

# *The Bridge*

The Journal of the Memphis PC Users Group

Volume 18, Number 2

February 2002

## General Information

**For Information on Special Interest Groups, see yellow pages in the middle**

**For Member feedback, contact us on our Voice Information Line**

**901-375-4316**

**or on our Web site:**

**[www.mpcug.org](http://www.mpcug.org)**

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## Wednesday, Feb. 27 Main Meeting

### Southwest Tennessee Community College

5983 Macon Cove, Memphis  
Second Floor Farris Building  
Meeting Room A

### New Users & Wizards

**6:30 P.M.**

### Main Meeting 7:30 P.M.

**It's a little late for Valentine's Day surprises, but this month's meeting plans were not ready at press time, so be prepared for just about anything! Bring along a friend.**



### Important Notice

for Staff Members, Bridge the Gap Volunteers, and SIG Leaders: We are about to renovate the "yellow pages" center section of The Bridge. If you want your listing to continue, email [aghennon@onemain.com](mailto:aghennon@onemain.com) with pertinent information, including time/date/location of SIG meetings, BtG applications supported, contact name, telephone number, and email address.



# The School Bell

## News From MPCUG Education Services

By Gil Hennon, Education Services Coordinator

I attended the Microsoft Windows XP launch at Agricenter International on November 1. It was a grand show, with music, entertainment, and demonstrations of the new operating system's snazzy new features. I was most interested in XP's wireless support, and the demo didn't let me down. As soon as a wireless card was installed, it automatically recognized both Microsoft's show network and the wireless network installed in the Agricenter. XP makes using wireless about as simple and easy as it can get.

So why haven't I upgraded to XP yet? Well, so far, XP hasn't been "blessed" by our testing organization. There have been about eighteen patches (or "updates" as they are now called) released for XP and its components since the launch. That's about one and a half per week, and even though the more critical updates have been combined into a single 1.35 Mb package, they are coming quicker than we can evaluate and certify them.

Many of the updates correct security problems, and currently there remains a security bug in Internet Explorer 6 that has not been patched, nor can the function be turned off. Internet Explorer has been especially beset with security problems, but there have also been vulnerabilities identified in Outlook, Media Player, and in the XP operating system itself as were reported in last month's "School Bell" column.

The security flaw recently patched in XP's Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) is an example of how these problems are identified and corrected. The UPnP vulnerability was first noticed by an independent security researcher, who brought

it to the attention of Microsoft and other security professionals. According to a Microsoft spokesperson, each reported vulnerability is confirmed and monitored to determine the severity of the threat. Serious security flaws get first attention when coders begin to develop patches. It took about two months for a patch to be completed, tested, and released for the UPnP bug.

Two months is not a great deal of time from the viewpoint of the developers coding the patch, but to security professionals, two months is an eternity. During that time, hackers become aware of the vulnerability, so a race begins to see if it can be exploited before the patch becomes available. Microsoft has complained that the "bug track" lists and Web sites are the best sources of information for hackers concerning newly identified vulnerabilities. But shutting down these sources takes the critical information away from system administrators and data security technicians as well as from the hacker community. Such a tactic does as much harm as good, spawning lots of unofficial, underground "bug news" routes with questionable information integrity.

Everyone wants a solution that protects their system during that vulnerable period between the identification of a bug and the release of a patch that fixes it. One big step would be an immediate response from Microsoft, or any other vendor with an identified bug, advising users and administrators on how to "turn off" the vulnerable feature until a patch can be made ready. Or, as has been suggested before, installing systems with features left inactive, and allowing users turn on only those features that they need.

Microsoft gets targeted by lots of hackers. Not only is the company the "big kid" on the block, but each OS and application component is chock full of sophisticated features to attract customers. Unfortunately, hackers are attracted just as easily. Big advertising campaigns with slogans like, "the most secure Windows version yet!" are red flags waving right in hackers' faces. It's a dare they can't ignore.

By the way, Windows XP's UPnP security flaw has nothing at all to do with the installation wizard that pops up when you plug in a new peripheral. The UPnP function is network software that allows a remote computer to recognize and use devices present in a user machine that is running XP. Unless this feature is needed and wanted, it should be turned off. Most users will never notice its absence. Those keeping the UPnP feature active should definitely install Microsoft's patch.

eWeek Magazine noted in a recent issue that the CERT Center statistics for the past three years show malicious activity on the Internet increasing at a "frightening rate." 52,658 security incidents were reported to CERT in 2001. Besides more than doubling the previous year's total, the incidents have also been more serious in nature. Experts say several factors are at work: There are more people online, there are more researchers finding vulnerabilities, and there are more potentially exploitable features in the latest software.

Most bizarre error message seen lately: "Your password must be at least 18770 characters and cannot repeat any of your previous 30689 passwords. Please type a different password. Type a password that meets these requirements in both text boxes." (Source: Microsoft Support Document Q276304.)

Don't let your computer become a CERT statistic! MPCUG Education Services can help you close the holes and squash the bugs before your system comes down with a virus. Join the New Users or Wizards sessions each month, immediately before the main meeting for handy tips, Q&A, and sharing your knowledge with fellow members.

***Plans are only good intentions  
unless they immediately degenerate  
into hard work.***

***- Peter Drucker***

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Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. By submitting articles, the author gives permission for publication in this newsletter and for publication by other user groups. The editor cannot guarantee that all submissions will be used.

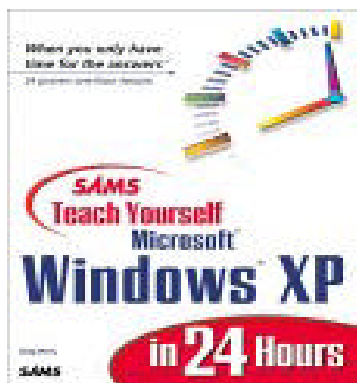
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# Teach Yourself Windows XP in 24 Hours

Book Review



## Reviewed by Rick Fischer

This book was out even before *Windows XP*. I started reading early so that knew what to expect in the latest from Redmond Washington.

