter permanently Bluetooth connected to your laptop, it's best adapters are to go for one of the smaller models perfectfo

keyboard, mouse and display without continually unplugging and connecting them?

A) The best method is to purchase something called a KVM switch, which is a small box that sits between your PCs and a single keyboard, mouse and display. Using a button on the switch, it's possible to quickly switch between PCs.

25: Laptop battery getting worse

Q) My laptop is nearly five years old and I have noticed that the battery life is nothing like what it used to be. Is this normal for laptop batteries and is there anything I can do about it?

A) Laptop batteries, like all types of battery, have a limited lifespan and will deteriorate over time. If you have used your laptop frequently over the past five years, it's not surprising that the battery life has noticeably decreased. There's very little you can do to return the battery to its former glory but you can take steps to reduce your laptop's power requirements. Wireless networking places a big strain on the battery, so it's a good idea to switch it off when not in use (there's usually a shortcut on the keyboard to do this). Similarly, reducing the screen's brightness can help. Replacement batteries are available but they are expensive and you will need one specifically designed for your laptop; contact your laptop's manufacturer for more information.

Jargon Buster

Techno babble demystified...

- **ISP** Internet Service Provider. A company that provides you with an internet connection.
- **KVM** switch Connects the same keyboard, mouse and monitor to two PCs.
- **Mbits/sec** Megabits per second. A measure of data transfer speed.
- **Memory** The computer's temporary storage area, measured in megabytes (MB).
- **Memory key** A thumbsized USB storage device.
- **Modem** A device that enables two computers to communicate over a telephone line.
- **Operating system** Governs the way hardware and software components in a computer work together.
- **PDF** Portable Document Format. A file format that allows pages oftext and graphics to be viewed and printed correctly on any PC.
- **Peer-to-peer** A way to connect two or more computers without a central file server so they can share and swap files.

Nvidia sticker on the laptop.

e to head is Nvidia's website at .Click on the Download Drivers link ing screen under Option 2, click the s button. The website will then scan ct the exact model of the graphics card rivers accordingly. It's worth bearing in hat the os aren't suited ames so don't ey run slowly . For laptops hics, visit com instead.

multiple

mputers and eyboards, two plays on the ay to use one

A KVM switch lets you control multiple pes using a single keyboard, monitor and mouse

A) Office 2007 does offer imperial measurements. To change, simply click on the Office button in the top-left corner and then on Word options. Click on Advanced in the left-hand column and the scroll down to the Display section. Look for the option called 'Show measurements in units of and change Centimetres to Inches. Now click on OK, and the ruler will change to show inches instead of centimetres.

27: Can't open Office files

Q) I have had problems opening Office documents since installing Service Pack 3. Some of the files open without issue but some older ones won't.

A) The most likely culprit is the Office

A) The best pla *www.nvidia.co* and, in the resu Graphics Drive your laptop, de and update the mind, however, majority oflapt to the latest 3D be surprised if t or even not at a that use ATI gra http://game.am

24: Control PCs

Q) I have two c that means two mice and two d desk. Is there a

2003 Service Pack. For security reasons, Office 2003 Service Pack 3 stopped Office from opening some older file types. A full list of affected file types can be found at the Microsoft Support website at www.snipca.com/x1821. This page also lists instructions for accessing these affected file types, with links to updates that will enable Office to open the files.

28: PC MYTH-WORD 2007 WOES

Q) I am contemplating upgrading to Microsoft Office 2007 but I have heard it uses a new .docx file format for documents. Since many people I know are still using Office 2003, am I right in thinking they won't be able to open the documents I create?

A) Microsoft Office 2007 does use a different file format for documents. However, the good news is that owners of earlier editions, such as Office 2003, can install Microsoft's Compatibility Pack, which allows them to open documents saved using the new .docx format. Furthermore, although .docx is the default file format for Word 2007, it's possible to change this so that it defaults to saving all documents in the old .doc format. To do this, click on the Office icon in the top-left corner and then click on Word Options at the bottom. Click on Save to show all the settings related to saving files. Where it says 'Save files in this format', click the dropdown menu and select Word 97-2003 ('.doc) from the list. Finally, click OK.

29: Editing the dictionary

Q) When writing a document in Word 2003 I mistakenly instructed it to add a misspelled word to the dictionary. Now, every time I misspell the word in a similar fashion, Word ignores it in the spell check. How can I remove this bad entry from the dictionary?

A) This is a common problem but thankfully editing the dictionary isn't tricky. Whenever you add words to the dictionary, they are included in what's called the custom dictionary. To edit this, open Word, click Tools and then Options. Select the Spelling & Grammar tab and click the 'Custom Dictionaries .. .' button. Make sure the Custom.dic file is highlighted and then click the Modify button. You will now see a list of all manually added words. Scroll down the list to find the misspelled word, highlight it and then click the Delete button.

30: Print a single-page spreadsheet

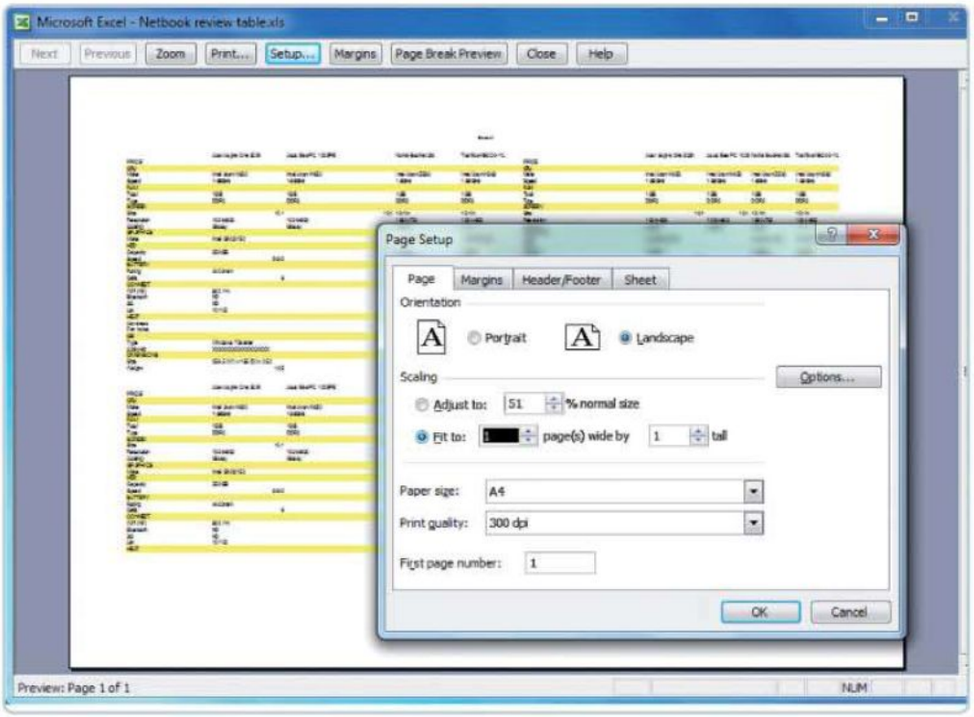
Q) I have created a reasonably large spreadsheet in Excel 2003 that I want to print. However, no matter how I resize the cells I can't get it to fit on a single printed page. Is there any way to fix this?

A) Thankfully, Excel includes a handy tool that lets you fit any size of spreadsheet onto a single page. To use it, click File, then Page Setup. Make sure the Page tab is selected, then click on the 'Fit to' radio button and make sure it's set to one page wide by one page tall. Click OK and then print the spreadsheet as normal. Beware, though, as in order to fit a large spreadsheet onto a single page, Excel will need to reduce the text size - if the spreadsheet is large enough it may become illegible.

31: Converting PDFs

Q) I have received an email with a PDF file attached. I need to edit the file but my word processor refuses to open it. All I can do is view the document using Adobe Acrobat Reader. Is there any way to force my word processor to open the file?

A) PDF files are designed to be viewed in Adobe Acrobat, so opening them in Word isn't possible. However, all is not lost as it is possible to convert a PDF file to a standard .doc file. One of the easiest ways is to use the free PDF to Word service at ***www.pdftoword.com***. Simply select the PDF file, choose whether you want it in .doc or . rtf format (most word processors will be able to open both),



▲ Large spreadsheets in Excel can be shrunk to fit a single printed page

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

▲ Convert PDF files to editable documents using this free online service

then enter the email address where you want the converted document to be sent and click Convert.

Other software

32: Forgotten Thunderbird password

Q) I have upgraded from the Thunderbird 2 email program to Thunderbird 3 but can't access my email because I have forgotten my password. Thunderbird 2 didn't ask for my password so I never learned it. I have tried all the combinations I can think of. Is there any way of retrieving the password?

A) If you still have your copy of Thunderbird 2, it is quite a simple job to retrieve the password. Click on the Tools menu and then on Options. Click on the Privacy tab and then on the Edit Saved Password buttons. If you do not still have Thunderbird 2, your only option is to contact the company that supplies your email address. You will have to identify yourself but it should be a fairly simple process for them to reset the password and you won't lose any email as a consequence.

33: Switching anti-virus package

Q) I tried installing some new security software but decided to stop the installation when it asked me to first uninstall my current anti-virus package. Since there are so many viruses out there, will I leave myself open to attack during the time between uninstalling myoId software and installing the new one?

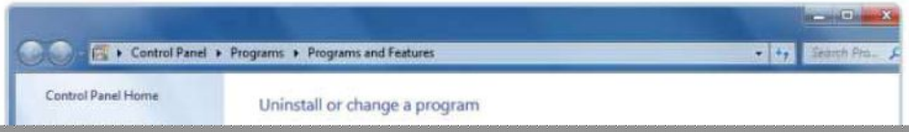
A) You are right in saying your PC will be open to attack during this period but as long as you install the new software as soon as the uninstall process on the old software has finished you should be fine. If you want to be extra careful, download the installation file for the new software and then disconnect your computer from the internet by turning your router off. Once you have installed the new software, switch the router back on again.

34: Program won't uninstall

Q) In an attempt to speed up my computer, I have been uninstalling applications I no longer use. Annoyingly, there are a few programs listed in XP's Add/Remove Programs window that won't uninstall and instead bring up an error message. I have located the relevant folders within the Programs folder and am tempted to simply delete them. Is that advisable?

A) Although deleting the folders will free up disk space, most programs have associated files in other folders as well as entries in the Registry. As a result, deleting a program's folders can result in error messages.

Uninstall errors are usually the result of missing files or a corrupt instal



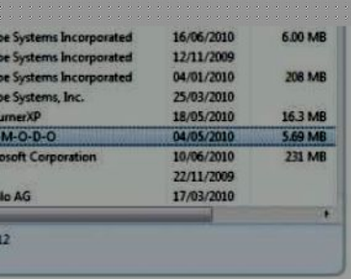
again. If it still fails, contact the developer of the software as it could be a known issue with an appropriate fix.

programs.

Shortcut A file that acts as a link to something else, such as a program file or disk drive.

35: PC MYTH-NO MORE FREE AVG?

Q) When checking the status of my AVG Free



▲ Speed up startup times by uninstalling any unused programs

Jargon Buster

Techno babble demystified...

Powerline A type of network that uses home power cables.

Processor The chip that is the 'brain' ofthe computer. The faster the processor, the better the PC performs.

Quad core A computer that has four processors on a single chip, which allows it to operate faster than standard (single-core) computers.

Quick Lau nch An area of the Taskbar where frequently used programs can be launched easily by clicking on an icon.

Registry A file integrated into Windows that stores information on all hardware and software installed on your PC.

Router A device used to connect more than one computer or other device to the internet.

RTF Rich Text Format. A type of documentfile.

software I saw a notification that there is a new version now available. However, upon clicking this link I was directed to a website that only appeared to have a paid-for version available. I had heard rumours that AVG Free was being discontinued, has it finally happened?

A) AVG Free is a popular anti-virus utility and we have heard nothing to suggest it's being discontinued.

However, these rumours often circulate, and the company that develops AVG Free is understandably keen to move people onto the commercial versions of its software.

To getthe free version of the software visit ***http://free.avg.com***.

36: Slow startup

Q) Is there any reason why my PC takes so long to start up? I often have to wait a good 10 minutes from switching it on before I can use Windows.

A) There could be many reasons for this but one of the most likely is that a large number of programs are all being loaded at startup. The best first step towards remedying this is to uninstall programs you no longer use. To do this in Vista and Windows 7, click Start, type uninstall a program and press Enter. In XP, click Start, Control Panel and then Add/Remove programs. Scan through the list, removing any you no longer use but be careful not to uninstall Windows updates as this may leave your computer vulnerable to attack.

INTERNET

37: Slow sharing speeds

Q) I signed up to a 24M bits/sec broadband service and, although not quite as fast as advertised, I find it downloads files far quicker than myoId 2Mb its/sec service. However, it often takes far longer when it comes to uploading photos to my photo-sharing site. Sending emails with attachments can also be painfully slow. Why is this?

A) When it comes to broadband speeds, the speeds at which you can download files from the web and upload them are often very different. Since most internet activity involves downloading web pages, music and so on, ISPs place more emphasis on this, while offering a far lower upload speed. If you are regularly uploading lots of files, speak to your ISP as they may have a service with a faster upload speed.

38: SnipCA links won't work

Q) I tried to use one of the www.snipca.com addresses given in your magazine but it didn't work. Instead of being directed to the website stated in the article a list of Google search results appeared. How can I get the snipca.com addresses to work?

A) This happens when you type a web address into the search bar within your browser instead of the address bar. In most browsers, the address bar is located at the top of the window on the left side of the window, just to the right of the navigation arrows. The search bar is a similar looking box but sits at the far right of the window . Type the address from the magazine into the address bar rather than the search bar. Alternatively, try holding down the Ctrl key and pressing 'L'. In Internet Explorer, this opens up a separate box into which you can type the web address, while in Firefox it moves the cursor to the address bar ready for you to type. You also must type in the whole address as it is printed in the magazine.

39: Disappearing browser

Q) Something's gone wrong with my Internet Explorer web browser. All the buttons and bars disappeared from the top of the screen, so

▲ If a website suddenly fills the entire screen, press the F11 key on your keyboard

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

although I can surf the web I can't go back or type in a new address. I tried turning the PC off and restarting it but when I started Internet Explorer th

appear in Firefox and the solution is also the same.

40: Spamming myself?

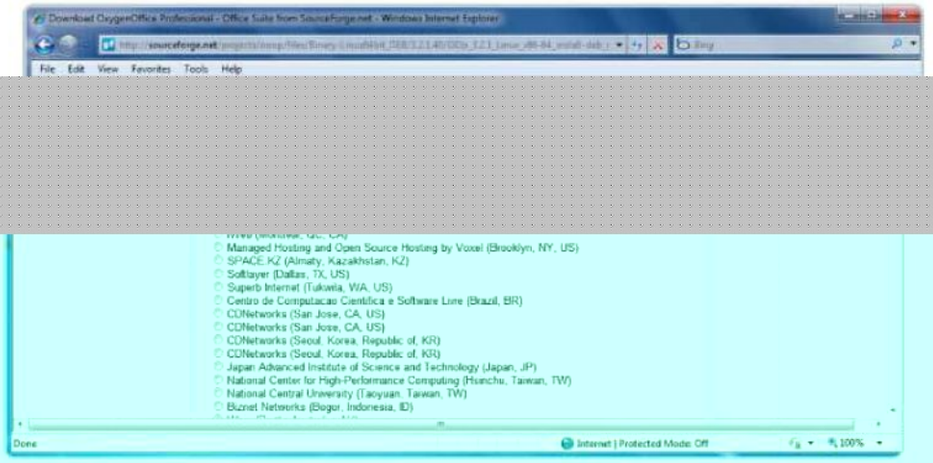
Q) The volume of spam email I receive seems to be increasing. More worryingly, some of the spam appears to be coming from my own email address. Is this something I should be concerned about?

A) Spam email is a big problem and one that isn't likely to go away anytime soon. Receiving spam purporting to be from your email address isn't uncommon, either, but there's no need to be concerned. Often the sender simply fakes your email address in the hope that the email will then bypass your spam filter. Sadly there's little that can be done to prevent this. However, spammers can occasionally break into email accounts (particularly online ones such as Hotmail and Gmail), so if your friends or colleagues receive emails purporting to be from you then change your passwords immediately.

41: Network security

Q) I make sure all computers on my network have anti-virus software installed and that they are always up-to-date. However, I'm worried about the other devices that connect to my network. For example, my son's Wii and Xbox games consoles both access the network but neither have security software installed on them. I use WEP to encrypt my wireless network but is there any way to load security software onto these devices? If not, does using them present a security risk?

