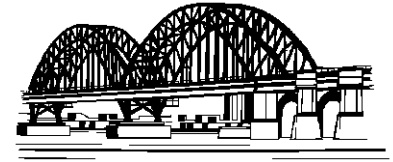


The Bridge



■ Volumn 22 ■ Number 7 ■ November/December 2006

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The Bridge

The newsletter of the Memphis PC Users Group, Inc.

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Announcement

MPCUG November Meeting (7:30 p.m., Nov. 29, Wednesday) will feature **Buying and Selling on eBay** presented by Tommy Towery. Wizard session will start at 6:30 p.m. No meeting in Dec. **Wishing you a good holiday season. See you in 2007.**

Location:

Jennings Room #8;
Southwest Community College

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The Issue Quote

"The buyer needs a hundred eyes,
the vendor not one."

~By George Herbert

The Bridge

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September and October Meetings' Report

The MPCUG September meeting was held Wednesday, Sep. 27, 2006 at the Southwest Tennessee Community College. Wizards Session started at 6:30 p.m. and was hosted by John Schuster. After the wizard session, a University of Memphis professor, Jin Yang, conducted her focus group session on the Media Satisfaction. The members present at the meeting had an interesting discussion on their media use experience and satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the media. The focus group lasted one hour and a half.

Following the focus group discussion, Rick Fischer and John Schuster demonstrated their favorite utilities. Fischer's PureText is useful in stripping off the html tags and tables from a copied web text. Schuster's utilities allow PC users to organize files and sort them easily.

The October meeting was held on

Oct. 25 featuring the demo of *Vista* by Daniel Notowitz. Vista is Microsoft's new operating system and should be available for release in early 2007.

Windows Vista introduces a breakthrough user experience and is designed to help you feel confident in your ability to view, find, and organize information and to control your computing experience.

The visual sophistication of Windows Vista helps streamline your computing experience by refining common window elements so you can better focus on the content on the screen rather than on how to access it. The desktop experience is more informative, intuitive, and helpful. And new tools bring better clarity to the information on your computer, so you can see what your files contain without opening them.

Computer News Digest

Microsoft Pushes Dual Deployment of Vista, Office 2007

by Elizabeth Montalbano
From pcworld.com

With the launch of Windows Vista and Office 2007 less than a month away, Microsoft was in New York recently showing off some features of the products it thinks should convince business customers that upgrading -- and deploying both applications at once--is a good idea.

Windows Vista and Office 2007 will

launch together alongside Exchange Server 2007 at an event in New York on November 30. On Monday, Microsoft said Office 2007 had been shipped to manufacturing, and that customers in the U.S. and Canada can begin downloading the product on December 1.

Microsoft to Offer Video Downloads for Xbox 360

by Nancy Gohring
From pcworld.com

Microsoft will launch a new service later this month that allows customers to download movies and television pro-

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Computer News Digest continued

grams through their Xbox 360 gaming consoles.

The company has signed deals that allow it to sell or rent an initial 1,000 hours of programming from CBS Broadcasting, Viacom's MTV Networks and Paramount Pictures, Turner Broadcasting System, Zuffa's Ultimate Fighting Championship, and Warner Bros. Home Entertainment.

Delete Your Bad Web Rep

by Scott Gilbertson
From wirednews.com

The mistakes you make on the internet can live forever -- unless you hire somebody to clean up after you.

A new startup, ReputationDefender, will act on your behalf by contacting data hosting services and requesting the removal of any materials that threaten your good social standing.

Any Web citizen willing to pay ReputationDefender's modest service fees can ask the company to seek and destroy embarrassing office party photos, blog posts detailing casual drug use or saucy comments on social networking profiles.

The company produces monthly reports on its clients' online identities for a cost of \$10 to \$16 per month, depending on the length of the contract. The client can request the removal of any material on the report for a charge of \$30 per instance.

Michael Fertik and his partners originally conceived of ReputationDefender as a way for parents to protect their children from potentially damaging postings to social networking sites like MySpace or Facebook.

"I don't like the idea that kids and teenagers might suffer lifelong harm because of momentary mistakes," says Fertik.

Using both site-scraping robots and good old-fashioned human detective skills, ReputationDefender promises to scour the internet -- particularly social

networking sites like MySpace, Facebook, Xanga and Flickr -- for materials that could threaten the author's employability once he reaches the professional world and its army of Google-savvy hiring managers.