*Teach Yourself Windows XP in 24 Hours* provides a great overview of *Windows XP* – written for beginners and intermediate users. And, it provides enough detail and “how to” to hold you while you are trying to sort out all the changes in the new operating system. This will be ideal for my wife who just got a new computer with XP at work.

Perry doesn't take himself too seriously and he chops up *Windows XP* into 24 byte-sized easy-to-understand chapters. For example, in the last chapter he argues that the most important thing in computing *isn't* the system unit, the CPU, the size of

your hard disk, or even your printer. He says matter-of-factly: “the most important component is the very chair you sit in. Smart PC users spend more money on their chair than on their operating systems” Amen. Good advice, and not what you'd expect in a book on *Windows XP*.

You'll cover all the functions users will need to know to get the most out *Windows XP*. This is not the manual that sits on the shelf in the SIS office, although, it does cover networking with *Windows XP* and advanced functions.

In the advanced section I found reference to Dr. Watson. This program ships with *Windows XP*, but is not found on any menu. It runs manually after you type in `Drwtsn32` from the Start command. It's nice to know because once started it sits in the background and waits for problems. From what I hear it will wait a long time, but that's not the point. Should you experience a problem, you'll know you can run this program to document the events leading up to the freeze (or whatever) and

then you'll retrieve the log file to read about possible fixes or just use it as a reference when you call Tech Support.

As with all process items in the book, Perry creates a “To Do” list where you'll get step-by-step instructions on how to perform this function. You know I like check lists.

You learn what's new in XP and how the three different XP versions differ.

You should find the sections on working with images very useful. *Windows XP* builds on Me with its superior handling of graphics and sound files. And, although setting up an Internet connection appears to be more streamlined in XP, I'd feel a lot more comfortable having with a guide such as this on my desk.

I have not seen the manual that ships with XP, but I suspect you will be shopping for a supplement. Please consider this one as you begin your search.

Teach Yourself  
Microsoft Windows XP in  
24 Hours by Grag Perry.  
SAMS. 2002. \$25.

# Special Edition: Using Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition

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Book Review

## Reviewed by Rick Fischer

Unless you've just discovered home computers, you've probably seen the thick Que books with black covers. All start with the word "Using." Just having that book in plain sight suggests that your opinion on computers matters is not to be taken lightly.

It has another very useful purpose. When people come to you looking for answers--as I'm sure they do--all you need to say is "It's in here. Why don't you have a look and see what it says."

It would be tedious to walk you through each of the chapters. There are six sections and 30 chapters--958 pages of text, pictures and tables. Instead, I selected four areas I wanted to learn more about. In brief, here's what I learned.

### Compatibility issues

Here's the scoop. It's all in chapter 2. For hardware you have three places you can look. One, go to the hardware compatibility list (HCL) at [www.microsoft.com/hcl](http://www.microsoft.com/hcl). Do this if you are thinking about upgrading your current system. You'll need to know what you own in order to use the HCL.

Second, run the XP compatibility tool from the XP CD. That means you bought XP or are borrowing the CD to use this function. It will look at your system and tell you what won't work and what is suspect.

Third, you can run the XP install. It will run the compatibility check as part of it install procedures.

Rule of thumb: if the program or hardware runs (or claims to run) with Windows 2000, it should run with XP. Corollary: if there is a Windows 2000 driver, it will probably work with XP.

Programs (except certain utilities) designed for Windows 95--Me, NT 4 and 2000 will probably work with XP. The utilities include: utilities like *Norton Utilities*, antivirus programs and system programs, e.g., *Norton System Works*. Check with the program vendor to be sure. With XP's compatibility modes, it can "fake out the offending application" making it believe it is running on the operating system it is comfortable with. Windows XP will block a program from running before it can do any damage.

### Go Back Feature

This is called the "system restore" feature. It is also indexed under "last known good configuration." I learned that system restore automatically monitors my system and notes key settings daily, at program installation (using InstallShield or Windows Installer) and when I update device drivers, among other times. I learned that I can create a restore point any time I want manually -- like before I change my system.

I can access the System Restore utility directly or click the System Restore tab of the System applet. This where I can make selections about how much memory is reserved for this function.

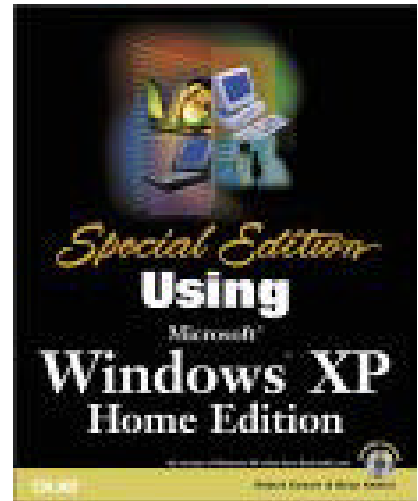
To restore, select the restore Wizard: Start--Programs--Accessories--System Tools. Follow instructions.

## Make XP Look Like Windows 98

This is one of the functions listed on the inside front cover. It gives the function description in plain language and tells you where to look. You'll find the answer under the title "GUI: To Tweak or Not to Tweak." I'm told that I qualify for "Geek-of-the-Year" since I know what the title means. Am I really a Geek?

The authors like XP's new look and think that's the way to go. Nonetheless, they tell us how to select the "classic look." Right click over the Start button--select the Properties command (from pop-up menu--See the Start Menu tab and options to select the Classic Start Menu.