A) We haven't seen any reports of security vulnerabilities affecting devices such as the Wii and Xbox, and it's safe to use these without security software. In fact, even if you wanted to install security software on them you would find there isn't any available. Using WEP to encrypt your wireless network, however, isn't particularly secure. Instead, we would recommend using WPA. Almost all modern routers have WPA security built in, and it makes it far harder for any unscrupulous passers-by to access your network without permission. Check the router's manual for details on how to change.



▲ If a website offers download mirrors, pick one closest to you

42: Mirror downloads

Q) I followed a link to a download on the open-source Sourceforge website and saw a message about mirrors. The download seemed to arrive normally but could you explain what mirrors are and whether they can be dangerous?

A) A mirror is a second website offering a file to download that's already available elsewhere, in order to share the work of sharing these files. As long as the site that's advertising the mirror is reputable (such as the Sourceforge site), it's perfectly safe to click on the mirror link. It's often easiest to let the download commence as you did but if it's very slow or doesn't start at all you can try using one of the other mirrors. The location of each mirror is also usually displayed, and it's best to pick the one that's closest to your current location for the quickest download.

43: PC MYTH -IS FILE SHARING ILLEGAL?

Q) I have downloaded the Bittorrent software but have since been told that filesharing is illegal. Have I broken the law?

A) It's a common misconception that peer-topeer (P2P) file-sharing is illegal. P2P has long been used as a way for people to share large files, and has many legal uses. That said, if you download or share copyrighted material (such as commercial DVDs or music) then you most certainly are breaking the law.

As long as you are careful what you download there is absolutely nothing wrong with P2P, though, and simply having a copy of Bittorrent or any other file-sharing application certainly isn't breaking the law.

Burning and media

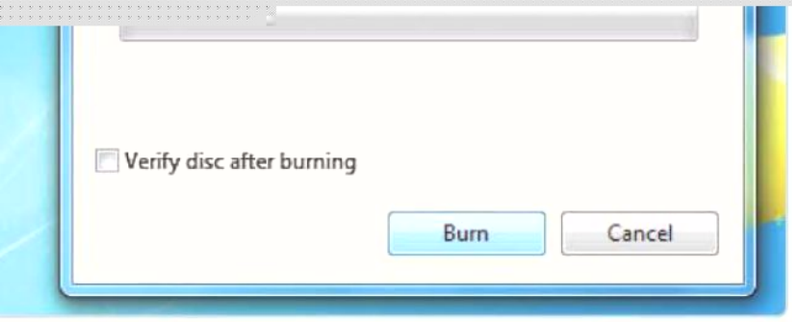
44: DVD won't play

Q) I created a video DVD for a friend but when they try to play it in the DVD player attached to their television nothing happens. It works fine in my DVD player and on both of our PC DVD drives, so I'm guessing that the problem is with his DVD player. Is there a simple solution to fix this?

A) The problem is indeed likely to be with your friend's DVD player. Some DVD players, particularly older ones, will only recognise one type of recordable disc (DVD-R but not DVD+R, perhaps), while others are even more fussy and will turn their noses up at a certain brands of disc. If possible, take a look at the manual for the DVD player as it may specify the formats it will play, or alternatively try looking it up in the online database at www.videohelp.com/dvdplayers. As a last resort, you could try burning the video onto a variety of discs - with a bit of luck, one of them should work and you can make a note of it for future reference.

45: Handling ISO files

Q) I recently downloaded a program but am having problems installing it. Unlike most



▲ Windows 7 comes with its own ISO burning application

n't run. What should I do?
e is a disc image, which means it's a ontents of a data CD or DVD. The idea e the file to create a copy of the original s, you will need a CD-writing application such as Imgburn in order to copy the files to a blank CD or DVD. Windows 7 users will find an ISO burning application built-in double-click the ISO file, choose the appropriate drive (ensuring a blank disc is loaded) and click Burn.

46: Poor-quality video

Q) I use a media-streaming device, connected via my wireless network, to play movies from my computer on my TV. Although most play fine, some regularly break up and become almost unwatchable. The movies play fine on my computer. Is the player to blame?

A) It's more likely that your wireless network is the culprit. Streaming media, particularly movies, requires a fast network connection, and if your wireless network can't provide the speeds required the result will be video that stops and starts. One option would be to connect both the media streamer and the desktop to your router using standard network cables, which should be more than fast enough. Alternatively, fast powerline networking is often a good alternative for this kind of use.

47: Video files won't play

information needed for a moving picture with sound into small files, and there are various methods for doing this. In order to playa video your computer needs to understand the method that is being used, and it gets this information from a file called a co dec. One of the best ways to make sure your computer can play back a wide range of video files is to download the K-Lite Codec Pack.This is a collection of the most commonly used codecs and will allow the vast majority of video files to play in Windows Media Player.

▲ Windows 7

.iso and it w
A) An ISO f
copy of the
is that you u
CD. To do th

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

48: PC MYTH - EVERLASTING CDS?

Q) I have heard people say that you have to be careful how you store CDs and DVDs so as to prolong their life.

However, after recently disposing of my 12-year-old car I found six discs sitting in the CD changer. These must have been exposed to great changes temperatures over a long period of time, and yet all of them still work perfectly.

Is the advice to store discs carefully simply scare mongering?

A) The discs you had in the CD changer were most likely commercial audio discs boughtfrom a shop.

These discs have a thin layer of aluminium film with the audio information 'pressed' into it before it is fixed within the plastic.

This isn'tfeasible for writable discs, so they have a layer of dye instead. This dye is much less stable than aluminium and can therefore easily be damaged if left in high temperatures or light for long periods.

So while shop-bought CDs are generally fairly robust, those you create yourself do need to be stored carefully.

▲ CDs can be repaired using special equipment

49: CD scratches

Q) My computer was having trouble accessing one of my CD-Roms and, on closer inspection, the CD is covered in small scratches. I don't have a backup of it. Is there any way to remove the scratches in order to get the CD working?

A) The answer is: it depends how bad the scratches are. A good first step is to use a soft, lint-free cloth to carefully clean the disc. Don't use a circular motion when cleaning; instead slowly wipe outwards from the centre of the disc. If this doesn't work and you are desperate to get the CD working again you could try using a special disc repairing kit.

50: CD burning errors

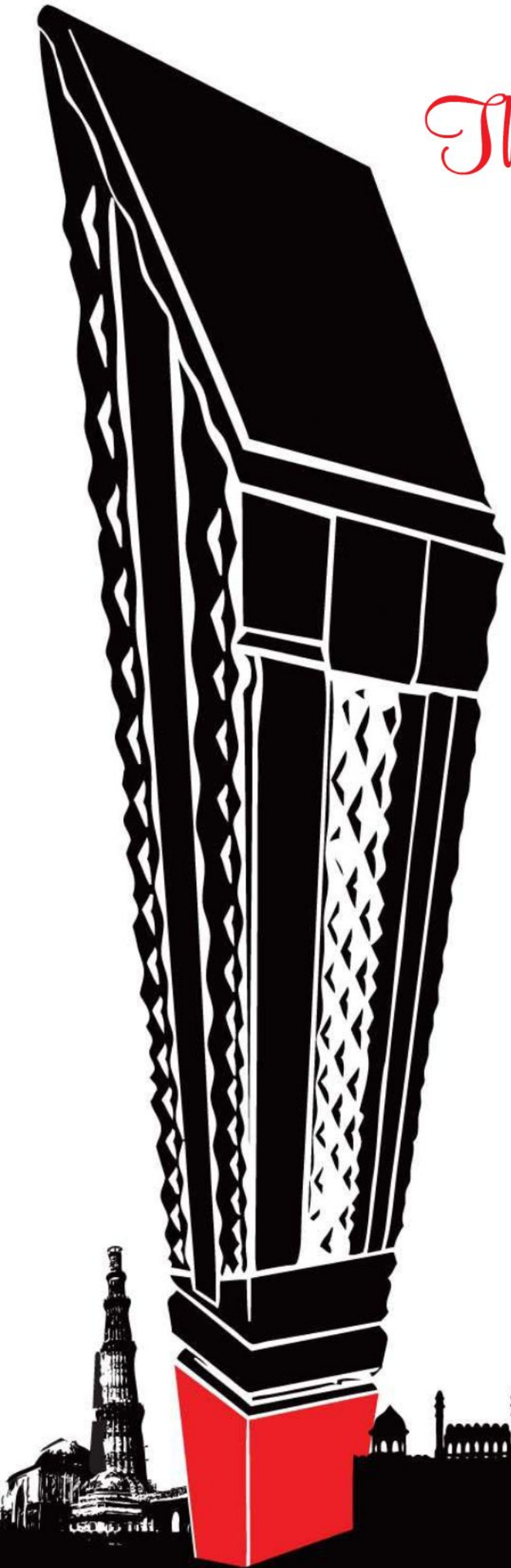
Q) I am having problems burning audio CDs within Windows Media Player. Most of the time it works fine but there are times where the finished CD won't play back in my CD player or on my computer. Is this likely to be a problem with the CD or Windows Media Player?

A) It's most likely a problem with the CD and there are a couple of things you can try. First, try slowing down the burn speed. Although modern CD writers are capable of reaching fast write speeds, this can lead to errors during the burning process. To slow it down, click on the small arrow just below the Burn tab within Windows Media Player. Select More Burn Options from the list and then select Medium or Slow from within the Burn Speed dropdown menu. If the problems still occur, you could try changing the brand of CD. If all else fails, your CD writer may need replacing.

Jargon Buster

Techno babble demystified...

- **Spam** Junk email sent to large groups of people offering such things as money-spinning ideas.
- **Stream** Audio or video material that can be viewed as it is downloaded from the internet or transferred from another computer.
- **Taskbar** The bar that runs along the bottom of the screen in Windows.
- **UAC** User Account Control. Part of Windows that attempts to protect your PC by verifying big decisions.
- **Virus** A malicious computer program designed to damage data.
- **WAN** Wide Area Network. Use this socketto connect a cable modem to a router.
- **Wep** Wired Equivalent Privacy. An old security standard for wireless networks, superseded by WPA.
- **Windows** ExplorerThe graphical interface to the Windows filing system. Using images to represent files and folders, it lets you manage documents by moving them between folders and deleting, copying or renaming them.
- **Wireless N** A term used to describe 802.11 n, the fastest standard for wireless networks.



The New Landmark of Delhi !

Computer active

And

smart PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2011

Venue: The LaLiT
(Formerly InterContinental, The Grand, New Delhi),
Barakhamba Road,
New Delhi, India

Date: Thursday, January 6, 2011
Time:7.30 p.m. onwards

(Entry by invitation only)

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

computeractive

WORKSHOPS

Jargon Buster

Blog Short for 'web log', a blog is an online journal or news site. Most blogs provide a download called an RSS feed, which means you can set up a blog reader to download new articles as they appear without visiting the site.

Default A standard software or hardware setting. Most programs ask you to make a series of selections to perform a task. You can change the defaults or accept them as they are supplied.

Double-click To click twice quickly in succession on a mouse button. If you double-click on an application icon, Windows will then attempt to launch the application.

Graphics card The part of a PC that displays the image you see on a computer's monitor.

Hard disk A high-

Paste To take a previously copied item and insert it into another program.

Pop-up menu A menu that appears on screen when you click something.

Right-click Most actions in Windows are performed by clicking the left mouse button.

Router A device used to connect more than one computer or other device to the internet.

Scroll bar The section of a window – normally grey with a slider control – you must use to scroll around when the window's contents are too large to display at once.

Shortcut A file that acts as a link to something else on a computer, such as a program file or disk drive.

Thumbnail A small image used to give a quick preview of a

In this Issue...

Keep emails safe from prying eyes
Try a new email program and learn how to protect the contents of your messages p76

Sort your digital photo collection with ease
Photology can help you organise photos using colour, orientation and location p80

Master the Microsoft Office clipboard
Discover better copying and pasting in Microsoft Office applications p84

Make web pages easier to read
Clear the attention-grabbing clutter on web pages with a free add-on to your web browser p87

Go beyond Google to find old friends
Failed to find an old friend or contact using Google? Try a dedicated people-finder instead p88

Hints and tips p90

Macintosh Hints and tips p91

PULL OUT & KEEP

WHAT THE WORKSHOP LEVELS MEANS

1 2 3 **LEVEL 3** will bolster your existing knowledge and help you to see how much your computer can do. Clear but demanding.

Keep emails safe from prying eyes

Try a new email program and learn how to protect the contents of your messages

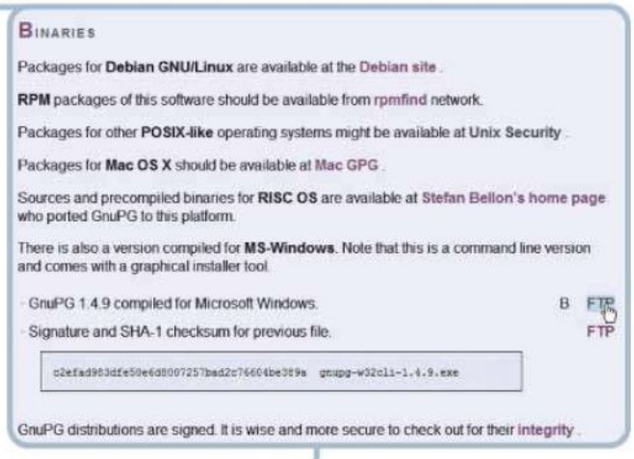
If you are concerned about the privacy of your email messages then worry no more. It's relatively easy – and free – to protect email correspondence so that the contents remains hidden from everyone except the person who wrote it and the person they send it to.

In this Workshop we'll look at how anyone can use the Thunderbird email program to protect their privacy in three steps – by downloading the encryption program, installing Thunderbird and then installing a little add-on program that makes them work together.

Before starting out, bear in mind that encryption like this only works if both sender and receiver have installed and set up the required software, so you may find it helpful to pass this Workshop to those you correspond with regularly.

Step 1

BEGIN BY DOWNLOADING THE GNU Privacy Guard software. We found the Privacy Guard website rather confusing and so the easiest way to get the software is to type www.snipca.com/X47 into your browser's address bar (note that the 'X' is a capital letter) and press Enter. Ignore any security warnings and click the Save button and then choose a download location for the software and click Save again. Double-click the new icon on the Windows Desktop to install the software and if Windows displays a security warning, just click Run. Then follow the defaults to install the software. If you'd prefer to locate it manually, got to www.gnupg.org. Click the Binaries link on the left-hand side to skip down to the relevant part of the page. Find the link labelled 'GnuPG 1.4.9 compiled for Microsoft Windows' and, to start the download, click the FTP link to the right of this label. Whichever method you choose ▼



Step 2

ACCEPT ALL OF THE defaults and click Finish to conclude the installation. Next, install the Thunderbird email program, a free alternative to Outlook Express. Load your web browser again and go to www.mozillamessaging.com/thunderbird. Click the download button, ignore any security warnings and download the program to the Desktop. Once it's there, double-click the icon and follow the prompts to install Thunderbird, accepting all of the defaults and then clicking the Finish button at the end. ▼

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Step 3

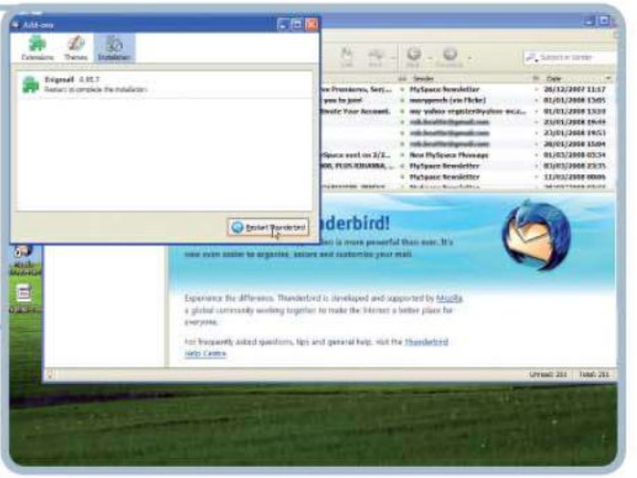
THUNDERBIRD OFFERS TO IMPORT your settings from Outlook Express. We don't need to for our purposes, so we've selected 'Don't import anything' and clicked Next. At the Account Wizard screen we're going to set up a Google Mail (Gmail) account – if you create another kind of email account the process will be slightly different, though the principles will be the same. Click Next. Enter the details of the email account (get these from your provider) and click Next again. Finally, click Finish to open the account and download your emails. ▼