According to CareerBuilder.com, 26 percent of hiring managers say they have used search engines to research potential employees, and one in 10 has looked on a social networking website.

After launching the site, Fertik quickly realized that ReputationDefender would appeal to a broader market than just minors and students.

Newspapers to Test Plan to Sell Ads on Google

by Saul Hansell
from nytimes.com

In a move into the old-fashioned business of ink on paper, Google is going to start selling advertisements that will appear in the print editions of 50 major newspapers.

Google's plan will give the publishing business a high-tech twist: the company will expand its computer system, which already auctions off advertisements on millions of Web sites, to take bids for newspaper ads as well. Hoping to reach out to a new crop of customers, such as small businesses and online retailers, many of the largest newspaper companies, including Gannett, the Tribune Company, The New York Times Company, the Washington Post Company and Hearst, have agreed to try the system in a three-month test set to start later this month.

For Google, the test is an important step to the company's audacious long-term goal: to build a single computer system through which advertisers can promote their products in any medium. For the newspaper industry, reeling from the loss of both readers and advertisers, this new system offers a [continued on page 11](#)

Spyware for Everyone I

By Gil Hennon



A couple of years ago I predicted the future. I didn't know it was a prediction at the time. It was just an opinion, or maybe only a random

observation. I said that I thought that spyware would one day be a bigger problem than viruses. That may have been my greatest understatement. It came true much sooner and much worse than I ever imagined. When I consider nearly twenty years I've spent studying (and cussing) viruses and their cousins, worms and Trojans, it is hard to believe that in just a few years, spyware has become more widespread, more costly, more malicious, and more difficult to remove than all other types of malware combined.

Incredibly, spyware evolved from a simple and innocent source - the browser cookie. These little packets of information with their funny name originally made it possible for Web users to carry on a conversation with a server in the absence of a hard-wired connection between the two. Cookies travel back and forth with client requests, keeping the server informed of what the client has already seen and what it wants to do next. For the transition from persistent connections by modem in the days of Bulletin Board Systems to Web connections in the Internet environment, cookies were a very good thing. But like monsters in the movies, they mutated and turned on their creators.

We learned while fighting viruses

that protecting a computer is a reactionary process. Until a threat is identified, anti-virus and anti-spyware tools don't recognize it. The bad guys have the advantage because the good guys never know what to expect next. There are now so many types of spyware using various methods to invade and compromise computer security, even experts find it difficult to maintain a safe system. We can't tell the players without a scorecard, and by the same token, we can't protect ourselves without knowing the enemy. In this case, we need to know the kinds of spyware threats with which we may be dealing.

Perhaps the most difficult task in creating a list of spyware types is coming up with an acceptable definition of spyware itself. Some users consider anything that does anything unexpected to be either a virus or spyware. Many programs we purchase and install may have a function that looks like spyware when operating normally, such as Microsoft Automatic Updates. It runs in the background, communicates across the Internet to a remote host, and sometimes installs software on our PCs without specific user consent. Many legitimate marketing companies also install benign spyware based utilities, usually with full disclosure and user permission, that provide opportunities to compare and purchase products. They try very hard to keep these utilities from being labeled spyware.

So defining spyware is sort of like trying to define pornography. A Supreme Court justice, when asked what he considered pornographic, answered that although he could not define it, he knew it when he saw it. The most generally accepted defini-

Computer Spyware

tion of spyware is the one crafted by the Anti-Spyware Coalition of public interest groups and trade associations.

"Spyware (and other potentially unwanted technologies) are technologies deployed without appropriate user consent and/or implemented in ways that impair user control over:

- ◆ Material changes that affect their user experience, privacy, or system security;
- ◆ Use of their system resources, including what programs are installed on their computers; and/or
- ◆ Collection, use, and distribution of their personal or other sensitive information."

The following list of spyware types and descriptions may be long, but it is by no means complete, since new threats seem to appear almost daily. Some are also more malicious than others, but not in comparable ways that allow us to rank them in order of the danger that they pose. All should be considered serious problems that need to be eliminated as quickly as possible with the least amount of damage to our systems and data.

◀▶ **Phishing**, although very common and fairly easy to recognize, accounts for most of the identity theft/financial loss damage that innocent users suffer. Generally an email message claims to be from a bank or credit card company and entices the user to give up account numbers, passwords, pin numbers, and other sensitive information. Some phishing Web sites look so much like the sites of a genuine company that visitors are fooled into believing that they are safe in answering confidential questions. Most of the data harvested by phishing is sold, passing through sev-

Spyware for Everyone I continued

eral hands until reaching professional identity theft operations in organized crime rings.