I agree with the authors, but I wanted to see how to do it.



## Faxing from within XP

The index says it starts on page 195. In fact, the discussion on faxing in XP starts on page 192. I learn that built in to XP is a complete Fax utility-- send, receive, address book, cover page. Of course, I will need a fax modem. In this section we *do* see check lists for setting up the cover sheet and such. You'll use the Fax Configuration Wizard: Start--Programs--Accessories--Communications--Fax--Fax Configuration Wizard.

We get normal operations and a section on troubleshooting. Looks like it's all here.

*Using Windows XP* is encyclopedic in scope and approach. You will find fewer check lists than in so-called "guide" books. But, the functions are covered in great detail. Sometimes, nothing else will do.

Using Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition by Robert Cowart and Brian Knittel. 2002. Que. 958 pages. \$45. Includes instructional CD-ROM: 45 minutes of video from [brainsville.com](http://brainsville.com).

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# January Meeting Report

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About thirty members came to see if there would be a speaker or program in January. When neither materialized, Jim McGee suggested an informal discussion and started an ad hoc "Wizards II" session. John Schuster joined in, and soon all present were participating with recommendations for solving several computer problems. Afterward, Jim asked if anyone was interested in filling the apparently vacant position of Program Chairman. Several recommended Jim Ingram for the position, pointing out that he has been a driving force in organizing and growing the Hardware SIG. Jim said that he lacked experience for the Program Chair position, but agreed to serve contingent upon getting help from those who have previously held the position. Daniel Notowitz brought door prizes and the following were winners: James Coulter won a tee shirt, John Schuster won a coffee mug, Brian Weisfeld won Microsoft MapPoint, and Jim Ingram won Microsoft Money 2001



# Photoshop 6 Artistry: Mastering the Digital Image

Book Review

Reviewed by Roscoe Langford

Lets face it – *Photoshop* is a full time job. I don't believe anyone can "master the digital image" on a part time schedule.

Seeing is not believing — its what you want it to be. This 482-page book is printed on high quality paper and retails for \$59.99. It comes with an Adobe *Photoshop 6* try-out version on a CD that allows you to taste the power of the actual program. It was confusing at first as I was expecting a one, two, three lesson approach to *Photoshop* enlightenment. This was not the case. The content is not structured as lessons.

As an artist or photographer or just someone that wants to do personal photo work — this program is for you. One problem. *Photoshop* is expensive, but when you consider you do not need another software program, you see you are buying the Cadillac.

The first 100 pages plus of the book are devoted to the *Photoshop* tools. This is detailed and time consuming but probably the most important section of the book as it teaches you to understand such things as layers and paths. Also, you'll learn how to do masks to determine what you want to do with a selection. It is easy to remove a bad section or add something additional to your photos.

Color is a major part of *Photoshop* and most of the book is devoted to manipulating colors and color management. I was particularly interested in how to calibrate my monitor, scanner and printer using what they call ICC profiles.

Scanning photographic film and digital camera memory are easy to do. But what do you do next? There's resolution to think about. This problem is well covered by some simple multiplication. This is the beginning in the process of creating a master image.

Quality color examples are given

throughout the book. Learn to use the Magic Wand, the Lasso tool, Quick Mask mode, the Magnetic tool and Hue and color saturation. You quickly learn a new vocabulary.

For anyone desiring to restore old and damaged photos, *Photoshop* is **the** program. Taking the wart off the nose can be easier than with a surgeon's scalpel and a lot quicker. Tears in photos, faded areas, and color corrections are quite simple – once you know how.

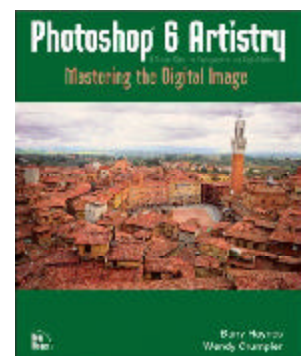
Playing around with text is another fun thing if you want to include copy with your photos. You can get carried away with making a headline lean left, right or center. Bulge out or in. Distort and color in almost any way you wish.

If you are creating something for your Web site there is a section that explains how to create your own Web Page.

The try-out CD is a must with this book as it allows you to actually see what you are reading.

This book and *Photoshop* are not for everyone, but if you are a serious professional photographer or a digital artist I wholeheartedly recommend this book to go along with the *Photoshop* software. Photography has changed so in the last few years that conventional photography in the professional ranks is being curtailed considerably.

*Photoshop 6 Artistry: Mastering the Digital Image* by Barry Haynes and Wendy Crumpler. (2001). New Riders. \$ 59.99. User Level: Intermediate-Expert  
[www.barryhaynes.com](http://www.barryhaynes.com)  
[www.newriders.com](http://www.newriders.com)



# Out for review. . .

Here is a list of software, books, or other products you can expect to see reviewed here in the coming months. These members checked out items to review for the benefit of all.