Step 4

IF THE EMAIL ACCOUNT needs a password, type it in and click OK. Then click OK again. Now we've got the encryption software and the email program – next we need an add-on called Enigmail to make them work together, so switch back to your web browser and go to www.snipca.com/X36. At the site, choose Windows as the operating system and select the correct version of Thunderbird (ours is version 2.0). Right-click on the download link and choose Save Target As from the menu that is displayed. ▼

Step 5

DOWNLOAD ENIGMAIL TO THE Desktop and once it's there, switch back to Thunderbird and then click on the Tools menu and choose Add-ons. When the Add-ons dialogue box opens, click the Install button at the bottom left. Use Windows' file commands to navigate to where Enigmail was downloaded, select it and then click Open. Back at Thunderbird, the Software Installation dialogue box will appear. Click the Install Now button to add Enigmail to Thunderbird. Finally, click the Restart Thunderbird button to finish the installation. ▼



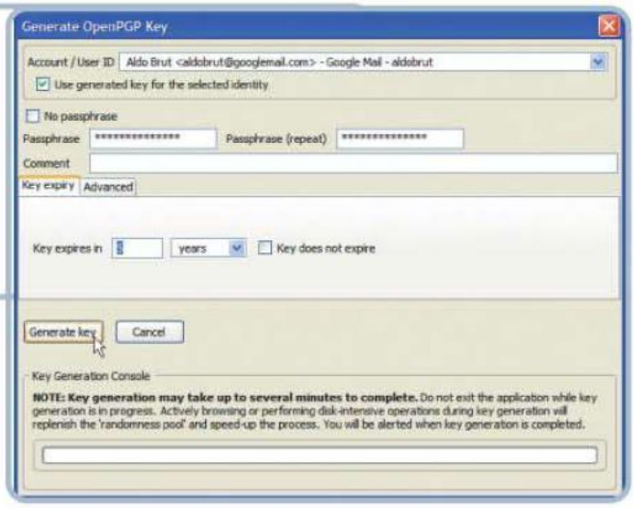
Step 6

WHEN THUNDERBIRD RESTARTS IT will have a new menu item – OpenPGP. Click this and then choose Key Management from the menu. The first thing we need to do is set up a key for this email account that we can send to other people as proof of our identity. Since we may want to set up other keys for different email accounts and the wizard only loads the once, we'll select the manual configuration option and click Next. Then we can click Finish. This opens the Key Management dialogue – click Generate and choose New Key Pair. ▼

PROTECT EMAILS

Step 7

IF THERE'S MORE THAN one email address on the PC, select the correct one from the dropdown menu. Then, make up a passphrase (password) and type it in twice. This can be anything you like but it must be kept private and you must not forget it – if you forget the passphrase you won't be able to open encrypted emails. By default, Enigmail will make the key expire after five years, though that can be changed here. When you have done this, click the Generate key button. ▼

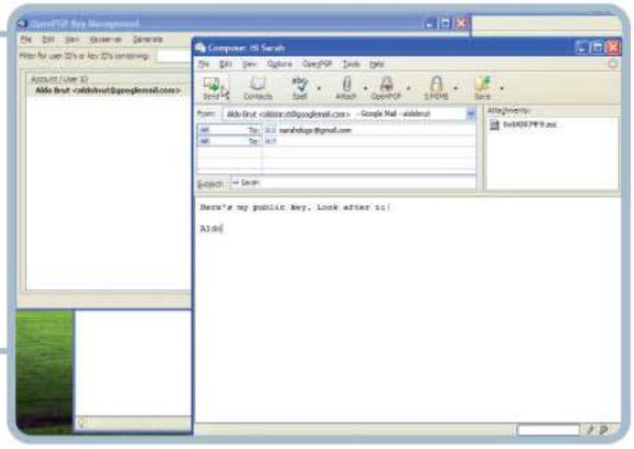


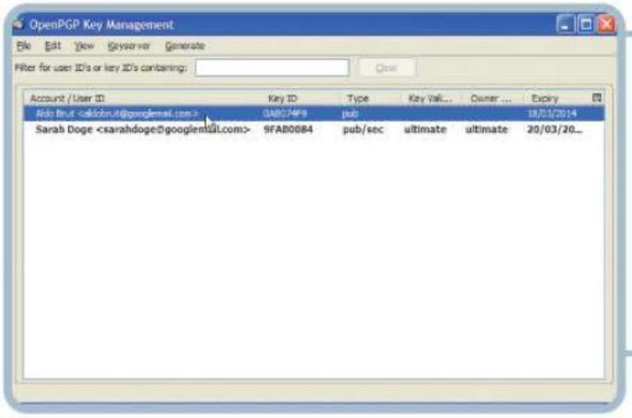
Step 8

WHEN THE CONFIRM DIALOGUE box appears, click Yes. After a moment, the key will be generated and Enigmail will recommend that you create what's called a 'revocation certificate' that can be used to invalidate the key if it gets lost or compromised – this is a good idea, so click Yes. Use Windows' file commands to store it somewhere easy to find like the Desktop and at a later date, move it to a USB key for safe keeping. To complete the creation of the certificate, type in your passphrase and click OK. ▼

Step 9

CLICK OK AGAIN. NOW, since it takes two to send and receive encrypted emails, let's imagine our friend Sarah has followed this Workshop and is at the same stage as us – that means we've each got a public key that proves who we are and a private passphrase. Let's send our public key to her and then have her confirm that it's genuine. Click the OpenPGP menu and choose Key Management. We highlight her email address and then choose Send Public Keys by email from the menu. Address the email as normal – note that the key is added as an attachment. Click Send. ▼





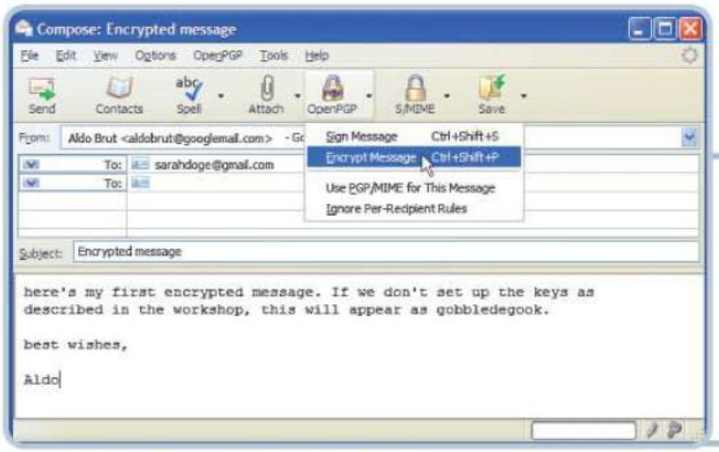
Step 10

WHEN THE MESSAGE ARRIVES at Sarah's PC, she right-clicks on the attachment and chooses Import OpenPGP Key. After a moment the confirmation dialogue tells her the key has been imported and when she switches back to the Key Management window, she will see that it has been added to the list. There are other ways to exchange and validate keys using what are called 'public servers' that allow security-conscious emailers to upload their public keys so that anyone can access them. The way we've shown here is more suitable for two people who want to pair securely with each other. ▼

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Step 11

NEXT, SARAH HAS TO confirm both the owner of the key and its validity – there's no point in accepting a key of dubious origin. Because she knows it came from us, she can right-click on its entry in the Key Management list and choose Sign key. When the dialogue opens, she can select the highest level of trust – 'I have done very careful checking' – and then click OK. Then she right-clicks the name in the list again and chooses Set Owner Trust. At the dialogue, she selects the owner from the list and chooses 'I trust ultimately' and then clicks OK. ▼

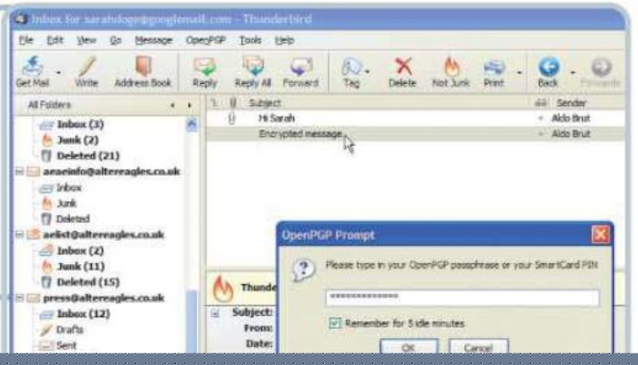


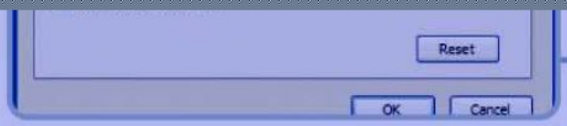
Step 12

WHEN BOTH PARTIES AND have sent each other their public keys and confirmed that they're genuine like this, they can start sending each other encrypted emails. Just create a message as normal and then click on the OpenPGP button on the button bar and choose Encrypt Message from the dialogue box and click the OK button. This will encrypt the message so that if anyone intercepts it, the message text appears as nonsense and they won't be able to decipher it. ▼

Step 13

CLICK THE SEND BUTTON as normal to send the email and then, when the Key Selection dialogue box appears, put a tick in the box next to the name of the person the email's being sent to – in our case it's Sarah – and then click OK. The message will be sent. At the other end, when Sarah receives the message and tries to open it, she'll be asked for the password – or passphrase – that she created when she set up her key. We created ours back in Step 7. ▼



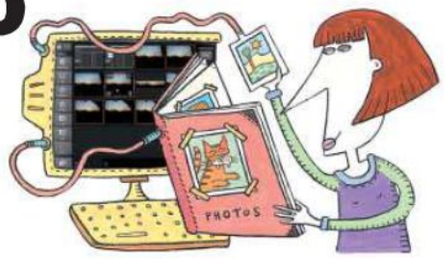


penPGP

doesn't keep asking for the passphrase all the tim

ORGANISE PHOTOS EASILY

Sort your digital photo collection with ease



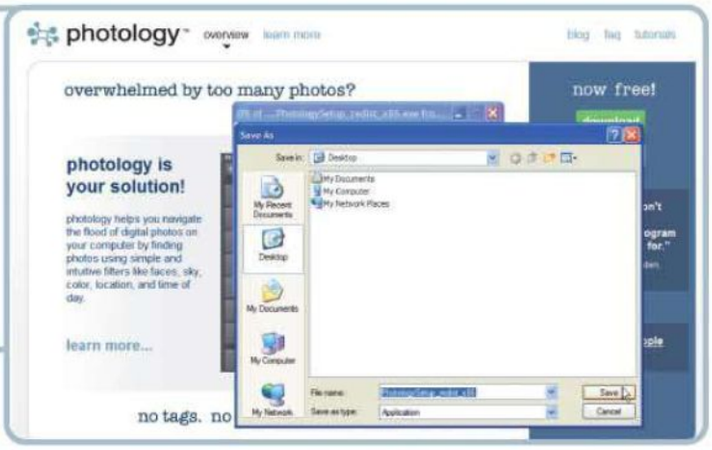
Photology can help you organise photos using colour, orientation and location

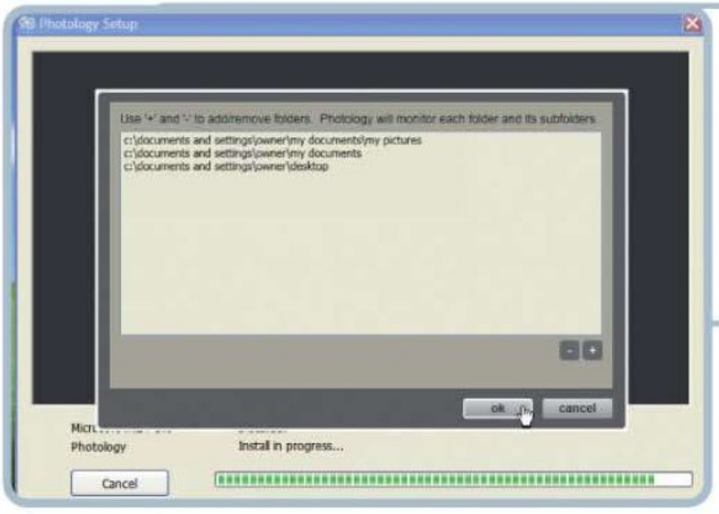
Photo-catalogue programs are brilliant at looking after large collections of images but they can take time to get used to – especially when it comes to tracking down photos that are buried somewhere deep on the hard disk, poorly named and long-forgotten. But what if there was an easier way?

Photology eschews traditional ways of searching for photos and replaces them with more intuitive ones, so it is possible to search by format (landscape or portrait) by exposure, whether the photo was taken inside or outdoors, whether there are faces in it or a caption, as well as more conventional searches based on time and date. This Workshop explains how to download and install Photology and how it works.

Step 1

TO GET THE FREE Photology program, launch a web browser such as Internet Explorer, click once in the Address or Location line to highlight what's there and then replace it with ***www.getphotology.com*** before pressing the Return key. When the website loads, click the green download button at the top-right of the web page. If Windows displays a security warning, ignore it and click Save, then choose where to download Photology to and click Save again. Photology requires a tool called Microsoft .NET 3.0 to work – most PCs will have this but it can be obtained at ***www.snipca.com/X46***. ▼





Step 2

LOCATE THE NEW PHOTOLOGY icon and double-click it to start the installation. If Windows displays another security warning, ignore it and click Run. Follow the instructions to set up the program, accepting all of the defaults and when the add/remove folders screen appears, take a moment to make sure that the program is set up to scan all of the folders where you normally store pictures; if not, use the '+' and '-' buttons to add new folders or remove unnecessary ones. Then click OK to continue. ▼

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

ORGANISE PHOTOS EASILY

Step 3

AFTER A MOMENT, PHOTOLOGY loads and starts doing its stuff. Its first job is to scan all of the folders listed on the previous screen, looking for photographs and indexing them. Depending on how many there are, this may take some time – we had it catalogue a small library of around 600 photos and this took just over 10 minutes; it is worth the wait, though. When it has finished, the screen will fill with thumbnails and a status message will say Indexing complete. Now we're good to go. ▼

Step 4

AS IT INDEXES, PHOTOLOGY looks at all the available information stored with each photo – digital cameras save loads of hidden information with each picture, such as when and where it was taken, whether it's portrait or landscape, whether there's any associated text – even the overall colour mix and exposure of the photo is catalogued. This makes it easy to find pictures using common sense, rather than computer search terms. Here, for example, we have clicked the date button and chosen Feb. Photology instantly displays only those pictures taken in February. ▼

Step 5

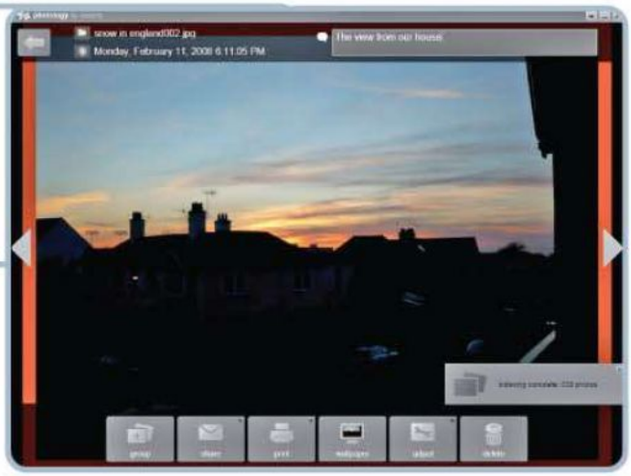
NOTICE HOW WHATEVER WE are currently looking for (in this example, Feb) appears at the top of the panel to the right of the main window. As we refine our search further, subsequent filters will also be displayed in a stack in this panel. On the left for example, we are clicking the content button and choosing from one of Photology's presets – 'sunset' – to see if we have got any pictures of a particularly great winter sunset that we remember taking back in February. ▼

Step 6

AND HERE'S THE RESULT, the photographs we took in February of a winter sunset (notice that Photology includes a couple of other pictures as well – nobody's perfect). Hover the mouse pointer over any of the thumbnails in the centre of the screen and four icons appear, one at each corner. The top-left quits the current search view and shows the selected image in place in the whole library, the top-right rotates the photo, bottom-right deletes it and bottom-left adds it to a group (see Step 13). ▼