◁▷ **Vishing** is a variation of phishing that uses automatic dialers, Voice over IP (VoIP) telephone networks, and spoofing of caller IDs to get victims to call a telephone number and divulge confidential information to an automated answering system. Vishing is fairly new and, as yet, has not reached its full potential for trouble.

◁▷ **Pharming** is a variation on phishing, but on a grand scale. Rather than targeting individuals to steal account numbers, pin numbers, and passwords, pharmer redirect the data flow of server farms and DNS site address lookups. They target servers in the flow of banking and credit card companies, extracting huge amounts of data, then sifting through to find names, addresses, accounts, and login/password information for thousands of users.

◁▷ **Adware** (sometimes called Advertising Display Software) is application software installed on a PC that tracks the user's Web behavior and delivers advertising content related to where the user goes and what is viewed. Some Adware can be useful and helpful, but generally it slows system performance and displays too many annoying pop-up ads. Adware is often installed without the user's knowledge or consent along with peer-to-peer file sharing applications and browser toolbars, and sometimes it reports the user's Web activity to its home site for analysis and possibly for sale to marketing groups (aka spammers).

◁▷ **Parasiteware** is a catchall category for secretly installed applications that usually do something ille-



gal or unethical. Also known as scumware, stealware, or sleaze-ware, its purpose is to divert the small payment that a Web site receives from a seller for directing a visitor to the seller's site. Many non-profit community service sites are funded

to a great extent by these payments from vendors, so when the funds are diverted and paid to the wrong party, the beneficial site that deserve the payments must operate at a loss or cease operations. In most states, using parasiteware to steal payments from the rightful parties is illegal, but not all state laws are consistent, and the penalties may be less or even non-existent depending on where the parasite operation is located.

◁▷ **Page Hijackers** substitute hostnames or URLs into the system or browser addresses when a user tries to connect to a specific site. Most often the hijack targets specific Web sites, such as Amazon or Revlon and send the browser to a competitor's site. For a while, Page Hijackers were called "browser helper objects" and distributed as toolbars or other "plug-ins" for Netscape and Internet Explorer. Some toolbars can be very helpful, but the ones that contain Page Hijackers are frustrating and often difficult to remove.

◁▷ **Data Miners** acquire information from a PC and extract patterns of behavior on an individual or group scale. These tools began as legitimate academic and engineering statistical analysis programs, but have been perverted for use in predicting consumer behavior and influencing customer preferences. Although most data miners cause no harm to a PC, some are

more aggressive and use browser hijacking to impair a user's access to legitimate vendors.

◁▷ **A Dialer** is a program that uses a PC's modem to make secret telephone calls that result in unexpected phone charges. Some dialers call 900 "pay per minute" sex chat numbers and others call foreign long-distance numbers. In either event, the user is not always aware that a phone call has been made or how long it is in progress. Both the 900 and long-distance charges are billed through local telephone companies, and getting a refund after-the-fact can require evidence a user no longer has when the bill arrives many days later.

◁▷ **Bundling** is the practice of distributing multiple pieces of software together so that when one is installed, all are installed. Legitimate bundles can be of great benefit, bringing together applications or tools that work together. Bundles are often "bargain" priced, an advantage for both the user and the seller. But when applied to spyware, bundling means that when a user is duped into an installation (or something is installed without the user's knowledge) other spyware applications tag along. A few encounters with spyware bundles can seriously impact the performance and reliability of a PC. Some identified spyware bundles secretly install forty or more different programs.

This article will be continued on the next Issue of Bridge.

IT Helpdesk

Computer Humor

Customer: "My computer's telling me I performed an illegal abortion."

Windows Vista Overview

By Gene Barlow

The next few months promise to be an exciting time for PC users as Microsoft rolls out their new Windows Vista operating system. While some business systems may be released late this year, most of the action will take place shortly after the beginning of the new year. Now is the time to start planning how you are going to take advantage of this new technology.

This is the first new version of Windows in over five years and is a major change in how PC users will interact with their computers. Lots of new functions have been added to Vista to make it the most exciting new Windows since Windows 95 was first introduced. You will want to be a part of this major step forward in technology.

Some of the new features added to Windows Vista include:

- ▶ A complete redesign of the graphical user interface that you see and interact with. Windows Vista has a fresh new look and is a lot easier to use.