Windows XP Unleashed	David Arant
Teach Yourself GoLive 5 in 24 Hours	Allison Banks
Peter Norton's Complete Guide to Windows XP	Bill Brody
Spell Catcher	Deborah Hart-Curtis
Civilization: Call to Power	Morgan Curtis
Microsoft Office 2000 8 in 1	Dorothy Drum
Windows Security Handbook	Dorothy Drum
The Art and Science of Web Design	Mary Glasscock
Teach Yourself Macromedia Dreamweaver	Mary Glasscock
Drive Image 4	David Hamlin
The Little Web Cam Book	Mike Heinrich
Teach Yourself Windows 2000 Prof.	Al Hrutkay
Flash3!	Jim Jinkins
Photoshop 6 Artistry	Roscoe Langford
How to Use Microsoft FrontPage 2002	David Levine
Space Bunnies Must Die (game)	Adam Locke
Sin (game)	Adam Locke
X-Wing vs Tie Fighter	Adam Locke
Star Wars: Behind the Magic	Adam Locke
Extreme Tennis	Adam Locke
Easy Windows 2000 Prof	Bob Manchik
Windows 2000 Unleashed	Jim McGee
MapPoint 2000 (his own copy)	Jim McGee
Sportsmans Challenge	Kim McNeil
Top Shot	Paul Merz
Drive Image 3	Eric Miles
Using MS Windows 2000 Prof	Eric Miles
FrontPage for Win 2000 (book)	Lee Mouring
Teach Yourself Cold Fusion in 21 Days	Carl Osborne
Using Microsoft Access 2002 Spec. Ed.	Carl Osborne
Enfish Tracker Pro	Jill Simmons
How to Use the Internet	George Stringham
Complete Idiot's Guide to Starting an Online Business	Susan Stubbs
Microsoft Windows XP Professional	Susan Stubbs
Macromedia (book)	David Stowell
Easy Photoshop 6	Tommy Towery
Windows XP for Dummies	Tommy Towery



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## Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Clipper (4th Monday, 7 p.m.)

Nils Pallesen - 366-9673 - 72234.1027@compuserve.com

Communication

Daniel Notowitz - 818-0095 - daniel.notowitz@iname.com

FoxPro (2nd Thursday, 7 p.m.)

Stephen Russell - 365-9384

John Harvey - 372-9476 - john.harvey@worldnet.att.net

Investment (4th Saturday, 10 a.m.)

George Pearson - 761-0161 - gpearso2@midsouth.rr.com

Internet (1st Saturday, 10 a.m.)

Daniel Notowitz - 818-0095 - daniel.notowitz@iname.com

Microsoft Networking (1st Saturday )

John Harvey - 372-9476 -john.harvey@worldnet.att.net

Microsoft Office Group (2nd Saturday 12 Noon.):

Mike Heinrich -heinrich@usit.net

New User (4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - State Tech)

Gil Hennon - 396-4173 - aghennon@onemain.com

Web Writers (2nd Saturday, 10 a.m.)

Mike Heinrich - heinrich@usit.net

Gayle Ruhl

WordPerfect/Corel (3rd Monday, 7 p.m.)

Sue Crawley - 363-3681 - SueCrwl@aol.com

Hardware (1st Saturday, 10:00 am, White Station Library)

Jim Ingram - 683-9342 - jimingram@excite.com

**For up to the minute information and special updates be  
sure to check our webpage at:**

**WWW . MPCUG . ORG**

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>FEB. 2002</b>	<b>18</b> WORDPERFECT	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> INVESTMENTS
<b>FEB. MAR. 2002</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> MAIN MEETING	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> INTERNET 101 INTERNET NETWORKING HARDWARE
<b>MAR. 2002</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> DATABASE	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> PROGRAMMING	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> WINDOWS 101 WEB WRITERS MS OFFICE
<b>MAR.- 2002</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> NEWSLETTER MAILING	<b>14</b> FOXPRO VISUAL STUDIO.NET	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>MAR. 2002</b>	<b>18</b> WORDPERFECT	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> INVESTMENTS
<b>MAR. 2002</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> MAIN MEETING	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

# Bulletin Board Systems

Below is a list of Bulletin Board Systems operated by members of the Memphis PC Users Group.

If you are a member of the Memphis PC Users Group and would like your Bulletin Board listed here, call Noell Moseley at 755-4137.

## **LindenRoom - Wildcat**

901-458-9001

Sysop: Tracy Franklin

## **Pyramid BBS - Wildcat**

901-372-7912

Sysop: Dan Rook

## **Public Seismic Network - RBBS**

901-360-0302

Sysop: Charlie Rond

## **TIPS BBS - Major BBS**

901-542-9060

Sysop: Tim Hackworth

## **Crystal Clear Ideas BBS**

901-327-2500

Sysop: Carlton Smith

## **Meetings**

### **General Meeting**

All meetings are held at Southwest Tennessee Community College on the fourth Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted. Because of Christmas holidays, no meeting is scheduled in December. Pre-meeting sessions for New Users and Wizards begin at 6:30 p.m. and the main event starts at 7:30 p.m.

### **SIG Meetings**

All SIG meetings are held at the White Station Branch of the Memphis Public Library unless otherwise noted.

### **Affiliations**

The MPCUG is a member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG).

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***If you are interested in becoming a Vendor Sponsor,  
contact Bob Manchik at  
Robert\_Manchik@msn.com***

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## ***Other Memphis Area Computer Groups***