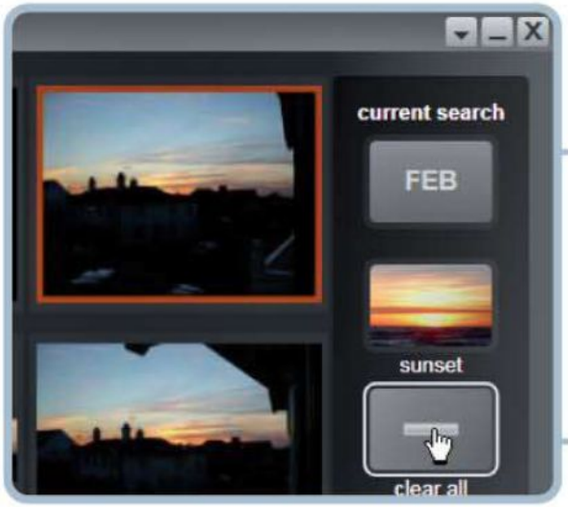
ORGANISE PHOTOS EASILY

Step 7 **CLICKING ANY OF THE** thumbnails to open the photo full-screen in Photology's editor. This is pretty basic but effective and, as we will see soon, includes many useful commands and controls for fixing common picture problems. It also has a caption feature that makes it easy to label photos so they can be found more quickly later on. Here we have clicked in the caption area and added a description for this photo – 'The view from our house'. ▼



Step 8 **THE COMMANDS ALONG THE** bottom of the screen let us add individual photos to a group (only one at a time, unfortunately) share pictures by posting them to popular services such as Flickr and Picasa Web Albums, or upload them as compressed files to Photology and then email a link to friends. Next to these are buttons for printing photos, turning them into Windows wallpaper and adjusting them. Let's click the Adjust button and then select the Color button to see if can make the picture brighter. ▼

Step 9 **FROM THIS SCREEN IT** is easy to drag the brightness and contrast sliders left or right to change the way the photo looks, or for the complete lazybones, just click on the auto button and see what happens. Don't like the results? Click the reset button or just click cancel to abandon any edits. If the result looks good, just click the OK button. Then, to return to the thumbnail view of the results, click the back arrow at the top left. ▼



Step 10 **BACK AT THE MAIN** results window, click the clear all button at the bottom of the search filter stack in the right-hand panel. This will remove any search filters and display all of the photos in the library in the middle of the screen again. If you have set up a complicated search and just want to change one of the search filters, you can remove any individually just by clicking on them once in the stack with the left mouse button. ▼

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

ORGANISE PHOTOS EASILY

Step 11

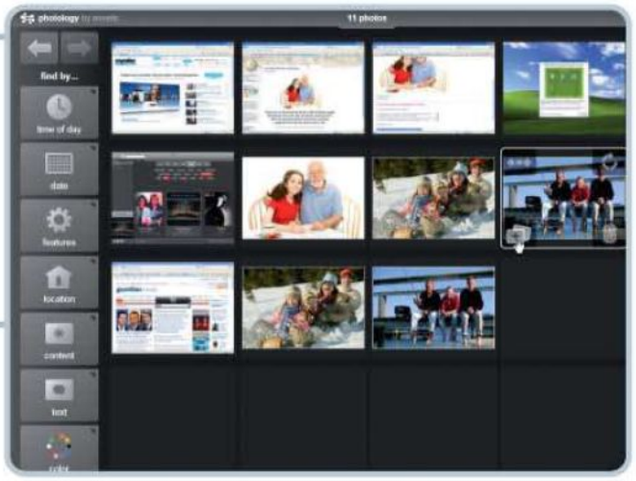
REMEMBER THE CAPTION WE created back in Step 7? Now we can use it to create a search filter. Move the mouse pointer down to the Text button and click on it to open the search box. Type in a word or phrase – in this example we are using 'house' because we know that is included in the caption – and then click the search button. After a moment Photology displays the photo we captioned in Step 7 – 'The view from our house'. The more photos are captioned, the better searches like this will work. ▼

Step 12

ONE OF THE MOST impressive and fun features of Photology is the way it is able to find photos based on colour. Click the Color button to open the dialogue box and then click any of the coloured circles in the box. As you do, the central palette of nine variations changes to reflect the colour you have clicked on. Here we have chosen a nice blue and Photology has found many of the Windows screenshots we have taken of the Desktop in the past month or two, along with some photographs. ▼

Step 13

PHOTOLOGY CAN ALSO COLLECT different photographs together into groups, which is useful if there are sets of photos that you need to work on for a particular project. Simply use the buttons on the left to search for the photos you want and then hover the mouse pointer over each one in turn (unfortunately there is no way to highlight lots of photos at once) and then click the Add to groups button in the bottom left-hand corner. ▼



Step 14

AS PHOTOS ARE ADDED to a group they appear in a 'film roll' along the bottom of the main Photology window. Finished adding pictures? Just click on the Groups button at the bottom right and when the dialogue box opens find the group – it is easy for us because we have only created one – and then click on the placeholder name to highlight it and then type in a name that describes the group of photos properly. Add more groups by clicking the new group button. ●

USE THE OFFICE CLIPBOARD

Master the Microsoft Office clipboard

Discover better copying and pasting in Microsoft Office applications

If you have ever copied and pasted anything in Windows – a digital photo, say, or a passage of text in Notepad – then you will have used the Windows Clipboard. Think of it as a scrapbook that can contain just one item at a time: when you use the Copy command in any Windows application, the subject is copied to the Clipboard ready for pasting; if you copy something else before pasting, the Clipboard discards the previous item to make room. However, if you use Microsoft Office you can take advantage of its own, more flexible alternative – the Office Clipboard. In this Workshop we will explain its relationship to the Windows Clipboard, the differences between the two and the advantages of using the Office Clipboard. We will be focusing on Office 2003, though operation is essentially the same in the 2007 version.

Step 1

THE MAIN ADVANTAGE THE Office Clipboard has over Windows' own temporary scrapbook is that it can store up to 24 items. It also works across all the main Office applications, so you can copy up to 24 items from an Excel spreadsheet before pasting them into Word, for example. However, by default the Office Clipboard is not switched on, so unless activated you will remain limited to copying and pasting just one item at a time. Fortunately activation is simple. Launch any Office application – we are going to work with Word – click the Edit menu and select Office Clipboard. Alternatively, hold down the Control (Ctrl) key on the keyboard and quickly tap C twice. ▼

Step 2

THE OFFICE CLIPBOARD WILL appear in a Task Pane on the right-hand side of the application window. As we haven't yet copied anything into it, it will be blank. Notice also that an Office Clipboard icon has been added to the Notification Area of the Windows Taskbar. As items are added to the Office Clipboard messages will appear briefly above this, displaying the current tally (up to a maximum of 24 items). ▼

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

USE THE OFFICE CLIPBOARD

Step 3

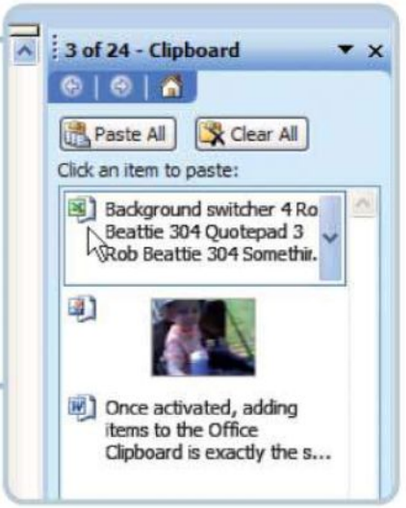
ONCE ACTIVATED, ADDING ITEMS to the Office Clipboard is exactly the same as adding something to the Windows Clipboard – just use the standard Copy command or keyboard shortcut. So, highlight something you want to copy and then either select Copy from the application's Edit menu, or just use the Ctrl and C keyboard shortcut. ▼

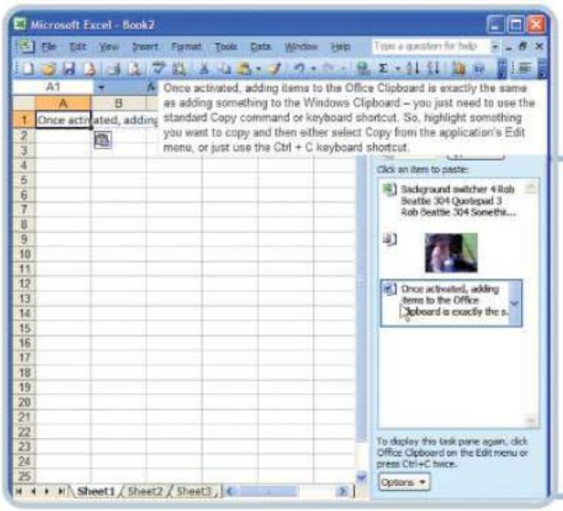
Step 4

INSTANTLY, THE COPIED ITEM will appear in the Office Clipboard Task Pane. This first item sits on 'top' and, as such, can be pasted to any other application not just Office applications, because it is mirrored in the Windows Clipboard. To do so, just use the standard Paste command or keyboard shortcut (Paste from the Edit menu, or Ctrl and V). However, to see the benefit of the Microsoft Office Clipboard it needs to have some more items copied to it. So add a few now, using the usual Copy command or keyboard shortcut (as explained in Step 3). ▼

Step 5

WE HAVE COPIED TWO more items – a digital photo and a selection of cells from an Excel spreadsheet. Notice how each item has a small icon next to it, indicating the type of content (the passage copied from Word has a small Word icon, the Excel cells carry the Excel logo and the photo has a little picture icon alongside). Older items will move down the list as new items are added. Remember, only the item on the top is actually in the Windows Clipboard and available to be pasted into any Windows application; those below exist only in the Office Clipboard and, as such, can be pasted only into Office applications. ▼





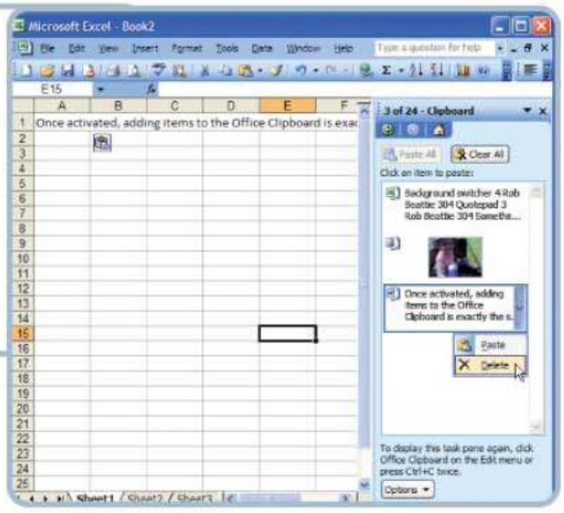
Step 6

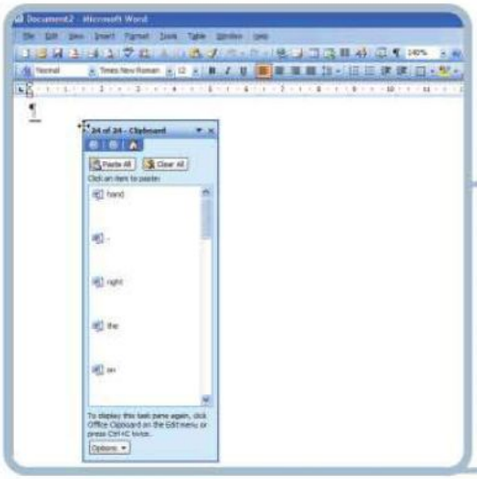
TO DEMONSTRATE THIS, WE have switched to Excel and opened a blank spreadsheet. If we use the Edit menu's Paste command (or the Ctrl and V keyboard shortcut) then the Excel cells we copied earlier will be pasted, because they are sitting on the top of the Office Clipboard (and also mirror on the Windows Clipboard). However, because this is Excel, another Microsoft Office application, we can fire up the Office Clipboard and choose to paste an item lower down the list. Summon it now by holding down Ctrl and tapping C twice, or select Office Clipboard from the Edit menu. Now, point to any item on the Office Clipboard Task Pane and simply left-click to paste. ▼

USE THE OFFICE CLIPBOARD

Step 7

REMEMBER, THE OFFICE CLIPBOARD holds a maximum of 24 items. Messages showing the running total will pop up in the Notification Area of the Taskbar. If you try to copy a 25th item then be warned that the earliest item copied will drop off the list without warning, and is irretrievable – so keep an eye on the count. You can free up space by deleting old or unwanted items: right-click on entry in the Office Clipboard (or click the entry's down-pointing arrow) and select Delete. Alternatively, click the Clear All button at the top to remove all items in one fell swoop. ▼



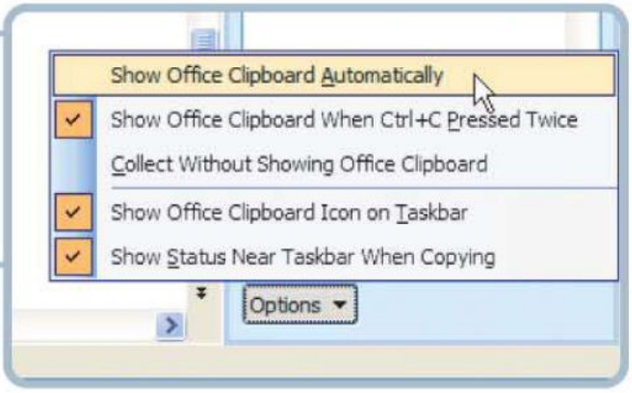


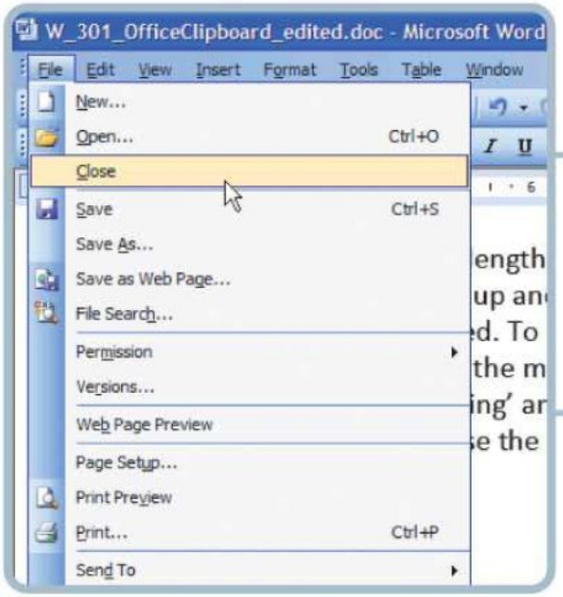
Step 8

AS THE COPIED-ITEMS LIST grows in length the Office Clipboard will spring a slider bar on the right-hand side. Use this to scroll up and down the list. As well, if you wish, the position of the Office Clipboard can be altered. To do this, left-click on the small vertical line of four dots in the header bar and hold down the mouse button while dragging to a new position. The Office Clipboard can be left 'floating' anywhere within the application window or 'anchored' to any of the four borders. Release the mouse button when you are done. ▼

Step 9

CLICK THE OPTIONS BUTTON to alter some behavioural aspects of the Office Clipboard. Click to select 'Show Office Clipboard Automatically', for instance, and the Office Clipboard will always be present. Similarly, you can switch off the Notification Area status messages from here (not that we would necessarily advise you to do so). ▼





Step 10

FINALLY, A WORD OF caution. In the same way as no warning is offered that earlier copies will be lost when copying more than 24 items, if you close all Office applications then the contents of the Office Clipboard will be lost. In other words, for the contents to remain safe, at least one Office application needs to remain open at all times. ●

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

REMOVE WEB CLUTTER

Make web pages easier to read

Clear the attention-grabbing clutter on web pages with a free add-on to your web browser

In recent years, website design seems to have gone a bit bananas. Banner adverts, flashing sidebars, scrolling text windows, animations, video and background music all vie for the visitor's attention. Sometimes that's just the job because you've gone to that particular site for the full-on multimedia experience, but other times you're just after some simple text-based information and everything else is just a distraction. Anyone who's ever found themselves battling against a web 'experience' in order to get the info they need will like Readabilty – a free browser add-on that clears out all the unnecessary clutter on a page.

It doesn't work with every web page out there, but did a good job with all the ones we tried. Here's how it works.