- ▶ Finding things on your Vista computer is going to be much easier. Files can be stored in one location, but retrieved in many different ways.

- ▶ New multimedia tools will now be part of Vista. This will help you to better work with your images, music, and videos files.

- ▶ Communications between computer systems has also been greatly enhanced. Connecting with other computers can now be done quickly and easily.

- ▶ System security has also been enhanced. Vista will provide you with more security features than older Windows systems did.

These are just a few of the hun-

dreds of new features you will find in Vista. To read about more of them download the Windows Vista Product Guide found on the Microsoft's web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getready/preview/>.

Interested and excited about Windows Vista? You should be. This is a very important change in how we use our computers. So, what do you need to do to get your computer ready for Windows Vista?

Microsoft suggests two ways to move to Windows Vista. They are:

- ▶ Do a Clean Install of Vista on top of your old WinXP operating system. This replaces your WinXP system with a new Windows Vista system. You will have to save all of your data files and settings from your old system before installing Vista and then put them back on your hard drive after Vista is installed. You will also need to reinstall all of your application programs from their original CDs. This is a lot of work, but it should give you a cleaner Vista system. Unfortunately, in the process you will destroy your old WinXP system. I consider this approach too risky for my use.

- ▶ Do an in-place upgrade of your old WinXP operating system with Windows Vista. This will install Windows Vista on top of your old operating system, but will keep all of your application programs and data files from your old system in the Windows Vista replacement. This is an easier way to go, but if things don't work, you have just destroyed your old working WinXP system in the process. Again, too risky for my liking.

So, how can you get to Windows

Computer Tech

Vista and still have the protection of your working WinXP system while you are getting use to Windows Vista? The secret is that you setup your computer's hard drive to run multiple operating systems. That will give you the ability to run both your current WinXP operating system and the new Windows Vista operating system on the same computer. This is easy to do with the right software tools.

First, you need to set up a logical Data partition on your main hard drive to hold all of the data files. Then you can access those data files from either of the two operating systems you are using. To do this, you need a partitioning utility like Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0. More about this excellent utility later.

Once you have moved all of your data files from your WinXP partition to this new Data partition you will be ready to install Vista. You can do this in the following ways:

- ▶ Multiple Operating Systems with a Clean Install of Windows Vista. Using the top rated partitioning utility, Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0, you set up a second primary partition on your main computer. Then you install a Clean version of Windows Vista in this second primary partition on your main hard drive. When you are done, you can switch back and forth between your WinXP operating system and your new Windows Vista operating system using the OS Selector utility that comes with Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0. This lets you keep your working WinXP system while you are building your new Windows Vista system. You will need to install any application programs in the Windows Vista parti-

Windows Vista Overview continued



tion that you want to run under Vista. This will give you the cleanest installation of Vista possible.

► **Multiple Operating Systems** with an Upgrade Install of Windows Vista. Also using the partitioning utility, Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0, you set up an empty space on your main computer where your Vista primary partition will reside. Then you copy your WinXP operating system partition into this empty space on your hard drive. This gives you two primary partitions, each with WinXP installed in it and running. Next, you do a Windows Vista upgrade install into the partition with the copy of WinXP. This will replace WinXP in that one partition with Windows Vista, but still keep your application programs and settings. You can switch back and forth between the two operating systems using the OS Selector utility that comes with Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0. This is the easiest way to get to Windows Vista from WinXP.

By using multiple operating systems on your computer to run both WinXP and Windows Vista, you do not risk having to burn your WinXP bridges before you are comfortable with Windows Vista. This gives you the time to test out your application programs and get everything working on your new Windows Vista system before you commit to using it exclu-

sively. Once you are satisfied that Windows Vista works perfectly for you, then you can discard the old WinXP system and only use Windows Vista. It may be several months before you finally get rid of WinXP. You do not need to get rid of it the day you first install Windows Vista like the two Microsoft options suggest.

To help you move to Windows Vista, we are putting several things in place. First, you will need a partitioning utility, e.g., Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0. This product normally sells for \$50, but we offer it to user group members and their friends for a discounted price of \$29 in our Fall Special bundle. You will also get a copy of our tutorial, Getting Ready for Windows Vista in the Fall Special bundle. Both of these for only \$29 is an outstanding bargain and one that you won't want to miss. Order yours today from our web site at www.usergroupstore.com. Look for the Fall Special and use the order code of UGFAL06 to complete your order.