**AMUMS:** Micro User Group at University of Memphis - Barbara Okerson 678-3682

**AutoCAD:** AutoCAD Users Group - Jim Prewett 382-0885

**Clarion:** Clarion Users Group - Timothy Jordan 767-8719

**CCAM:** Computer Consultants Association of Memphis - Jessica Morris 382-8459

**DPMA:** Data Processing Management Association - 680-1268

**EDI/EC User Group:** Jim Story 753-0500, ext. 341

**MADBUG:** Memphis Area DB2 Users Group - Betty Stanley 325-5394

**MAG:** Memphis Amiga Group - Brian Akey 278-6354

**MASH:** Memphis Atari Systems Hobbyist - Bruce Leach 385-8195

**MCCUG:** Memphis Color Computer Users Group - B.J. Seaton 682-8737

**MCTA:** Microcomputer Technology Association (State Tech) - Doris Stepp 755-6685

**MCUC:** Memphis Commodore Users Club - Charlie Wirth 386-3337

**MSMRUG:** Mid-South Midrange Users Group - Jill Herrin 753-0500

**TI99/4A:** Mid-South TI99/4A Users Group - Gary Cox 358-0667

# Bridge the Gap

<u>Product</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Time to call</u>
1st Reader	Daniel Notowitz	818-0095	
4DOS	Lou Bernard	388-5876	7-10 p.m.
Access	Jim McGee	683-4347	M-F: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Adobe Photoshop	Gil Hennon	396-4173	
AlphaIV	Warren Sauer	362-1192	
CA-Clipper	Nils Pallesen	366-9673	
Corel WordPerfect	Gil Hennon	396-4173	
DOS	John Schuster	662-236-4168	Evenings
FoxPro	Dave Arnold	373-7962	M-F: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
InstaCalc 3	Les Owen	372-3987	8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Internet	T.R. Cardwell	377-9209	Evenings
PageMaker	Les Owen	372-3987	8 a.m.-10 p.m.
MS PowerPoint	Gil Hennon	396-4173	
Professional Write	Les Owen	372-3987	8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Qmail Deluxe	Daniel Notowitz	818-0095	
Quattro Pro	Gil Hennon	396-4173	
Windows/Workgroups	John Harvey	372-9476	
Windows NT	John Harvey	372-9476	
Word for Windows	Marcus Henry	795-0787	

## Memphis PC Users Group Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Membership # \_\_\_

Name: (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_

(M.I.) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$35 per year

For office use only

Check#: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

# Terror's Harvest: Liberty's Loss

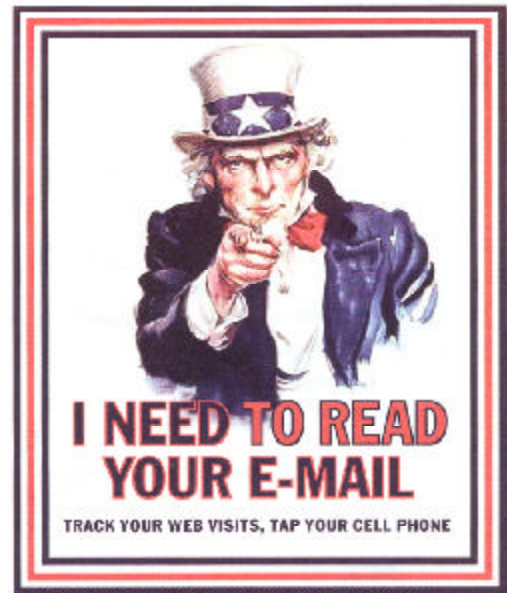
## Part 1: Your papers, please!

Editorial

By Gil Hennon, Editor

I broke a promise back in October. I said that I would continue to examine technology that invades privacy at the end of an article. That article had been completed early in September, and the next one, as promised, was already in the works. It went in the trash a few days after September 11<sup>th</sup>. All of the rules had very suddenly changed, and in the months following, they continued to change. Individual rights have always taken a back seat to national security in times of disaster and war, and the steps being taken in this direction are not exceptional. What makes a difference now is the technology that is available to those who snoop and relaxed constraints on how that technology is used. So, both belatedly, and with current events taken into account, I finally pick up the pieces of that broken promise. But first, let's catch up from where we left Dmitry Skylarov, the Russian programmer arrested on his first visit to the United States.

On December 13, five months after his arrest in Las Vegas where he was a speaker at the DefCon Nine convention, Dmitry accepted a "deal" offered by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California. In return for being allowed to return to his home and family in Russia, Dmitry signed a "facts" sheet concerning his charges without admitting any guilt. On the advice of lawyers from his employer, Elcomsoft Co., Ltd., he also agreed to cooperate with the United States in its investigation, to regularly report his whereabouts by telephone, and to write no software that violates any U. S. laws. If he successfully completes the requirements of the agreement, then the charges against him will be dismissed in one year



Paul Schaffner - eWeek Magazine September 24, 2001

or when a related case against his employers is settled.

The charges Dmitry faced were one count of conspiracy and two counts of trafficking in technology that circumvents the rights of a U. S. copyright holder. He admitted writing the "Advanced eBook Processor" program which allows the owner of an Adobe Acrobat eBook to make an unencrypted copy of the eBook content. At the time, Dmitry was a programmer for Elcomsoft, which offered his program for sale through its Web site. The program was available to the public for nine days before Elcomsoft removed it in compliance with a request from Adobe. Adobe did not pursue the matter until Dmitry visited the United States for the DefCon Nine convention. Adobe accused Dmitry of violating the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DCMA) and U. S. marshals arrested him. Almost immediately afterward, Adobe dropped the charges against him, but the U. S. Attorney's Office continued the prosecution. In spite of Dmitry's conditional release, Elcomsoft is still under indictment, and he may have to return and

testify in his employer's trial.

Critics of the U. S. action have pointed out that Elcomsoft acted in good faith and removed the software when notified that it violated Adobe's copyrights. Elcomsoft also cooperated in the investigation, even though no Russian laws were violated and no copies of Dmitry's software were sold in the United States. The DMCA is currently the subject of several investigations into whether or not the law is constitutional. Some of the critics believe that the government intentionally prosecuted Dmitry in the law's first test because, as a foreign citizen, he has no U. S. Constitutional rights. His defense cannot bring into question the constitutionality of the DMCA. Neither Dmitry nor Elcomsoft have admitted to any wrong-doing, and the company's San Francisco attorneys have said that the government released Skylarov because it knows the case is weak. And in spite of the release deal, publishers are celebrating Dmitry's case as a win for the DMCA. The Association of American Publishers has begun publicly offering rewards for snitching on DMCA violation suspects. Turn in another Dmitry Skylarov and get a fat check.