Step 1

READABILITY WORKS WITH MOST popular web browsers, including Firefox and Internet Explorer. Start by loading your web browser and then click once in the address line to highlight what's there and type in ***www.snipca.com/X37*** and press Return. When the page loads, scroll down a bit and then experiment with the Style, Size and Margin controls by clicking on the radio buttons next to each setting. As different options are selected, the live preview below reflects the changes so it is easy to find the best layout. ▼

Step 2

NEXT, FIND THE READABILITY link (it looks like a big button). Firefox users can simply drag this up and then drop it onto the toolbar, while Internet Explorer users should right-click on it and choose Add to Favorites from the pop-up menu. When Windows displays a security warning dialogue box, click Yes to confirm and then click Add to put Readability into your list of Favorites. This completes the installation – the next step is to find a page with some text on it. ▼

Step 3

HERE WE'VE GONE FOR a football report. There's an advert at the top and all sorts of unnecessary stuff down the sides that's distracting us from the actual report, so in IE we can just click on the Favorites Center icon (the gold star) and then pick Readability off the list. The transformation is instantaneous. In the screenshot we've opened the same page before and after Readability has been applied so the difference is obvious. To return to a traditional view of any site, just click the browser's Back button. ●

FIND PEOPLE ONLINE

Go beyond Google to find old friends

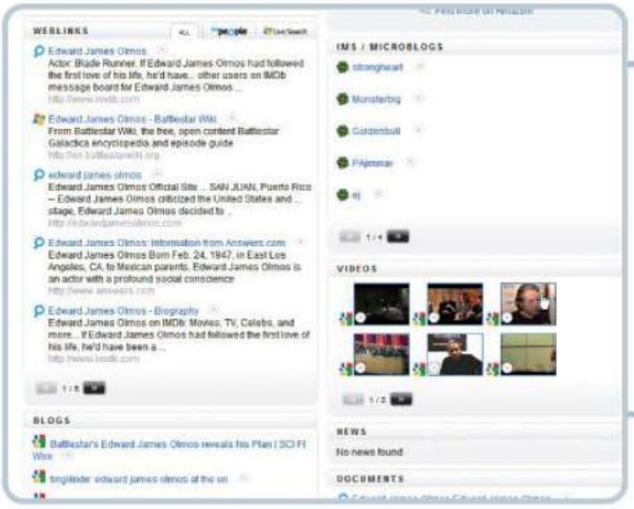
Failed to find an old friend or contact using Google? Try a dedicated people-finder instead

Google's really good at finding things – facts and figures, reports and references, maps and photographs and so on. It's not so good at finding people. That's partly because there are so many of us that share the same, or similar, names and partly because what it chooses to search makes it possible for anyone, even someone with an active presence on the web, to slip under the radar.

A dedicated people-finder works differently, searching through millions of publicly available documents stored online, social-networking sites, blogs, forums and bulletin boards, news sites – even Amazon wishlists – to find the person you are looking for. Of course, they can't find everyone, but a site like 123people is always worth a try.

Step 1

START BY LOADING A web browser, such as Internet Explorer, and then clicking once in the Address or Location bar to highlight what's there. Now type in www.123people.com and press Return on the keyboard. The interface for 123people is simple and it is possible to get started straight away by just typing the name of the person into the empty box at the top using a 'first name/last name' format and then clicking the search button on the right. To show the results structure, we'll search for the actor Edward James Olmos. ▼



Step 2

123PEOPLE DIVIDES THE SEARCH results into different sections, which makes it easier to analyse them. The section headings are lined along the top: web links, images, videos, social network profiles, email addresses, phone numbers, blogs, documents, Amazon wishlists, instant messages and news. Results are displayed in section 'pages' with a number at the bottom and arrow buttons that make it easy to navigate back and forth. Where no results are available in a particular section, 123people marks them clearly. ▼

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

FIND PEOPLE ONLINE

Step 3

ONE WAY TO CHECK a people-finder is to search for yourself. Here we have typed in the name of one of our writers, chosen United Kingdom instead of World from the dropdown menu and then clicked the Search button. When the results come back we can scan through the photos at the top, or click the tabs to choose photos from a specific area of the net – for example, Facebook. Clicking on a thumbnail displays a larger version of the picture (yep, that's him) while clicking the icon on the left opens the site itself. ▼

Step 4

CLICK THE 'X' TO close the picture and then scroll down the results list a bit. See the section entitled Amazon? 123people can scour Amazon looking for wishlists created by people whose names match the person we are searching for. Click on the name and the Amazon wish list appears in a new window together – if you are lucky they will have included potentially useful information like their birthday and delivery address. ▼

Step 5

123PEOPLE ALSO TRAWLS PUBLICLY available documents. This can throw up some very interesting finds, such as CVs, covering letters, reports, meeting minutes, interviews and so on. Here for example, we have clicked on the Documents category to jump to that section (this is an alternative to scrolling down) and then clicked on one of the documents. It is actually a PDF stored on a website that contains a Q&A session with the Eagles tribute band our writer plays in, and opens in a new window. ▼

Step 6

FINALLY, WHILE SOME SEARCHES will clearly return the right person, either because you can see their photo or they can be identified in another way, others won't be so clear. If that is the case, scroll down towards the bottom of the results list to the tag cloud box to see if there are any hints there. By clicking on the keywords in the box, it's often possible to refine the search to the point where the person you are looking for is eventually revealed. ●

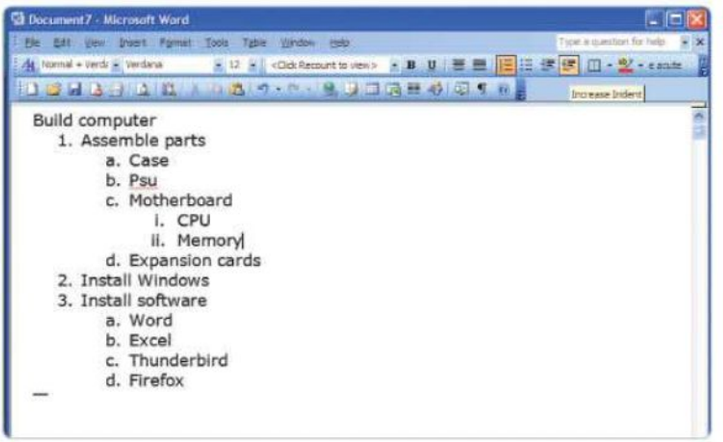
MICROSOFT WORD

Create a numbered sub list

I have a further tip to offer about numbered lists. I often need to number items within a numbered list; this is called an outline numbered list in Word.

Before you type the first item in the list, click on the numbering icon in the toolbar to start a numbered paragraph on that line. Press Enter to start a new line with a new number. To create a sub list, left-click on the Increase Indent button on the Formatting toolbar. Type the next list as you would normally with Enter creating a new number. To return to the previous level, click on the Decrease Indent icon. All of these changes happen as you click on the icons.

There are several different styles available for these outline lists ready to use in Word. With the cursor in the list, click on the Format menu and then on Bullets and Numbering. Click on the Outline Numbered tab to see the options.



MOZILLA THUNDERBIRD

Email on the move

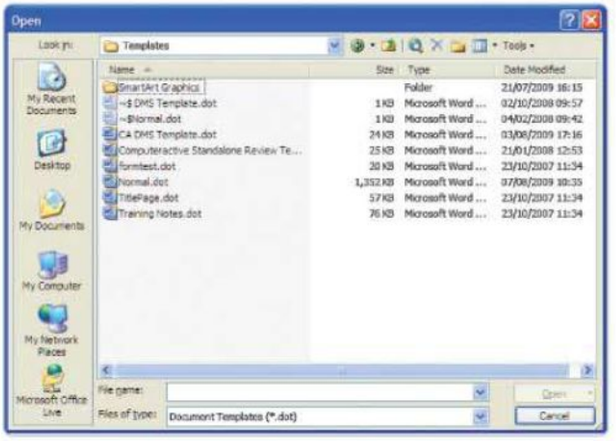
If you want to use Thunderbird on more than one computer with the full history of emails on each of them but without using an IMAP email service, use Portable Thunderbird. This works just like the normal Thunderbird but can be installed on a USB key or a folder on the desktop.

When I am about to move to another computer, I copy the Thunderbird folder from Desktop onto the USB key and then onto the Desktop of the computer I am going to be working on. If a folder has already been copied onto the Desktop I rename it to include the date of the last time it was updated and keep it as a backup.

All of the account settings are saved within the folder so there is never any need to enter them a second time.

WORD 2003

Small cursor size



Sometimes the cursor in Word shrinks in size, which is annoying. This problem is related to the default template in Word. To remedy this, you may need to enable View Hidden Folder first. Click on the Start button and then My Computer. Click on Tools and then Folder options. Click on the View tab and then the option 'Show hidden files and folders'. Click on OK. To restore the cursor, make a small change to the normal.dot template and save it. It can normally be found in: C:\Documents and Settings\yourusername\ Application Data\Microsoft\Templates. Click on the Format menu and then Font. Change the font and click OK. Press Ctrl and S to save the change and close Word. When Word is started again the cursor should be back to normal.

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Quick Terminal Tips:

Terminal, which is a Mac's equivalent to Windows Command Prompt program can be used to perform various functions manually on your Mac. Let us take a quick look at these functions. In order launch Terminal you must go to Applications>Utilities>Terminal

Quick Software Update
The following command that lets you install Apple's available software updates. There are two such commands: one for installing all of Apple's updates and one for only instal

can get Terminal to quickly talk anything
engine by simply typing: say hello
ith anything else you feel like. This is
ff to your friends!

don't want to deal with constantly having Desktop clutter.

Pin The Dock To The Left
This command pins the dock to the left hand side of the screen. Replace

If you are bored one day yo
back to you using the voice
You can replace "hello"
certainly a neat tip to show

items
ence,
h an
ghting
ent
s plenty for everyone, whether you're a fan
in general.

otal Mayhem

neloft
od touch, and iPad.
hone OS 3.0 or later.

Engaging Gameplay

App Review: Spider-Man : Total Mayhem

While video games based on comic books have been almost as hit or miss as games based on movies in the past, Spider Man: Total Mayhem is an exception to the rule. Featuring fantastic visuals, easy-to-pick up controls and hours of gameplay; the game is fine addition to anyone's iOS collection. The game incorporates classic Spider-Man elements such as web swinging, beating up countless thugs and of course, a plethora of villains such as Rhino and Sandman. There are plenty of collectables to find as well, thus boosting the game's replay value.

The game is set in New York, as is the case with Spider-Man games in the past. The city has been (predictably) overrun by super-villains and it is up to you, the player, to save it as Spider-Man. The buttons are simple enough for anyone to pick up. There are three primary buttons: one for jumping, one for punching and for shooting webs. While the game does require you to mash these buttons a lot, one can pull off a variety of cool-looking combos. Pull off enough combos and you can pull off an even bigger combo! There is also a fourth button which function s as Spider-Man's 'spidey sense' and comes into play when you are required to dodge incoming attacks. Also incorporated in the game is an upgrade system. In exchange for red-coloured orbs

collected from enemies
you've beaten up, you ca
upgrade Spider-Man's d
strength or special move
This is a deep game w
incredibly fluid and fun
mechanic, which offers
something new and diffe
around every corner. It h
of Spider-Man or gamin

Name : Spider-Man:
Released: Sep 1, 2010
Developer: © 2010 Ga
Platforms : iPhone, i
Requires
Rating : 9+
Price : $6.99
Pros : Great Graphic
Cons : Expensive

Sniper: Ghost Warrior

Possibly the last word in point-and-shoot gaming

Anyone who has ever played a first-person shooter game, such as Call of Duty, will doubtless have had the pleasure of playing through the sniping level, the inevitable part of the game where you're suddenly handed a scoped rifle and tasked with picking off your enemies from afar.

It's a classic way of breaking up the action but would you want a whole game made up of this sort of gameplay? That is, broadly speaking, what you get with Sniper: Ghost Warrior.

In the game, you get to play a number of different characters, each of whom has a part to play in reclaiming a small island nation from a hostile military regime, usually by, you guessed it, sniping your way from point A to point B.

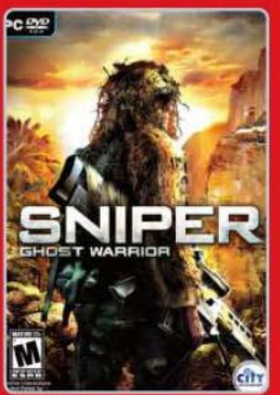
To be fair, some effort has been made to try and prevent the game from sliding into one-note telescopic tedium. Mission objectives are relatively varied and each of the characters you play has a slightly different take on the action. Sometimes stealth is very much the way forward, while other instances require a more traditional 'guns blazing' approach.

Unfortunately a number of annoying quirks mar what could have been a surprisingly fun game. Take the graphics: at first they seem pretty good, with jungle environments that look rich and detailed, for example. The trouble is that, while Ghost Warrior often encourages you to crouch down and conceal yourself amongst the foliage, your enemies' reactions aren't always as realistic. Often they'll spot you regardless of how well hidden you are, while a single, dark, textureless leaf shape entirely obscures your aim and prevents you from returning fire.

Get past Ghost Warrior's frequent frustrations and the game will, at the very least, provide you with more than the occasional opportunity to pull off some satisfying sniper shots. Multiplayer modes have a similarly enjoyable quality, though they fail to stand out from the crowd.

If you're looking for an authentic simulation of real-life sniper-based military operations, then Sniper: Ghost Warrior isn't it. Instead it's a moderately entertaining shooter that wears its flaws on its camouflaged sleeve.

SNIPER: GHOST WARRIOR REVIEW



OVERALL: ★★★★☆

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Lara Croft and the Guardian of Light

Shine a new light on the erstwhile Tomb Raider

The last few Tomb Raider games have been getting a little samey, and this new Lara Croft game is clearly an attempt to break the mould.

The most immediate change is that it doesn't bear the 'Tomb Raider' name at all, with the famously top-heavy heroine's own name taking pride of place in the title.

In another change, the game is only available as a download through online gaming portal Steam, so don't look for this one in the shops. And the perspective of the game has also shifted, from behind Lara to a fixed vantage point that's both higher up and further out, looking down diagonally on the action.

The game itself is a familiar mix of exploration, puzzle-solving and combat. Enemies are more prevalent than in previous games, and the arsenal of weapons with which to dispatch them is significantly more varied.

Despite the budget price, however, Guardian of Light doesn't skimp on the quality of its presentation. The single-player campaign is a lengthy, enjoyable experience but there's also a separate co-op mode that allows you to play through the whole adventure with a chum taking control of either Lara herself or her companion, Totec.

The co-operative mode is, in many ways, the best way to play Guardian of Light. Several of the challenges are slightly re-jigged for the two-player run-through, so it's like a whole new game in parts.

If you're a fan of Ms Croft's previous outings or just fancy a spot of attractively-priced action adventuring, we thoroughly recommend giving Guardian of Light a spin.

LARA CROFT AND THE GUARDIAN OF LIGHT

OVERALL: ★★★★☆

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

TOUCH TECHNOLOGY

HOW TO

Jargon Buster

Operating system

Taskbar

The language of touch

Tales from the cutting room

Improve your home videos with professional editing tricks and techniques

The gap between Hollywood and home movie making has never been narrower. Many blockbuster films and TV programmes are edited using software that is surprisingly similar to that available for home use.

In this Masterclass we will be showing how to edit home videos, using many techniques that were once only available to professional film-makers, and tell you where to get a free trial version of the software we are using.

The players

While Windows Movie Maker is a good tool for making basic cuts and trims, you will have to look elsewhere to create serious impact with home movie edits. We are not suggesting you buy an expensive package such as Final Cut Studio or Adobe Premiere Pro. Instead, there are plenty of powerful, easy-to-use editing programs available for much less, including Corel Videostudio Pro X2, Sony Vegas Movie Studio, Cyberlink Powerdirector 8 Deluxe and Adobe Premiere Elements 7, all of which offer trial versions.

For the purpose of this Masterclass, though, we are going to use one of our old favourites: Pinnacle Studio (***www.snipca.com/X76***). The standard edition of Studio 12 less cost, though the Plus and Ultimate versions are worth buying if you are working with high-definition (HD) video, as these editions have built-in support for editing and outputting HD.

Getting raw video into Pinnacle Studio is the first job. Use the capture wizard to import from tape, file or disc

There is a trial version of Studio 12 Plus at ***www.snipca.com/X77***. Click on the 'Download Trial' button. You will need to register with Pinnacle to download the software, so enter an email address and click Next, then fill in all the necessary fields in the form, remembering to tick the checkmark next to 'No' if you want to opt out of marketing emails. Click Next again, then on Continue and finally on where it says 'to download the file directly click here'. Save the file to the Windows Desktop or somewhere else. The Studio 12 Plus trial is a 1.4GB download, so it will take a long time to complete, even over a fast broadband connection.

Once the download has finished, double-click on the StudioTrialExtractor.exe file and follow the on-screen instructions to install the application, then go to Start, then All Programs, then Pinnacle Studio 12 to launch it.