To help you understand and use Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0 to get ready for Windows Vista, we have just completed a new tutorial titled, Getting Ready for Windows Vista. You can view it on our web site at www.ugr.com/tutorials.html. This will help you to better understand the steps needed to set up multiple operating systems on your computer. Those ordering our Fall Special on a CD will receive the tutorial CD with their order. Finally, we are working on a detailed step-by-step technical paper titled, Using Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0 to Install Windows Vista. This paper should be available around the end of October on our web site. We want your move to Windows Vista to be successful, so we are offering

you all of these tutorials and papers to help you get there as planned.

Be one of the first to use the exciting new Windows Vista operating system on your computer and share this information with your friends. We will help you get to that point safely and easily with our excellent products, tutorials, and prices. If you have any questions about this article or Acronis Disk Director Suite 10.0, please send them to gene@ugr.com. I look forward to helping you if I can.

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Note: the Memphis PC User Group obtained the permission from Gene Barlow to republish the article.

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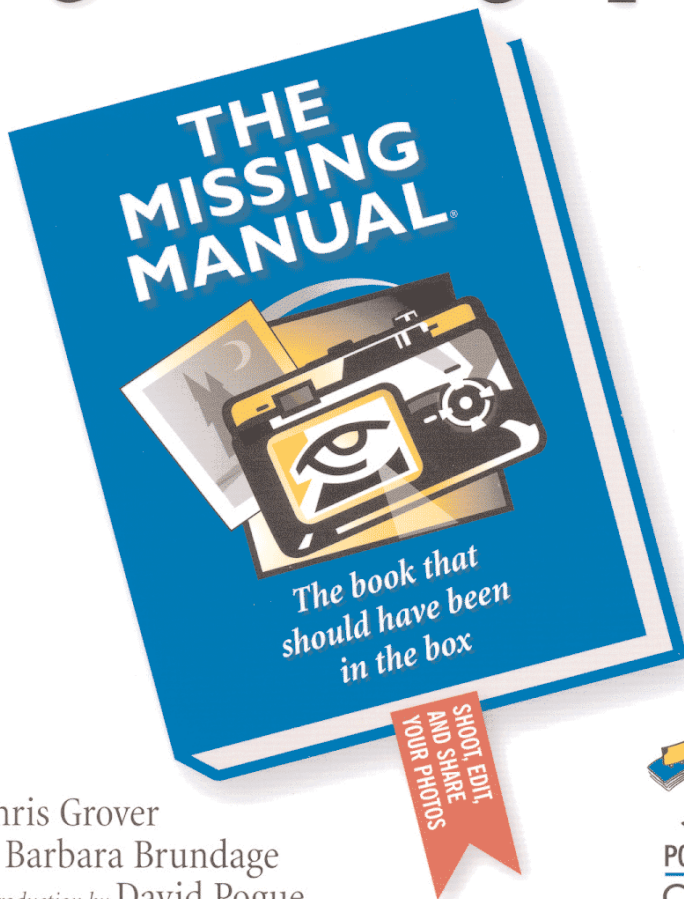
Digital Photography: The Missing Manual

By Gil Hennon

"The Missing Manuals...are the most usable, readable guides to software available anywhere..." —PC Magazine

Covers PC Programs:
Picasa, Easyshare,
Photoshop Elements,
and more!

Digital Photography



Chris Grover
& Barbara Brundage
Introduction by David Pogue



Book Review

Digital Photography: The Missing Manual by Chris Grover and Barbara Brundage is published under the Pogue Press imprint by O'Reilly Media, Inc. List price is FRN \$29.99 at <http://www.missingmanuals.com> and also available in stores and online sites where fine books are sold.

I used belonged to someone else, and when I tried it, I was very disappointed. The best it could do was 320 x 240 resolution and it would only hold twelve photos. A serial interface cable and some very flaky software made it a fifteen minute ordeal to move those twelve photos to a computer so that the camera was again ready to use.

By the time I purchased my own digital camera, there was a new term going around: Megapixels. Photos were stored on removable cards that could be swapped when full, although some expensive cards could hold 100 pictures or more. The optics had improved, the cameras were smaller and were actually starting to look like a camera instead of a StarTrek Phaser.

I liked the convenience of my first digital camera for certain situations and used it mostly at work. Putting digital photos into a document or presentation was a snap with a digital camera. No waiting to have film developed or scanning was necessary. The quality of the photographs was good enough for computer printers and PowerPoint slides, but still unacceptable for any photographs I intended to keep.