No one blames Dmitry for accepting the U. S. Attorney's deal. He says he was treated well while he was here, but he sorely missed his home and family. After five months of captivity, no matter how comfortable the accommodations, any of us would take whatever is offered to get over with the ordeal. The Russian government has issued a broad warning statement to its citizens about the risks of visiting the United States. Many international professional groups have cancelled U. S. conventions and stopped publication of scientific papers while the threat posed by the DMCA exists. Dmitry's parting advice to other programmers and computer scientists: "Be very careful with the United States because you can not be sure you are doing nothing illegal, even when you are not in the United States." It's kind of thing we used to think only happened in Russia!

The United States has taken some very

drastic steps to counter the threat of terrorism. One of the first was the passage of the "Patriot Act" by Congress. This legislation does not actually create new laws as much as it modifies those that already exist. Page after page refers to a previous law, then deletes, adds, or changes the wording to give government agencies extended powers of surveillance and apprehension of terrorist suspects. In ordinary times, most of these changes would have brought the wrath of constitutionalists and civil rights advocates down upon our Senators and Representatives. Some organizations such as the ACLU, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and the Cato Institute have published dissenting arguments, but until the terrorist threats are dealt with, most individual citizens have shown a willingness to sacrifice some of their rights and privacy in return for better security. There are also precedents in U. S. history of limiting individual rights during times of war, and such actions of a temporary nature are prudent and appropriate for protecting the nation. While acknowledging that the government has the legal authority to temporarily eavesdrop and detain citizens during a national emergency, the dissenters point out that the measures taken by the Patriot Act are of little help in fighting terrorism or preventing another terrorist attack.

Most of the Patriot Act grants new powers of surveillance to government agencies.

- It legitimizes the FBI's Carnivore email snooping technology, which was previously in very bad odor with Congress and the public.
- It grants broad approval for wiretaps and searches without first obtaining warrants or requiring the oversight of a judge.
- It expands previously narrow "roving wiretap" laws pertaining to cellular telecommunications.
- It places restrictions on the use of encryption.
- It defines certain types of computer hacking as crimes.

- It allows arresting persons without warrants and detaining them indefinitely without formal charges.

Once all of the cross-references have been followed and the language changes of the Patriot Act applied to the affected laws, it becomes obvious that the Act actually gives government agencies powers they have wanted for years, but were unable to get from Congress. Former Attorney General Janet Reno and FBI Director Louis Freeh testified on numerous occasions before Congressional committees and hearings in their attempts to get what the Patriot Act allows.

Reading email and tapping into telephone conversations is nothing new. Since the mid 90's, technologies have been in place on telco switches and cellular networks that allow law enforcement agencies easy access to your phone conversations. Until the Patriot Act was passed, they weren't allowed to legally use all of the gizmos they owned. Now they don't even have to get a warrant to secretly enter your home or business and tap phones, install bugs, or add keystroke loggers to your computers.

Which brings us to a renewed effort by the FBI and NSA to limit the public right to use encryption in messages and telephone conversations. Even with their expanded powers to read email and monitor calls, the ability to snoop runs into a wall when the content is encrypted. Government spokespersons claim that Osama bin Laden and his terrorist organization use encryption, but no news agency has yet shown us any encrypted media that they used. Most likely, they didn't need encryption. Speaking and writing in Afghan dialects would have been almost as difficult to translate as an encrypted file. By the time dialog in an obscure foreign language can be translated, the information is probably too old to be of value. In the past six months, only one news story has reported the breaking of encrypted documents in connection with the prosecution of a crime. That story was about a racketeer

whose encryption key was found by capturing his computer keystrokes. The documents that the key unlocked did not turn out to be pertinent to the investigation. Criminals and terrorists have not turned out to be big encryption users, but encryption is widely used in financial businesses such as banks and brokerage houses. Every transaction processed by an ATM "money machine" is encrypted, as are all overseas monetary transfer documents. Limiting the use of encryption, or requiring "back doors" for law enforcement agencies will more likely harm law-abiding U. S. businesses and citizens than it will finger a terrorist.

Although not included in the Patriot Act, government agencies are pushing hard for national identification cards with biometric data. The explanations of how this will help fight terrorism have been quite vague. Some of the terrorists who hijacked the airliners were in the U. S. on legal visas. Others entered the U. S. with identities that had been stolen overseas. In any case, they either had or obtained forms of identification that satisfied every authority involved in screening airline passengers. Adding another card to the deck, even one with a fingerprint or other physical information, would not have made any difference. What a national ID card would do is greatly simplify the government's growing collection of information on each citizen. Every purchase that requires an identification, every movement on public transportation, where we eat, sleep, and even what we do for recreation would be tied to one, simple identifier.

Simpson Garfinkel, technology analyst for the prestigious MIT Technology Review, noted in his December column that we now have "the capacity to turn the United States into a surveillance society the likes of which the world has never seen." Will these tools be used to protect us, or will they be turned against us? Will we prevent another September 11<sup>th</sup>, or will we be stopped while going about our business with demands to see "Your papers, please!"

# Copernic 2001 Plus

## Software Review

### Reviewed by Rick Fischer

I have been a *Copernic* evangelist for several years. My students in the mid-south and in Europe use it with great success. My Swiss masters students are supposed to load it before starting their re-search work.

And, it's free. Well, the basic *Copernic 2001* is free. The *Plus* and *Pro* variations will cost you.

### What does it do?

*Copernic* says it's a "Internet search toolbox." If I were head of marketing, I change the wording slightly: it's a box of Internet search tools. The emphasis should be on the *tools*, not on the *box*.

We know it as an international meta-search engine – a search engine that runs simultaneous searches on a number of other search engines, then consolidates the results and presents them to you with the most promising hits listed first. You can sort results in other ways if you need to. Your search terms are highlighted in yellow on the screen.

Does that sound like a good idea? It is! And it works.