Source material

You will need some footage to work with. To recap, video cameras that rely on memory cards or hard disk for storage can generally be connected via USB so video files can be dragged and dropped to the PC's hard disk.

Tape-based digital video (DV) camcorders will need to be plugged in via Firewire. Then use Pinnacle Studio's capture utility to transfer the recordings from cassette to computer. Click on the top-left tab labelled '1 Capture'. Now choose either to capture from tape, memory card/data disc or from a video DVD. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.

Alternatively, import some existing video files from the PC's hard disk into Studio's Album (the media browser that forms the top-left section of the interface). Click on the '2 Edit' tab, and then click on the small folder icon at the top of the Album, next to the one with an upwards-pointing arrow in it. Browse to the relevant folder and double-click one of the files and put a check next to where it says 'Files' instead of 'Scenes'. Album view will fill with thumbnail images of all the video files contained in the selected folder.

Timeline time

By default, Studio 12 presents a 'timeline' editing view, as opposed to the more basic 'storyboard' style. Though it is possible to switch to Storyboard mode if you prefer (go to View and select 'Storyboard'), Timeline mode is more useful for advanced editing as it provides much tighter control. Studio's Timeline, which runs horizontally across the lower portion of the screen, is where all video, audio, effects and titles that will make up your finished movie are

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

assembled. The orange rule bar along the top of it displays the time in seconds and the Timeline itself is split into tracks; the top track is for video, but there are also separate tracks for audio, titles and so on. The icons to the left of each track tell you what each one is for.

Basic editing involves arranging clips in the Timeline in the desired order by dragging and dropping them from the Album. View any clip at any time by highlighting it in the Album window and clicking the Play button underneath the Preview window (top right). Once placed on the Timeline, clips show up as 'blocks' of time, with each block varying in size depending on the length of the clip.

Basic trimming can be done in the Timeline. Click on the left (beginning) edge of a clip block in the Timeline and the mouse pointer will change to a right-pointing arrow. Now, keeping the mouse held down, drag towards the right, while watching the Preview window, until it reaches the point where you want the clip to start. Release the mouse button and anything prior to that point will be removed.

Similarly, click and drag from the right edge of a clip to alter the end point.

Clips can also be split in the Timeline. Left-click once at a point on the orange Timeline rule bar. This will move the scrub bar to the clicked spot. Now move the mouse pointer to the top of the scrub bar and the cursor will turn to left and right-pointing arrows. Click and drag the scrub bar to the exact point where you would like to split the clip, keeping an eye on the Preview window to find the right spot. Now right-click the clip and select 'Split clip' from the menu that appears. Remember, splitting and trimming in the Timeline does not actually delete anything from the original video files or alter them in any way, so don't worry about ruining the source material as you cut and splice. Clips, even split ones, can be moved around within the Timeline by dragging and dropping and placed in any order you like.

Advanced transitions

With the clips whittled down to the best bits, you should have something beginning to look like a finished product, but it's still possible to add more polish.

Like transitions in Windows Movie Maker: work in a similar way with Pinnacle Studio. Transitions act as a way of blending one clip into the next as an alternative to a basic 'hard' cut. The most common transition is a 'crossfade' or 'dissolve', where clip A fades down at the same time as clip B fades up, but Pinnacle offers dozens of advanced transitions to choose from. Click the transitions icon to the left of the Album window, the one that looks like a lightning flash. The thumbnails in the context-sensitive Album will switch from video clips to transitions. Find one you like by clicking on a selection to view them in the Preview screen. Click the forward and back arrows in the top-right of the Album window to navigate additional pages. You can also click the dropdown menu next to where it says '2D Transitions' for further transition libraries. The Hollywood FX library, for example, contains a wide selection of 3D graphical transitions, such as Glass Break, which 'shatters' clip A as if it were a pane of glass, revealing clip B underneath.

To add a transition to the project, drag and drop it onto the point between two clips on the Timeline. You will see an icon representing the transition as a strip between the clips. To change the duration of the transition, move your mouse over the left or right edge of the strip in the Timeline

▲ It's more complex than storyboard editing but the timeline gives greater control

▲ Blend, fade and wipe effects can be effective in getting from one clip to the next

Jargon Buster

Techno babble demystified...

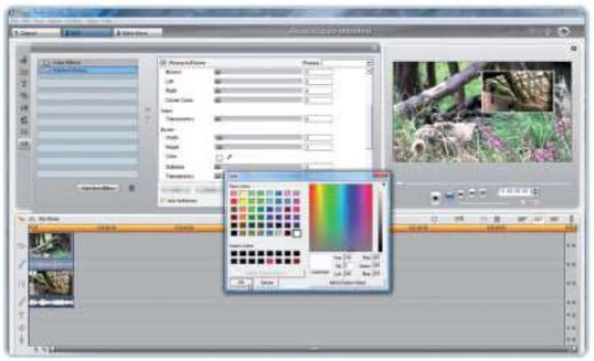
- **Burning** The act of writing data onto a CD or DVD.
- **Desktop** The background area on screen where Windows files and icons appear.
- **Dropdown menu** A list of options that appears when you click a menu bar or button.
- **High definition** (HD) A TV picture with a higher resolution than normal.
- **mp3** A standard for compressing digital audio. The sound quality of an mp3 file is close to that of CD audio but needs only a fraction of the storage space.
- **Thumbnail** A small image used to give a quick preview of a larger image.

until the cursor becomes a left/right-pointing arrow, then click and drag left or right to widen (lengthen) or narrow (shorten) the strip.

Special effects

Now try adding some advanced effects. Double-click a clip on the Timeline and the Toolkit window will pop up. You should see two images in the main part of the window, the start and end frames of the clip, along with some icons down the left-hand side. Click the Effects icon (the bottom one that looks like a plug). Effects are listed by category, so browse to find one.

We are going to apply a picture-in-picture effect to our video. To do this, click on 'Studio Plus RTFX' under



▲ Clever visual effects can be achieved with relatively little effort. Here we have created a picture-in-picture effect

wo images, one overlaying the
ore tweaking may be required to make it look just

ck to the settings in the effects Toolbox screen and
wn to where it says 'Border'. Type in the number 3
the Width and Height values and click the square
here it says 'Color' to change the colour of the
something that will make the picture-in-picture
t from the main image. Our image is quite dark, so
chosen white. Click OK, close the Toolkit window
u're done.
sometimes needs to work in the background to
r build) the edits and effects added to projects,
ay mean having to wait a moment before you can
preview. If a portion of the orange rule bar on the
e is green, then Studio is busy rendering something.
goes back to orange, you will be able to preview
ion.

adding titles to a project.

Remember, too, that photos and audio tracks can be added to projects, as well as video. Click the treble-clef icon on the left-hand side of the Album window to browse the PC for MP3 music to add as a soundtrack, for instance, or click the camera icon to browse for still images to use in a slideshow-style montage sequence.

Hopefully you will now feel confident enough with these advanced editing techniques to experiment. To burn the finished movie onto DVD click the third tab at the top, '3 Make Movie', and follow the prompts.

other. N
right.
Go b
scroll d
for bot
next to
border
stand o
we hav
once y
Stud
render
which
watch
Timeli
Once i
that se

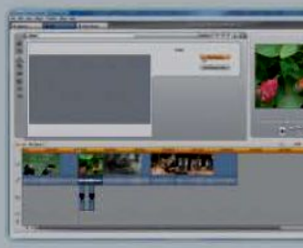
W TO ADD TITLES TO A VIDEO

eline, then
nd side of
Now click
e a text style

2 Double-click somewhere in the main image and type something. Click on the surrounding box, then drag the text to where you want it. Click the 'X' button top-right when finished.

3 In the Timeline the title appears as a block below the clip you clicked in Step 1. If you want the text to fade up, Open the Transitions Album and drag a fade onto the left-hand edge of the title block in the Timeline.

STEP BY STEP | H



1 Double-click a clip on the Tim
click the 'T' icon on the left-ha
the Toolbox window that appears.
the 'Title overlay' button and choo
from the column on the right.

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Computer active

THE ONLY PLAIN ENGLISH COMPUTER MAGAZINE!

PUBLISHED MONTHLY WITH A POWER-PACKED CD

5th Anniversary offer valid till 31st March 2011

12 issues + SOFTWARE CD only Rs. 750

Subscribe Now!

The Knowledge Boost Plan

☐ **Pay Rs. 1800 for 3 years subscription**
and save Rs. 1800 on the cover price

☐ **Pay Rs. 750 for 1 year subscription**
and save Rs. 450 on the cover price

Overseas Subscription Plan

☐ **Pay Rs. 5500 or USD 125 for**
for 1 Year subscription by air mail post

☐ **Pay Rs. 12500 or USD 300**
for 1 Year subscription by courier

YOUR DETAILS (ALL DETAILS IN CAPITAL LETTERS)

Name: Mr/Ms .....

Occupation .....

Date of birth .....

Address .....

.....

.....

City ..... State .....

Pincode ..... Email .....

Phone (Off) ..... Phone (Res) .....

Kindly draw the cheque/DD/PO in favor of NEXT GEN PUBLISHING LTD.
(Please add Rs. 20/- extra for outstation cheque)

Please Find enclosed

Cheque/DD no. ..... Dated .....

Bank .....

Branch .....

Or please charge my credit card

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card No. .....

Card expiry date .....

Name .....

(as appears on card)

Date ..... Signature .....

TO SUBSCRIBE USING YOUR MOBILE

SMS 56161 with the words-

'Subs CA' with your name, city & email address.

Example - 'Subs CA Ajit manjrekar, Mumbai, ajitm@myworld.com'Signature

Please complete the order form and mail it to us at Next Gen Publishing Ltd., 2nd Floor, C Wing, Trade World, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai 400013 India. You can also fax the order for credit card purchases to +91 22 24955394
For clarifications, email: subscriptions@nextgenpublishing.net or call +91 22 4352 5252

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Please allow 4-6 weeks for processing of your subscription. Copies will be sent by ordinary post only. Next Gen Publishing will not be responsible for postal delay, transit loses or mutilation of copies. No cancellation of subscriptions will be entertained after commencement of subscription. Please mention your name and address on the reverse of your DD/Cheque. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of courts in Mumbai only.

ngpay™ mall on mobile

NEW

Subscribe using Credit Card over the phone

CALL +91 22 4352 5252

Monday - Friday, 9.00 am to 5.30 pm

subscriptions@nextgenpublishing.net

Powered by atom™ the 'new way' to pay

Photo editing on the webroom

Create brilliant-looking photos without downloading software or spending money

Editing photos is one of the most popular things people like to do with their PCs. Getting good results takes a little practice but it's immensely satisfying once you've got the hang of it. You used to need a photo-editing application installed on your PC but, just as word processors have made their way online, so have photo editors. This means it's possible to make your photos look great without downloading anything or spending any money.

An online editor requires less computing power and hard disk space, so you can edit photos on an older PC or a mini-laptop. You can also share photos online, or edit pictures if they are already on a photo-sharing site, rather than keep them on your PC.

There are plenty of online image editors to choose from, so read on to find out which is best for you.

First let's explain what an online application is. We are used to software supplied on a disc or offered as a file to download from the internet, which is then installed on the PC's hard disk. Online applications don't live on your PC; you create a free account that enables you to use a copy of the software stored on an internet server, which you interact with using a web browser such as Internet Explorer.

▲ Browse through your photos in Photoshop Express

There are lots of benefits to using an online editor. First, much of the processing – the complicated maths that needs to be done to edit a picture – is done on the web server. That is good news if your PC has struggled to process image editing before or if you own one of the new small but less powerful mini-laptops.

Best of all, these services are easy to use. That doesn't mean they are not powerful. They are just designed for people who want good results quickly rather than spending hours learning new tricks.

Your online toolkit

All the tools you would expect to find are there. Images can be resized to make them easier to send to people, you can remove unwanted elements using the cropping tool, remove the red-eye effect produced by camera flashes and convert images to black and white with a single click. You can make colours in your pictures more punchy or add eye-catching effects and text captions. When the editing is complete, the photo can be added to an online gallery to be viewed by friends, downloaded to your computer or printed by a professional photographic lab and posted to you.

To run an online image editor you need some free software called Adobe Flash Player. This is an add-on for your browser, which you almost certainly already have. If you can watch videos at www.youtube.com then you already have it. If not, you will be prompted to download it when you first load an image editor or you can download it manually at ***www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer***. Either way is simple and needs to be done once only, although the program may ask to update itself every now and then.

A good internet connection is important. If you are using dial-up and want to use an online photo editor, now is the time to upgrade to broadband. Dial-up is too slow, whether you are sending an image to the editor (uploading) or trying to use the application itself.

The most well-known online photo editor is Photoshop Express. Find it at ***www.photoshop.com***, and if you have ever used Photoshop Elements you will be right at home. You get 2GB of space to store your images, with the option

▲ Isolate a single colour and turn the rest to black and white

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Jargon Buster

Techno babble demystified...

Add-on Web browser add-ons add new features to make browsing more effective.

Compression The process of reducing a file's size by encoding the data.

Dial-up A component of Windows that allows

of paying $19.99 a year for 20GB. A notice on the site says Photoshop Express is only available in the United States, but this isn't quite true. You can still use the service, but you should beware that performance isn't always on par with other services.

There are plenty of advantages. Photoshop Express is extremely slick and easy to use. Switch to full-screen mode and you could be forgiven for thinking you were using a desktop application. Photoshop Express is part image catalogue (the Library) and part image editor, so once photos have been uploa

prompts you to upgrade. Although the free tools are impressive, the really good stuff is locked until you subscribe. For example, Picnik is the only editor we found that offers tools such as curve and level adjustment – powerful tools that allow you to quickly change how much impact your pictures have.

Picnik is easier to use and navigate than Photoshop

saved in online photo
cebook, Myspace, Photobucket
ou can also open pictures saved
t to upload more than five at a
upgrade.
share pictures using Picnik. You
to photo sharing sites or
formats with plenty of different
e being able to resize a picture
pression from the save screen).
on image resolution is higher in
you can work with are 4,000
This means unless you have a
than 12 megapixels you can edit
eir original resolution. Great

monitor or captured by a scanner or camera.

Server A computer on a network, such as the internet, that distributes information to other PCs.

White balance Adjusts the balance of colours in the image to produce natural-looking images.

and turn the rest to black and white. When you hover the mouse pointer over an option the application shows a preview of how the image will look once applied.

There is one significant drawback: once you start editing an image Photoshop Express resizes it to a maximum resolution of 2,880x2,880 pixels. Most digital cameras can record far more detail, which is needed if you want to print pictures larger than 10x8in.

Picnik

If you have ever used the image-editing tools provided by the photo-sharing website Flickr (***www.flickr.com***) then our next online editor will look very familiar. Picnik supplies a pared-down version of its service to Flickr but the full version, which can be found at www.picnik.com, is far more powerful.

There are still a few restrictions: like Photoshop Express, Picnic offers a premium service for $25 a year and it's not shy about pointing out the benefits of upgrading. Every time you save, email or otherwise finish editing an image, Picnik

▲ Click an effect in Picnik and adjust its strength in the menu below

galleries such as Flickr, F
and Picasa Web Albums.
on your PC, but if you wa
time you need to pay for a

There are lots of ways
can email them, send ther
download them in variou
settings (we particularly
and choose the level of co

Best of all, the restricti
Picnik – the biggest imag
pixels on their longest sid
camera that captures mor
and save your pictures at
news if you want big prin

ools for offline use

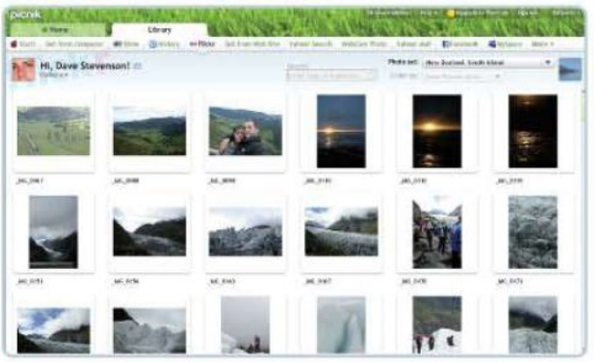
to editor you
ternet
some
still won't
ashup's basic

light) is good
ay be
ad Adobe Air
erful option is
om/X115).
u will get to
power without

shelling out. It is not terribly easy to use but it is a great, free way to learn the ropes. Another free choice is Paint.net (www.snipca.com /X123). This is easier to use than Gimp and you still get a formidable range of tools, such as 3D effects and the ability to undo your changes an unlimited number of times. Finally, Photofiltre (www.snipca.com/X116) offers a huge number of one-click tools but it isn't particularly user-friendly.