When digital cameras reached and exceeded three megapixels, I finally weaned myself from film. With a good camera, good photo editing soft-

Okay. I confess. I have become a digital photography junkie. It took me a few years and several different digital cameras to break my film-based addiction, but I have finally lost the urge to fill a shopping bag with little boxes from Kodak, Fuji, or Agfa. There is no Plus-X, Tri-X, or even Ektachrome left on my shelves. My darkroom has been dismantled. No more Medalist prints developed in

Dektol. The enlarger, film reels, trays, color processor, and an assortment of related tools and timers now collects dust in the attic. My current photography equipment consists of a camera, a few memory cards, and a computer. My new darkroom is my desk and my tools are a mouse and keyboard. I don't even need a safelight or sink!

I didn't transition from film to digital in a hurry. The first digital camera

Digital Photography: The Missing Manual continued

ware, and a good photo-quality printer, everything I could ever do with film and a darkroom can be done digitally, with less mess and often more easily -- assuming I'm able to figure out just how to do it.

That's where *Digital Photography: The Missing Manual* by Chris Grover and Barbara Brundage shines. The instruction guides that come with digital cameras and editing software are usually quite brief. They give a one or two line explanation of menu items and a quick overview of basic functions. Taking a photograph, a good photograph that is worth keeping, involves a lot more than selecting a menu item, peeking through a viewfinder, and pressing a shutter button. This is even more true with digital cameras than with film cameras because there are features and effects available digitally that were never done in a camera using film.

Digital Photography: The Missing Manual is logically divided into four main parts. The first part deals completely with choosing and using digital cameras. The other three parts cover organizing, editing, and sharing digital photographs.

Part One: *Digital Camera Basics* explains all of the differences digital cameras can offer and defines the technical terms associated with these differences. If you are trying to decide which camera to buy, you need to know whether an "aperture-priority" or a "shutter-priority" mode is best for you. Like many other digital camera features, the answer depends on what kind of pictures you take most of the time and under what conditions you will take them. Megapixels, image resolution, and memory card capacity all have a bearing on how many pictures you can take before having to save them

to a PC and empty the memory card. This may look complicated, but the book simplifies the math so you can calculate in your head your camera's capacity and how many photos you can take. Some digital cameras look like film-type Single Lens Reflex cameras and can be quite expensive, while others fit in your pocket and are priced very attractively. You need to know which type best fits your photography methods. Regardless of which type you decide to buy, you also need to consider the features each offers. Some features, like optical zoom, are almost a necessity. Others may be nice to have, like a viewfinder, but not required. And there are even a few features, like digital zoom, that most photographers will be better off never using. The book's excellent descriptions of these features and their worth can eliminate a lot of doubts when shopping for a digital camera.

The rest of Part One explains how to use a digital camera and its features. Lots of tips and proven techniques are offered for many different picture-taking situations. There may be situations you encounter that aren't in the book, but by combining tips from two or more different situations, you can creatively prepare yourself for just about anything. There is even a short chapter on basic composition that touches on the most important aspects for anyone just getting started in photography. Being a former instructor of photography and photo-journalism, I was both glad to see what was offered in four compact pages and a bit disappointed in what the authors obviously had to leave out. Composition was worth three complete lectures and lots of hands-on practice in my classes. Let this book be a launch point rather than a

finish line for this important subject. Exercise the rules in this chapter, then graduate to one of the more detailed texts on composition from Kodak or professional photography publishers. You can buy the most expensive camera and turn out lousy pictures. You can buy the cheapest camera and produce spectacular photographs. Composition makes the difference. I am often reminded that most of what creates a good picture takes place behind the viewfinder. Similarly, once you understand other techniques introduced in Part One, such as lighting, freezing action, and basic special effects, look to photographic instructional books that present these techniques in depth for your "master's degree."

Once there are pictures in the camera, the rest of *The Missing Manual* knows everything you can do with them. The three parts dealing with photo software comprise the bulk of the book. Several different software applications are compared in each part with plenty of screen shots, menu explanations, and tips on using various tools. There are step-by-step guides for several ways to move your photos from the camera to your PC. You'll find one that works best for you. There is also a section on choosing and using a scanner to digitize those prints, slides, and negatives you already took with a film camera. Again, there are several methods, all explained well.

When you begin to amass a collection of digital photographs, the next problem is how to find one that you want from a directory full of images.