The free version of *Copernic 2001* does this very well. The *Plus* and

*Pro* versions give you more choices and flexibility in organizing your searches.

### Categorical searches in Plus

With the basic *Copernic* you can access seven search categories: the Web, newsgroups, e-mail addresses, buy books, buy hardware, buy software and one of 14 language or country-based categories.

With *Copernic Plus* you can access around 90 categories using more than 1,000 general and specialized search engines and directories. And, I can pick one or all of the language or country-based categories.

Why is category searching important? Well, I see that when I searched for books it only used search engines that returned books. And when I searched news, it limited itself to searches of news. That means that you reduce by a significant amount false hits.

This afternoon I ordered a new book on Amazon.com. Later, I loaded *Copernic Plus*. I selected the category "buy books." I entered the name of the book and received hits representing

a number of book sellers that had the book. One seller offered it at the same price I paid. Most were more expensive. One would have saved me 16 cents.

*Copernic* has a category called Top News. I clicked on it and entered "Memphis" as the search term. *Copernic* only searched news sites and returned 73 hits. The majority were from today's news. The first announced Rufus Thomas' death. The *Sacramento Bee* Web site had a story about the Memphis Grizzlies. Msnbc had a piece about the Memphis Tigers basketball team. Yahoo news also had a Grizzlies story, as did Lycos sports.

It found some older stories (three weeks old) about missing scientist Dr. Jon Wiley. And, it found a two-year-old story about Memphis barbecue.

This is the only Internet search engine I use. If you allow, it will attach itself to your browser toolbar – where it belongs.

The booklet that ships with the Plus version is a promotional piece. It lists the functions available in all *Copernic* versions. It does not tell you where to



This is the Memphis Web Site *after* you run it through Copernic's Translate function – from English to Spanish.

find them or how to use them. Refer to the Help menu and print out “What is *Copernic 2001?*” and “Creating a new search” to find out how to use *Copernic* or *Copernic Plus*. I printed it and have enjoyed learning more about this wonderful program.

Here are some of the things that *Plus* will do that are not available in the basic program:

- select and download search engines (not already included)
- translate selected Web pages
- export query results in a variety of file formats
- no banner ads

### Translate function

I entered “la playa” as a search term – Spanish for “beach.” Back came Web

sites in English and Spanish with this word on the site. I found a Spanish site, waited for it to load, then clicked translate. It goes through *Copernic*'s translation dialog box asking about source language and preferred destination language. In less than 10 seconds it translated the entire Web page to English. Amazing!

*Copernic* translates accepts sites in French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Japanese and Russian.

### Copernic Shopper

My package included *Copernic Shopper Plus* (sells for \$30). *Copernic* has a free version of this program as well. The difference is that with the *Plus* version you can:

- keep track of prices

automatically

- monitor product availability
- Get e-mail notifications of new tracking results
- no advertising banners

Within *Shopper* you can access it through My Shopper – 13 categories, like books, computer hardware, computer software, sports, home, etc. I tried shopping for a Ford F-150, but was unsuccessful. Automotive was not one of the categories.

Or, you can Find Prices, Find Reviews, or shop Hot deals. Within Find Prices, I asked for prices for a Brother laser printer. At the top were the least expensive — \$268. Prices increase as you go down the list.

One interesting feature that *Copernic Shopper* has that I have not seen on shopping Web sites is a function to convert foreign currency into U. S. dollars.

Requires: Windows 95 or higher. Netscape 3 or later or Internet Explorer 3 or later. Some functions only work with later versions. 3 MB on hard drive. Internet access.

\$ 40

www.copernic.com or  
www.macmillansoftware.com

# Peter Norton's Complete Guide to Microsoft Windows XP

Book Review

Reviewed by Bill Brody

“Everything you need to know about the inner workings of *Windows XP* Home and Professional – in plain English!”

That’s the first of five promises presented on the cover of the book – and the first it falls short of fulfilling. It’s probably impossible to anticipate all the informational needs of the newcomer to *Windows XP*, and your experience may differ, but I’d find it hard to give this “Complete Guide” more than a 5 or 6 on a 10-point scale. Here’s why:

The book came to me for review because I upgraded from *Windows 98SE* to *Windows XP* over the holidays. I hoped it would help make the transition less traumatic than anticipated. The transition was indeed more easily accomplished than I’d expected, but I’d have to give the bulk of the credit to Microsoft rather than Norton.

Note to reader: the author must confess being more than a little ticked over the way in which Symantec, which also publishes the various Norton software products, handled upgrades to make *WinFax Pro* function under XP. Symantec offered an upgrade from *WinFax 10.0* to *WinFax 10.02* at a cost of about \$50. The upgrade was available only from its own Web site, only in CD form [no downloads] and at last reports, was out of stock.

The book’s best (but nevertheless imperfect) feature is Chapter 1: The Updater’s Guide to *Windows XP*. Even here, Norton provides considerable – but not quite enough – valuable advice for those preparing to update. I’d been planning to do a clean install but was told that the XP update system worked well. It did, but what Norton didn’t say almost came back to haunt me.

Example No. 1: back up everything twice before you begin. What he didn’t say: some backup formats are not supported by *Windows XP*. I do my major backups on tape, but the tapes I made in *Windows 98* aren’t readable in XP. Same tape drive; same tapes; updated software; still unreadable. In this instance, I’d also backed up my user files on CD-ROM.

Example No. 2: Microsoft offers a system checker (you can run it from their Web site or download, as you prefer) that will alert you to most incompatibilities in your existing hardware and software. Norton suggests that you use it. What he doesn’t tell you is that finding upgrades may not be all that easy. And that once you’ve found them, they may not work. Hewlett-Packard and Seagate, for example, don’t offer new drivers for all the products sold under their names. They refer visitors to third party vendors whose products may or may not do the job. Those that do invariably are available only at costs ranging from \$50 to \$75 – mighty high prices for drivers.