Free t

If you still want a ph
can use without an i
connection, there ar
excellent options th
cost you a penny. S
Light version
(www.splashup.com
for beginners. You n
prompted to downlo
to run it. A more pow
Gimp (www.snipca.
This is the closest y
Photoshop levels of



▲ Picnik can open pictures saved in online photo galleries such as Flickr

▲ Splashup supports layers so you can add effects to photos safely

Make a splash

Photoshop Express and Picnik are two photo editors that are very easy to use. For those who want more power – and know how to use it – Splashup (***www.splashup.com***) is the answer. It looks the most like a standard application of the three services here, albeit in rather sombre black. With its tool palettes and menu bar stretched across the top of the screen, it looks very business-like.

It is the only editor here to support layers. Layers are effectively entirely new images laid over the top of the original image, which means you can add shapes, brushstrokes or text without destroying your image's original pixels. It is an advanced feature we are surprised to see in a free online editor. There is also a large collection of filters designed to help you bring out the subtleties in your pictures, such as a high level of control over image sharpness and the ability to add film-like grain.

Where Picnik and Photoshop Express allow you to make sweeping changes to your pictures, Splashup requires you to be more design-minded and technically knowledgeable. You can get similar effects to the other two, but you need practice first.

On the plus side, you can open multiple images at once and copy and paste between them – we opened 10 images at one time with no problem. You can also open images directly from your hard disk or from a variety of online sources including Flickr, Facebook and Picasa Web Albums, and there are equally wide-ranging ways to save your pictures. Ultimately Splashup is impressive but getting the best from your images takes a lot of hard work compared to the instant friendliness of Picnik.

Photoshop Elements is paid, but it's still good value, and is more powerful than any online option. But we love Picnik's performance. It is free, has loads of features and offers beginners an easy way to make pictures look superb while remaining powerful enough to keep the more adventurous happy – if you can tolerate its eagerness to sell the premium service.

STEP BY STEP | HOW TO GET A FREE ACCOUNT AT PICNIK

1 Go to ***www.picnik.com*** and click 'Get started now'. You don't need to register to use Picnik, but you get a number of extra features if you do. Your last five images are saved, for instance, as well as all the changes you have made to them. This is handy if you decide you don't like a change and want to undo it later.

2 Click Register at the top and enter your details into the box that appears. Picnik promises not to share your details with other companies. This process takes a few seconds – if your chosen username is taken, Picnik will tell you. Registering is free, but Picnik gives you more features if you pay for a premium account.

3 To get started, click the 'Upload' button on the main screen, then find a folder on your hard disk with pictures in it. Choose one you like and double-click it. The picture will be loaded in to Picnik. Click on the 'Create' tab at the top to start experimenting with Picnik's impressive range of effects.

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Get chatting via video link

Put your webcam to good use by holding online video chats

It is not all that long ago that webcams were regarded as something of a luxury, and had large price tags associated with them. These days, though, webcams are available at pocket-money prices, you needn't pay much more than around Rs. 1,500, even for a good one. Once installed, a webcam can be used to record footage, but they can also be used as a means of keeping in touch with people. The simple addition of a webcam makes it possible for people you chat with online to see you and this kind of video chat is a great way of keeping in contact with friends and family you can't meet up with very often. Obviously you will need a webcam and a microphone, but many webcams have a microphone built in. Here's how to do it.

Online chat options

The internet has become an indispensable tool for communication. The advent of email changed the way in which friends, family and colleagues stay in touch with each other, making it possible to exchange messages almost instantly. But if 'almost instant' was not fast enough, it did not take long for the first batch of instant-messaging (IM) programs to appear, and these provided a means of chatting with contacts in real time.

Over time, instant-messaging tools developed and the option of conducting voice chats with a microphone was added. It was now possible to hear the person you were chatting with rather than just reading messages they had typed. This idea was taken to the next level by the likes of Skype, a company that quickly cottoned on to the fact that internet users were keen on saving money by making web-based phone calls rather than using the more traditional, and expensive, landline option.

Adding video to the mix

More recently still, video chat has become a common addition to instant-messaging tools and services. The popular Google Mail service, for instance, now has both text and video chat modes. If you are already familiar with Google Mail and just want a quick guide to its video chat mode then see our guide on page 105.

A Google Mail account is needed. If you don't already have one then pay a visit to ***http://mail.google.com*** and click the 'Create an account' button to set up a new one. Otherwise, just sign in.

In the chat box to the left of the page should be a link labelled 'Try video chat. Click this to access the download page', but if the link is not visible, just visit ***http://mail.google.com/video*** chat instead. Click the 'Install voice and video chat' button and save the file that is offered for download to the Windows Desktop. Once the download is complete, double-click the file named GoogleVoiceAndVideoSetup.exe to start the installation. There will be a short pause while additional required components are downloaded and once this has been done a web browser restart is required. Click the button to restart and then revisit the Google Mail website before signing back in to your account if you have been signed out.

Setting up

To the left-hand side of the page, look in the Chat box beneath the list of folders, expanding it if necessary by

▲ Webcams are cheap, easy to install and add a new dimension to communication via the internet

Jargon Buster

Techno babble demystified...

- **Desktop** The background area on screen where Windows files and icons appear.
- **Double-click** To click twice quickly in succession on a mouse button. If you double-click on an application icon, Windows will then attempt to launch the application.
- **Download** Transferring files onto your PC directly from the internet.
- **Driver** A program that allows Windows to communicate with a peripheral device.
- **Dropdown menu** A list of options that appears when you click a menu bar or button.
- **Instant messaging** Real-timecommunication over a network (usually the internet), using a program such as AOL Instant Messenger.

clicking the '+' button. Click the Options link that appears at the bottom of the Chat box and select 'Chat settings' from the menu that is displayed. The chat settings screen will be displayed in the right-hand portion of the page, with a number of options. At this point it is important to make sure that a webcam is connected.

Click the '+' button next to the 'Verify your settings' label if a video window is not already visible. If the currently connected webcam has been detected, the video window should display what the camera sees. If this is not the case, it is possible that the wrong input device has been detected as a webcam – this can happen if a TV tuner card is installed, for example. If the box appears black, click the Camera dropdown menu beneath this section of the settings page and make sure that the correct webcam is selected from the list.

Beneath this are options relating to sound, both input and output. Use the Microphone dropdown menu to select the input that should be used to capture sound. Some webcams have a built-in microphone, while for others a separate microphone will be required. Now scroll up the page slightly so that the microphone meter (to the left of the video window) is visible. Speak into the microphone and check that the meter responds accordingly. If it doesn't, check the Windows sound settings.

Similar settings need to be configured for the speakers so that sound can be heard. Use the Speakers dropdown menu to select the soundcard that is installed, although in most instances selecting 'Default device' will also work. Next to the video preview window, click the 'play the test sound' link and check that audio is working. Assuming everything is work as it should, tick the box labelled 'Enable echo cancellation (recommended)' as this will help to reduce improve sound quality by reducing microphone interference. Click Save Changes.

If you experience any problems with either the microphone or sound output, click the 'Troubleshoot your settings' link next to the video preview window. This link leads a page featuring an introductory video about video chats along with links to troubleshooting resources to the right of the page. A list of webcams that are known to work with Google video chats is displayed, but this catalogue is far from exhaustive. If your webcam fails to work, it may be necessary to install updated drivers.

Start a video chat

To start a video chat, return to the Google Mail inbox and ensure that the chat box is visible to the left of the screen. Any contacts with a green camera icon next to their name have a webcam installed. Click their name to open a chat window and then click the 'Video & more' link at the

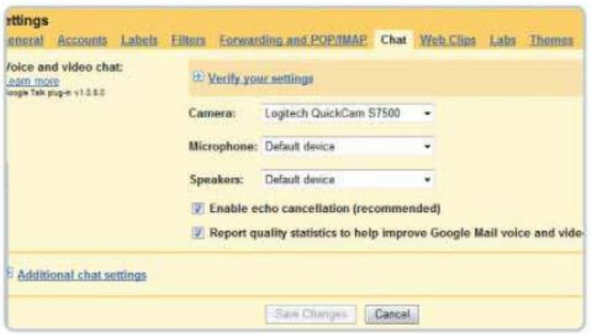
▲ In Google Mail, video chats are just a couple of clicks away

Other ways to have online video chats

All the major instant-messaging programs, such as Windows Live Messenger and Yahoo Messenger, support webcams. There are even 'cross-platform' instant messengers, such as Digsby (www.digsby.com), that can be used for video chats regardless of which tool your contacts might use. While using Google Mail for video chats keeps things simple, and makes it possible to chat to others whilst checking email, you may prefer to use a dedicated program.

Google Talk is an instant-messaging client which works much likes its rivals and can be used with a webcam. The program can be downloaded free from ***www.google.com/talk***.

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com



▲ Check the Chat settings in Google Mail to make sure your webcam has been detected

▲ Download the Google Talk tool for simple video chats

bottom of the screen. Select 'Start a video chat' and wait for the call to be answered. The output of your webcam is shown in a small window, while the larger display shows that of the person you are speaking to.

By default, sound is enabled during a video chat: it can be disabled by clicking the microphone button beneath the video window. To view a larger video window, click the arrow button above the video to 'pop out'; the icon in the upper left of the video can also be clicked to enter full-screen mode.

When the video chat has come to an end, simply close the video window to end the call. If someone else instigates a video call, all that needs to be done is to click the Answer button.

Tweaking the picture

Lighting is very important when using a webcam. Certain cameras have a built-in light that will automatically activate when conditions are too dark, but if this is not the case, you will have to rely on other sources of light.

The light emitted by a computer monitor is unlikely to be sufficient to light a scene satisfactorily, so it may be necessary to switch on a light or lamp in the room. Be careful to position this lighting so it is beneficial rather than a hindrance. A light source behind the head of the subject, whether this is electric lighting or a window, will result in a silhouetted image. There are controls available that can be used to adjust the brightness of video footage, but this is only really suitable for making minor tweaks. If the image is very dark, increasing the brightness will simply result in a very grainy picture.

Get talking

Video chats online are both simple to set up and free. Obviously, though, you will need someone to hold the other side of the conversation. If you don't know anyone who uses Google Mail then coerce some webcam-owning friends or family members to sign up. Alternatively, get them to download the standalone Google Talk tool from ***www.google.com/talk*** (they will still need to sign up for a Google account, though). With that complete, starting a video chat is as straightforward as clicking a contact's name. So, what are you waiting for?

STEP BY STEP | HOW TO USE VIDEO CHAT IN GOOGLE MAIL

1 Start by paying a visit to http://mail.google. com/videochat. Click the 'Install voice and video chat' button, download the software and run through the installation process. Restart your web browser when prompted and sign back into Google Mail.

2 Click the Options link at the bottom of the Chat box to the left of the page and then select 'Chat settings'. If the webcam has been correctly detected a video window should be visible, but if this is not the case, ensure the correct options are selected from the Camera and Microphone menus.

3 To start a video chat, click the name of a contact in the Chat box; a green camera icon indicates the other person has a camera too. When the chat window opens, click the 'Video & more' link, select 'Start a video chat' and wait for the call to be answered.

BEST BUYS

Computeractive recommends...

Our Best Buys are a selection of the best products reviewed in Computer*active* in recent months. Those selected are not necessarily winners of our **Buy It!** award but they have fared well enough in our tests to warrant consideration. The prices were correct at the time of printing but use them as a rough guide.The prices we print are suggested retail prices. For the latest prices, visit the manufacturer's website.

PRODUCT	TYPE	WE SAY	PRICE	ISSUE	RATING
Gadgets					
Nokia E71	Smartphone	Blackberry killer, the E71 is one of the best business device	**19,990**	33	★★★★
Nokia N86	Smartphone	Wireless, sporty Walkman with good sound quality	**27,359**	47	★★★
Creative Zen Mozaic	Portable Media Player	Unique and performing	**5,000**	35	★★★★
iPod Nano	Portable Media Player	The slimmest iPod ever with great looks and storage	**9,700**	36	★★★★
Samsung Yp-P2 Pebble	Portable Media Player	MP3 player with playlist capability	**2,490**	44	★★★
Notebooks					
Samsung NC10	Intel Atom	Premium looks, great finish and a good netbook	**28,447**	37	★★★★
MSI Wind	Intel Celeron	Best UMPC with good storage	**25,000**	32	★★★★
Acer Aspire One	Intel Atom	Practical UMPC	**21,000**	34	★★★★
Dell Studio 1435	Intel Core 2 Duo	Value for money notebook loaded with features	**44,900**	42	★★★★
Acer Aspire 5738G	Intel Core 2 Duo	Superb keyboard with DDR3 RAM	**30,999**	45	★★★★
Printers					
HP LaserJet P1007	Laser Printer	Monochrome laser at affordable price	**6,299**	34	★★★★
Brother DCP-6690CW	Inkjet Printer	A good A3 business all-in-one	**27,270**	41	★★★★
Brother DCP-7030	All-in-One	Cost eddective multi-function laser for home and office	**10,900**	37	★★★★
Epson TX600 FW	All-in-One	Multi-talented, multi-performing beauty	**14,999**	47	★★★
Brother HL-2140	Laser Printer	An affordable personal laser printer	**5,900**	32	★★★
Peripherals					
i2i	Music Streamer	An easy to use effective music streamer for music enthusiasts	**9,800**	41	★★★★
Razer Copperhead Gaming Mouse	Mouse	A must have mouse for gamers	**4,500**	15	★★★★
Divoom iTour 10	Portable Speaker	Pocket speaker for your iPod or mobile phone	**1,500**	37	★★★
Logitech V550 Nano	Mouse	A mouse to use on the move with a laptop	**10,990**	37	★★★★
Creative GigaWorks T3	Speaker	Solid Bass output with small footprint	**16,619**	45	★★★
Software					
Symatec Norton NIS 2009	System Security	All rounder system protection software	**3,290**	35	★★★★
Apple Safari 4	Browser	Feature-rich browser for Mac and PC	**Free**	40	★★★★
Moblin 2.0 Beta	Operating System	Best operating system for netbook till date	**Free**	45	★★★★
PC Tools Spyware Doctor	System Utility	A good tool to protect against spyware	**999**	25	★★★★
Apple iLife 09	Media management	A great upgrade to the already good iLife08	**4,700**	41	★★★★

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

BEST Bridge Camera

With increasing adoption of digital photography and increasing popularity of online photo sharing, quality of photos is also becoming important rather than just quantity. With the simplicity of point and shoot and quality of a DSLR, Bridge cameras are here to stay.

1

2

3

4

1 Panasonic Lumix DMC FZ-35
Useful 27mm wide-angle zoom; excellent image stabilization; full selection of manual and automatic exposure controls with quality 720p movie capture with operational zoom and manual controls;

2 Nikon Coolpix P100
Nikon Coolpix P100 is an ultra zoom digital camera with26x optical zoom: a 26mm ultra wide-angle lens with 678mm tele to bring far scenes up real close. Sensor-shift image stabilization helps reduce camera shake when using long focal lengths.

3 FujiFilm Finepix HS10
With a 30x zoom, the HS10 is an ideal camera in any situation. It delivers a big zoom range, and good performance.

4 Canon PowerShot SX1 IS
Comes with a 10 Megapixel Canon CMOS sensor, 4 frames per second continuous shooting, full HD movie capture and Canon's new DIGIC 4 processor for fast performance and richly detailed, clean images in a wide range of shooting situations.

BEST OF THE WEB

Translate text lingo, find spare parts for your home appliances and follow cooking videos

...he know, the message ...been coded in Enigma. ...ever translation. Enter the ... box and click a button to ...d in proper English. If you ...cool it can also translate

http://wridea.com

A simple but effective website for organising and sharing ideas with friends online.

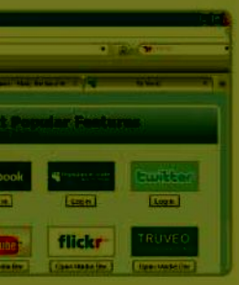
www.snipurl.com/j058h

If following recipes from books is tricky, this collection of cookery videos will help you be more adventurous.

...ot in ... looks like it ha... Dtxtr offers a ... message in on... have it transla... want to appea... the other way.