This is where Part Two: *Organizing Your Photos* will make order out of chaos. Three software photo organization products are com-

Digital Photography: The Missing Manual continued

pared and all of them are free. The baseline is the My Pictures folder on Windows XP and Vista, a folder with special configuration to handle image files. Next is the EasyShare software that comes bundled with Kodak digital cameras. Still free, but very sophisticated is Picasa, available as a download from the Google search engine. Each of these adds additional features and some additional difficulty, but the book walks you through every step of every procedure. The screen shots and detailed explanations of buttons and functions anticipate questions quite accurately and prevent confusion. All through the book, important or complicated issues are taken aside into a separate window where they can be inspected more thoroughly. This is a real help. It keeps the instructional steps uncluttered and easy to follow. A reader can ignore the extra descriptions if already familiar with the topic, or read them thoroughly when encountering new concepts.

The three organization software tools can all do basic cataloging, thumbnails, and other sorting functions. EasyShare creates albums for easier searching and sharing. Picasa goes even farther with organization, creating "label folders" containing thumbnails of related photographs stored in many different physical folders. Even more handy are keywords you can assign to your pictures to allow searching for similar images across a number of labels and folders. In a similar manner, captions can also be attached to photographs, so that years later you will know that the person you can no longer recognize is your great-aunt Minnie.

Once your collection of photos is organized and you can find exactly the image you want, you need to back up. Don't risk losing all of your work and

treasured pictures! A back up is cheap insurance, and multiple back ups on different media is as safe as you can get. The book explains how to back up to removable media (CDROM or DVDROM), another hard drive, and how to store and share your photos online. This subject also introduces Adobe Photoshop Elements, a commercial collection of photographic tools. Elements is not free, like EasyShare and Picasa, but there are features for labeling, adding notes, backing up, editing, and searching in Elements that can't be found in free software. If you are unsure whether or not you should invest in a commercial product like Elements, then be sure to read everything about Elements in all of the later chapters. You may decide the features available justify the cost.

EasyShare, Picasa, and Elements also contain editing tools that can be used to transform a less-than-perfect shot into a first-rate keeper. Part Three of *The Missing Manual* is a tutorial in correcting photo flaws, cropping, resizing, and retouching. Some editing products have "quick fixes," that can find and correct flaws like the infamous "flashbulb red-eye" with a simple button click. Some of these will work every time and some will work some of the time. Always double check what happened during a "quick fix" so you won't be surprised later. While the best practice is to create good images from the start that won't need any fixing later, Murphy's Law has an affinity for photographers. Lighting will vary, auto exposure sees different scenes in different ways, and someone will invariably blink. Test the editing capabilities in the free products. If you decide to purchase a powerful editor, like Elements, many of the tools will be used in similar fashion. The really new things to learn in

Elements are the filters, special effects, and sophisticated control features.

Finally, while you can certainly enjoy your photographs all by yourself, the most fun is sharing them with family and friends, and possibly selling them for publication. *The Missing Manual* offers tips and tricks for producing long-lasting prints as well as slide shows that can tell a story without words. Advice for setting up and using online photo sharing sites such as EasyShare, Flickr, and others make exchanges easy, whether you intend to share with only close family or with the whole world. The products introduced in the previous parts of the book may also have clever, built-in features to help with e-mailing or posting your photos on the Web. A photo doesn't have to be simply an image either. It can be included in books and calendars or reproduced on a tee-shirt or coffee mug. How you use your photographs depends on your imagination and creativity. Accept no limitations!

All of the tutorials and tips in *The Missing Manual* are accompanied by both screen shots and step-by-step instructions. Some of the techniques are easy and some are not, but with practice, all can be mastered. If you would like to hear "ooh, ah, and wow" from your family and friends when you pass around your photos, this is the book for you.

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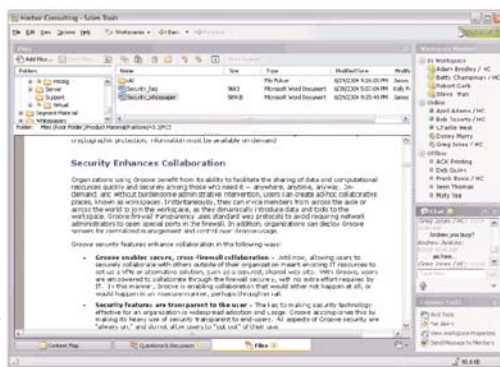
Computer Download

Note from editors. One of the greatest things about the Internet and computers is that some talents are willing to share their intellectual works with you free of charge. They are not working for commercial benefits but for fun and helping people efficiently working with computers. From this issue on, we will introduce you some of fabulous free downloads on the Internet. We hope you would like to try them on your own.