Example No. 3: Norton doesn’t tell you that entire families of “compatible” products (all of Adobe’s programs, for example) have to be re-installed before you can run them under *Windows XP*.

Example No. 4: Norton waxes enthusiastic over the *Windows XP* fax function (which is no substitute for *WinFax Pro*) but provides no guidance as to how to make it work. It’s not routinely installed from the XP CD-ROM. You have to go back to the CD and add it later.

Example No. 5: Norton proclaims himself “so happy to see CD-burning support build into *Windows XP*.” But that’s all he says about it and you’ll have a heckuva time trying to find it and make it work – even through Microsoft’s Knowledge Base.

In the overall, there’s a lot of information here, but much of what you may need is missing. Perhaps it all can’t be contained in the 731 pages that Norton provides. My experience is that it takes more than 1200 pages from a different publisher. Given a choice, I’d have spent the \$44.99 on new software for my tape or CD-RW drives.

Peter Norton’s Complete Guide to Microsoft Windows XP. by Peter Norton and John Paul Mueller. (2002). SAMS. 731 pages. \$45.



# Microsoft Windows XP Professional

## Software Review

**Reviewed by Susan Stubbs**

With my beta version approaching the 180 day installation limit, I was eager to install and review the final release of *Windows XP* professional. Installation proceeded similarly to the beta version. I did this on a cleanly formatted drive, which I consider to be the best way to install any OS.

This time I chose a single OS system, as opposed to having multiple operating systems (multi-boot). I believe that many of the issues I had with my beta version arose from having three operating systems (Win ME, Win 2k, Win XP) in one computer. I also got tired of booting back and forth.

*Windows XP* professional installed without a hitch and I activated the product painlessly. The first noticeable difference was the lack of a time-limit reminder that was present in the system tray of the beta version, and the lack of the beta version number on the desktop. After getting all my normal desktop preferences set, I checked out the networking connections tab, and noticed a few extras that were a bit more complete than in the beta version. Remote Desktop Connection was newer looking.

*Windows XP* professional connected to my home network very easily and I had no problem connecting to the Internet.

### **Locating updates; rollback feature**

At the windows update site, I found several service patches that *Windows XP* needed. These patches had been issued right after *Windows XP* went retail in late October and I was aware of them, as they had been needed for the beta version as well. A nice feature of *Windows XP* is that you will find that you do not have to reboot as often to install software or



updates. Another pressure relief is the rollback driver wizard. I installed a new sound driver recently, which I did not like and used this wizard to revert to the previous driver. It really worked!

The final retail version of *Windows XP* is very much like the beta, but more polished and more stable. A good description of *Windows XP* would be that it inherits all the best features of *Windows 2000* and *Windows Me* into a new more robust and stable OS. *Windows XP* also includes added features and enhancements that were previously unavailable unless you had a third party application.

### **Where to learn more**

A few weeks after my installation, I purchased an excellent book called *Microsoft Windows XP Inside Out* by Ed Bott and Carl Siechert. With this book I have discovered many tweaks that I would otherwise have missed. I highly suggest this book to anyone who purchases *Windows XP* and wants to learn more. It is also the recommended study material for XP certification exams. Another suggestion I would make if you are upgrading would be a quick visit to Microsoft's Website to get your system checked with the windows XP upgrade advisor, especially if you are considering upgrading a system that is a few years old.

This same upgrade advisor is on the windows XP CD, and it will give a detailed report of your system and possible issues that may arise when upgrading from a previous OS.

### **Home and Pro compared**

Many people got new PCs over the holidays with *Windows XP* preinstalled. Most of them with the "home" version of XP. Both versions are similar in appearance but have some subtle differences:

*Home Edition*: This is budget priced and lacks the full administrator tools, networking and security enhancements to join a full-fledged domain. The home



edition is usually preinstalled on new OEM systems. This edition is mostly for home users.

*Professional Edition:* This edition supports high performance, dual processor systems, and includes all the administrator features and full networking components to join a domain.

This edition includes Internet Information Services. This edition is primarily for businesses.

### **Much to discover**

I have been discovering new things about windows XP just about every week since I installed it. There are so many customizations that I can only highlight a few. There are several new wizards for audio and video. Just recently I tried the “copy to CD” wizard in windows media player to

copy some music to CD for a Christmas present. This works almost seamlessly, and is simple to do.

Image files are much easier to work with than any other Windows OS. *Windows XP* provides great wizards for viewing image files.

I also got PowerToys for *Windows XP*. These free tools are great for power users. The most exciting of these tools is the desktop manager, which allows you to have four different desktops (complete with different wallpaper) that you can use. Another tool is the slideshow wizard that can automatically create a slideshow for you — to be used either on a CD or as HTML on a Web site. There are dozens of Web sites with *Windows XP* tweaks and advice to get XP set up just the way you would want it.

Just recently, *Windows XP* professional and home versions have been hit with

several security vulnerabilities. There is a cumulative patch for *Internet Explorer 6* and also a *Windows XP* patch for a Universal PlugNPlay vulnerability. All these patches need to be installed to bring the system security up to date.

Overall, I find *Windows XP* professional to be a good step up for a Microsoft operating system. *Windows XP* works well with all the newer technology advances now available in a system.

I *do* recommend checking your system before upgrading. I also recommend that if you get a system for the holidays with windows XP preinstalled, that you visit the windows update site (see below) and obtain all the latest updates and patches to keep your system safe and happy.

Visit: [www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/using/howto/gettingstarted/guide/default.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/using/howto/gettingstarted/guide/default.asp)

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