BEST FREE TOOLS FOR YOUR PC

...F documents to text, synchronise folders on two PCs and keep track of your passwords



...ied version ... blog editor, ...and lots of ...tworking tools

...MB

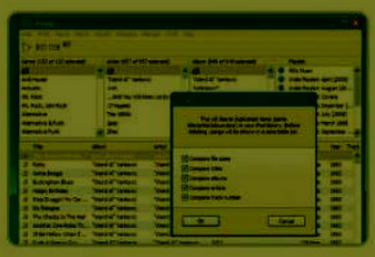
...★★

...www.flock.com

DirSync Pro

Dirsync Pro can keep the contents of two folders on two computers in sync with each other. This is useful for simple backups or laptop users.

Type: Freeware
File size: 670KB
Overall: ★★★★★
Download at: *www.dirsyncpro.org*



Floola

Floola is an alternative to iTunes for copying music to and from an iPod or a Motorola mobile phone. It can be installed onto the iPod itself.

Type: Freeware
File size: 7.3MB
Overall: ★★★★★
Download at: *www.floola.com*

Zilla PDF to Text

It is possible to copy text out of PDF documents by hand but this utility can convert several documents at the same time.

Type: Freeware
File size: 5.8MB
Overall: ★★★★★
Download at: *www.pdfzilla.com*

THE

Convert PD...

Flock 2.5

Flock is a mod... of Firefox with... photo manage... other social-n... built in.

Type: Freewar...
File size: 12.7...
Overall: ★★★...
Download at:

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

DIGITAL PRIDE.

COWON

COWON J3

16M color 3.3" AMOLED

Micro SD Card Slot

Built - in speaker

Bluetooth| G-Sensor| TV-Out | Flash Player

Music| Video | Picture Documents | FM Radio

Voice Recording

64 hrs Music Playback

11 hrs Video Playback

reddot design award winner 2010

BUY ONLINE : www.cowonindia.in

iAudioE2

iAudio9

National Distributor : LIPAP SYSTEMS PVT. LTD
Tel: 022 - 28743716 / 40032653 Email:iaudio@lipap.com

Made in Korea

Hurry
WIN
Verbatim Gaming Mouse
2GB Flash Drive

Verbatim
WORLD'S
No.1
Brand for Optical Media*

Computer Interactive

&

Verbatim

QUIZ - 15

Now,the fun at Computer Interactive gets even more rewarding! Take a crack at this Verbatim-Computer active Quiz and win!. So read, Find the answer and shoot before 20th, Dec 2010 to win a Verbatim Gaming Mouse and 2GB Flash Drive.

Mail to ca@nextgenpublishing.net with the subject-

1) Toshiba video 3D player can -
- ❑ Play movies in 3D
- ❑ Convert movies in 3D
- ❑ All of the above

2) Ubuntu is based on -
- ❑ Linux Kernel
- ❑ Mac Kernel
- ❑ Windows Kernel

3) FujiFilm FinePix HS10 is a -
- ❑ SLR Camera
- ❑ DSLR Camera
- ❑ Bridge Camera

Name:_____
Address:_____
_____
City:_____ **Pincode:**_____
Tel.No._____ **Mobile:**_____

Email:_____
Subscription No. *(For subscribers only)*_____

CONGRATULATIONS!
(The winner of Quiz no. 10 is)
Mahesh SR (Bangalore) and
Ravi Kumar Gupta (Gorakhpur) (2 GB Flash Drive)

The decision of the judges will be final and binding and no queries shall be entertainment. The employees of Verbatim and Next Gen Publishing cannot participate in this contest. Participants can also send their entries by fax or photocopies at the Next Gen Publishing mailing address listed on the last page. Winner will be decided by Lucky draw.

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

Don't Type, Just TALK....Speech recognition software

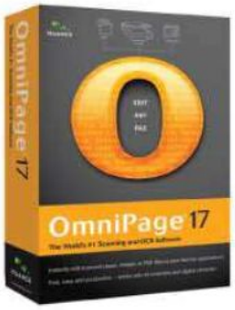
Dragon NaturallySpeaking Indian edition Premium 11

Speech recognition for Windows - Its fast, easy and accurate way to turn speech into text, all you have to do is speak to your computer naturally & the words automatically appear on your computer screen. Users can dictate virtually into any windows-based application Like Word, Excel, Outlook at speeds up to 160 words per minute and achieve higher levels of accuracy than ever before. *Naturally Speaking* has been specially developed for the Indian accent and vocabulary.

Dragon Dictate

Speech recognition for Apple Macintosh - Its fast, easy and accurate way to turn speech into text, all you have to do is speak to your Mac & the words automatically appear on your screen. Dragon Dictate provides a whole new way to interact with your Mac. Instead of typing, use your voice to input text; rather than clicking your mouse, just speak commands. With Dragon Dictate, it's easy. *MacSpeech now* has been specially developed for the Indian accent and vocabulary

Nuance Omni Page 17.0 / Nuance PDF converter Pro 7.0



Convert scanned documents to editable MS Word/Excel

OmniPage 17 uses optical character recognition [OCR] technology to transform data from scanned pages or image files into electronic files you can edit, search and share in the format of your choice. In just a few clicks you could be completing task that have previously taking hours. Omni Page 17-the world's best application for repurposing, sorting, searching and sharing converted documents.

Create a Secured PDF, Edit PDF and Convert PDF to MS Word / Excel / PPT [all-in-one, at 1/3 the cost of popular solution]

PDF converter professional 7, its complete PDF solution for business users. Offers an unmatched combination of 100% industry standard PDF creation, conversion and editing, plus commenting and security feature to give business users total document control and maximum efficiency. Now you can edit directly with the PDF file- just like working in the original file. Standard PDF forms can be instantly converted into fill able PDF forms and more.

Dealers Enquiry Solicited

ICONS

206, Kartik Complex, New Link Road, Andheri (W), Mumbai 400 053. Phone: 022- 2635 1063 / 4094 2600 / 93200 -ICONS (42667)
Email: icons@icons.net.in www.icons.net.in

SentinelHASP™ STOP PIRACY & ILLEGAL DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR SOFTWARE

Are You Losing Your Revenue And Potential Customer Due To Piracy Of Your Software?

Sentinel HASP SRM Industry's First Fully-Integrated Hardware and Software-based Software Rights Management Solution

- Strong Copy Protection to combat software piracy
- Secure & Flexible software licensing and software License management
- Unmatched IP Protection to maintain your competitive edge
- Enforcement through Cross-LockingTM Technology that enables choosing eithrt hardware-based (dongle) or software-based (product activitation)
- Role-based to Fully Align with the Product Lifecycle
- Easy to use license management tools

www.safenet-inc.com

To Order Your Free SDK Write to us on info.apac@safenet-inc.com

SafeNet India Private Limited.
6th Floor,Tower C
Plot No 5, Sector 127
Logix Techno Park ,Noida – 201301,India
For more information:
North: +91–99712 78833
West: +91–97691 80909
Mail: info.apac@safenet-inc.com

SafeNet

www.strontium.biz

Q&A

Strontium

Computer Interactive

Hurry WIN

Strontium16GB & 8GB USB Flash Drive

Now,the fun at Computer Interactive gets even more rewarding! Take a crack at this Strontium-Computer active Quiz and win!. So read,Find the answer and shoot before 20th, Dec 2010 to win a Strontium USB Flash Drive 16GB.

Mail to ca@nextgenpublishing.net with the subject -

1) Samsung PX2370 retails for -
   - ❑ Rs. 9990
   - ❑ Rs. 15300
   - ❑ Rs. 12990

2) BenQ MP780ST is available at a price of -
   - ❑ Rs. 110000
   - ❑ Rs. 100000
   - ❑ Rs. 45900

3) Nokia E5-00 is available in -
   - ❑ 4 colours
   - ❑ 2 colours
   - ❑ 3 colours

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

City: _____ **Pincode:** _____

Tel.No. _____ **Mobile:** _____

Email: _____

Subscription No. *(For subscribers only)* _____

CONGRATULATIONS!

Radhika Nair (Kerala) (16GB Strontium Flash Drive Winner) &
Joydeep Kumar (Haryana) (8GB Strontium Flash Drive Winner)

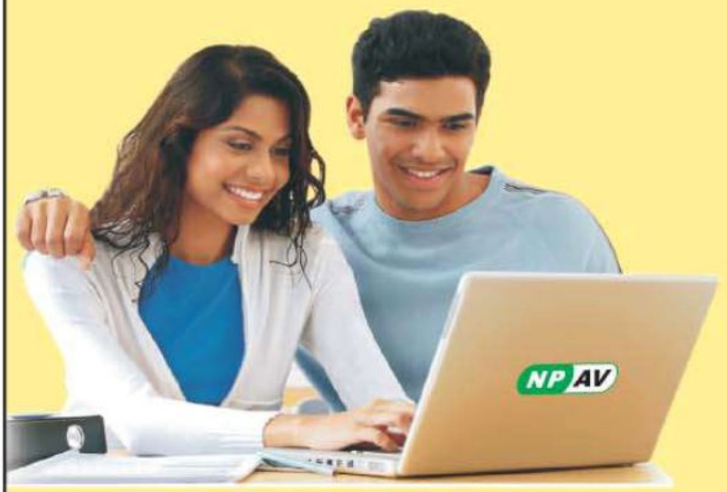
The decision of the judges will be final and binding and no queries shall be entertainment. The employees of Strontium and Next Gen Publishing cannot participate in this contest. Participants can also send their entries by fax or photocopies at the Next Gen Publishing mailing address listed on the last page. Winner will be decided by Lucky draw.

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com

india antivirus.com

Net Protector
NP AV
AntiVirus



Net Protector
Total PC Protection
2011

Home
Office
STOP VIRUS
Corporate
Business

- Anti-Spyware
- Anti-Malware
- Anti-Rootkit
- OS FireWall
- E-mail Backup
- Browser Repair

Protect your Digital Life

Wanted Dealers

Admin Console for LAN
Web secure
PC Optimizer

Call :
(0) 9272707050
(0) 9272744987
sales@indiaantivirus.com
Biz Secure Labs Pvt. Ltd.
Toll Free : 1800-209-5550

Now Click Online

www.smartphotography.in

UPDATED DAILY

POWERCOM

GLOBAL LEADER IN POWER PROTECTION

UPS

We use GREEN UPS technology

UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY

=

UNINTERRUPTIBLE

WORK

GAMING

SURFING

Wider voltage range – 140V to 300V
Powercom UPS can comfortably handle voltage fluctuations without switching to battery mode.

Compatiblity with major power backup alternatives
Works with BOTH generators & inverters.

Fully DIGITAL UPS range
Only DIGITAL UPS can check its battery thus ensuring long lasting & trouble free working of UPS.

OFF mode battery charging
The only UPS in this price category to give offline battery charging.

AP1050 UPS

Backup time
1 PC for 60 mins or 4 PC's for 15mins

IND606A UPS*

Backup time
1 PC for 15 mins

ASIA POWERCOM PVT. LTD
H.O. 7A/4, New Sion CHS, Sion (w), Mumbai-400022. Tel: +91 22 43332222 • Fax: +91 22 24012277
Email: sales@asiapowercom.com | www.asiapowercom.com

SALES AND SERVICE AVAILABLE ACROSS INDIA.

*93% A++ user satisfaction rating in SD Award 2009

Seagate

BUY Seagate GOFLEX for free*

FreeAgent GoFlex™ DRIVE FAMILY

THE GREAT Seagate CASH BACK OFFER

Buy a Seagate Goflex Drive and win upto 100% Cash Back*

This festive season, buy a Seagate GoFlex drive and you stand a chance to win upto **100% Cash Back** on your purchase, or even an all expense paid trip for two to **Malaysia**.

You can also win Netbooks, Mobile Phones, USB 3.0 and Firewire cables and lots of other cool stuff.

Promotion Period
15th November - 31st December 2010

Log on to: www.seagate-cashback.com

Seagate Authorised Distributors: **Fortune Marketing Pvt Ltd:** 011 - 26427627 • **Redington (India) Ltd:** 044 - 42243535 • **Supertron Electronics Ltd:** 033 - 22131221
Seagate Premier Partner- Sub Distributors: **Ahmedabad:** **Aegis Infoware** - 66097902 • **Earth Syscom Pvt. Ltd.** - 26857024 • **Silverline Infocom** - 26857292 • **Bangalore:** **Jain Infoways** - 22998368 • **Mega Compu World** - 51143441 • **Chennai:** **I Com Systems Pvt. Ltd.** - 42168489 • **UMS Infotech Pvt. Ltd.** - 28603261 • **Vajawat Computers** - 52185442 • **Gurgaon:** **Aryan Technologies & Telecommunication Pvt. Ltd.** - 4085126 • **Indore:** **Pacific Systems & Service** - 4090082 • **Jaipur:** **Kanchan Computech Pvt. Ltd.** - 2229477 • **Kochi:** **Aldous Glare Trade & Exports** - 2312820 • **International Marketing Company** - 3018068 • **M S Systems** - 2377222 • **Positive Systems** - 2376382 • **Westren I T Distributors** - 2358835 • **Kolkata:** **Suntronic Systems** - 22137434 • **Supreme Technologies Pvt. Ltd.** - 22119355 • **Technocrat Infotech Pvt. Ltd.** - 26414645 • **Mumbai:** **Chip-Com Traders Pvt. Ltd.** - 56587220 • **Gautam Computers** - 23819867 • **Om Shakti Computers** - 23803583 • **Shiv Shakti Technology Pvt. Ltd.** - 66587279 • **Solutions** - 23871727 • **Unitech Services** - 26719978 • **Nagpur:** **Real Computers** - 2547364 • **Silver System** - 2634000 • **New Delhi:** **Advantage Computers India Pvt. Ltd.** - 41618611 • **AVS Informatics Pvt. Ltd.** - 26473133 • **Computer Empire** - 26414645 • **Patna:** **Sharla Computer Technology Pvt. Ltd.** - 2202881 • **Pune:** **B M Enterprises** - 30217567 • **Baba Infotech Pvt. Ltd.** - 24485268 • **Poonam Electronics** - 25521740 • **Rajkot:** **Anyway I T Solutions** - 6628704 • **Secunderabad:** **Compage Computers Pvt. Ltd.** - 66385777 • **Gela Tida Infotech Pvt. Ltd.** - 55382311 • **Shweta Computers & Peripherals** - 66387451 • **Vishal Peripherals** - 27814523 • **Surat:** **Ria Computers Pvt. Ltd.** - 2235882

Also available at: STAPLES Gizone croma >CITE Reliance digital HyperCITY JUMBO landmark

*Conditions Apply. Offer applicable on Seagate GoFlex External Drive 1TB & Above (2.5 & 3.5 Form Factors) & Seagate GoFlex Home NAS. This offer is in select cities and on select models only. This offer is not valid in the state of TAMILNADU. The product is available without this offer also. Participation in the contest is voluntary and confirms your acceptance to the terms and conditions. For detailed terms and conditions, visit www.seagate-cashback.com. All images are indicative. Actual rewards may differ from pictures shown.

INTM/ICA/50111

PURE WIRELESS SPEAKERS

3 Reasons Why

PURE WIRELESS SPEAKERS Deliver PURE Audio:

1. **Works with ALL Stereo *Bluetooth* Devices**

2. **High Quality Wireless Audio Transmission**
3. **Super Easy & Fast To Connect**

Creative D100

Wireless boombox on-the-go!

- Simplistic design drivers encased in a rear ported enclosure delivers loudness and bass
- Plays high quality wireless audio* and controls your music with compatible** *Bluetooth* wireless devices, e.g. mobile phone, netbooks and other *Bluetooth* mobile devices
- The D100 is powered by mains power supply or 4 widely available AA batteries. It is truly portable, keeping the music going wherever you go
- Integrated AUX-in for connecting to other audio devices

Also available

ZiiSound D5

Made for iPod · Works with iPhone · aptX · reddot design award winner 2010

Creative D200

aptX

Winner of the Bluetooth SIG Best of CES Award 2010

Inspire S2 Wireless

aptX

Our wireless speakers work with any compatible *Bluetooth* devices!

Bluetooth®

* Incorporates the same *Bluetooth* technology found in the Creative Inspire S2 Wireless speakers – Winner of the *Bluetooth* SIG Best of CES Award 2010.
** Supports A2DP/AVRCP Profile.

© 2010 Creative Technology Ltd. All rights reserved. Creative, the Creative logo, Zii, ZiiSOUND and Inspire are trademarks or registered trademarks of Creative Technology Ltd in the United States and/or other countries. iPhone, iPod and iPad are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. The *Bluetooth* word mark and logo are owned by the *Bluetooth* SIG, Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners and are hereby recognized as such. All specifications are subject to change without notice. Actual product may differ slightly from images shown.

in.creative.com

More at ebook-free-download.net or magazinesdownload.com