Groove Virtual Office

The modern office is a jumbled network of unfamiliar co-workers in incompatible time zones. Consider Groove Virtual Office as a way to work together as a team. Groove Virtual Office uses a peer-to-peer networking model to connect users in Groove Workspaces. In these workspaces geographically dispersed coworkers can do almost everything they could do in the same office. They can hold online meetings, store files and folders, save threaded discussions, scribble on whiteboards, share calendars, and track project information and timelines. A new forms-building tool lets users easily create applications for capturing, tracking, and sharing information among users.

When Groove is installed on your desktop, you simply open a Windows folder that you have created to store files. The folder will display a Groove icon, showing that you can share that folder with a Groove contact. To give them access, you enter their e-mail address. When they accept the invitation Groove delivers to them, Groove duplicates the folder on their PC and sends them their own copies of all of the files in your folder. The contents update on each desktop when any user makes changes, and any other invited Groove user sees the changes. If users are offline when changes are made, the updates are delivered as soon as they log on. To keep things secure, Groove transfers files with 192-bit encryption, and the data can travel through firewalls.



Note: This program is free for personal use. If you are using it for business, this is a 60-day trial evaluation. Trial users are allowed to create a maximum of three new shared places during the trial period.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fi,d,62127,00.asp

Ad-Aware SE Personal



Whether you already have Ad-Aware or are trying it out for the first time, the latest version of this free spyware-

removal tool is an essential component of any Windows system.

As many of us know, Ad-Aware pulls the plug on adware and spyware. The utility scans your system--including removable drives--for the most common types of advertising spyware and safely removes offending software. The utility detects small ad programs from Adware, Aureate/Radiate, OnFlow, Comet-Cursor, Cydoor, Doubleclick, EverAd, Flyswat, OnFlow, TimeSink 5.0, and others.

This latest version lets you scan your disk faster, using less CPU power and memory.

As many of us know, spyware refers to small, hidden programs that are embedded in larger applications to report information to advertisers. These programs are included in some shareware and freeware programs because, unfortunately, that's the only way some software developers can pay their bills. If you don't want any part of this--and feel that these hidden programs invade your privacy--you should definitely consider downloading Ad-Aware.

Ad-Aware is free for noncommercial use only. If you want to use it in a commercial, educational, or governmental environment, Lavasoft asks that you purchase Ad-Aware SE Plus or Ad-Aware SE Professional at its Web site. Download Ad-Aware SE Personal http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fi,d,7423,00.asp

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.

Teach Yourself GoLive 5 in 24 Hours

TIVO Hacks

Home Theater Hacks

Windows XP in a Snap

Windows Security Handbook

Smart Home Hacks

The Little Web Cam Book

Microsoft Works 7.0

How to Use Microsoft FrontPage 2002

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Starting A Business Online

User Interface in C#

Creative Computer Crafts

Photoshop Restoration & Retouching

Windows XP Pro (book)

Excel for Starters

Create Your Own Website

Macromedia (book)

Windows XP (book)

Photoshop Fine Arts Effects Cookbook

Create Your Own Digital Photography

Allison Banks

Jacob Burke

Osborne Burks

Vicki Dabney

Dorothy Drum

Megan Hefner

Mike Heinrich

Jim Ingram

David Levine

David Levine

Jim McGee

Vanessa Muldrow

Vanessa Muldrow

Daniel Notowitz

Jeremy Roberts

Jesse Strauch

David Stowell

Terry Thomas

Jin Yang

Qihong Zhou

Thanks to all who checked out products for review.

Let us keep the Group vital and provide value for membership.

[continued from page 2](#)

curious bargain: the publishers can get much-needed revenue but in doing so they may well make Google -- which is already the biggest seller of online advertising -- even stronger.

Tom Phillips, who runs Google's print operations, said the company was attracted by the \$48 billion spent every year in the United States on newspaper advertising. Google, nonetheless, is trying to position itself as a friend of the newspapers.

"Print adds value the Internet doesn't have," he said. Mr. Phillips, the former publisher of Spy Magazine, was hired by Google earlier this year. "It is a different browse-able reading medium."

The new system will begin a test

with 100 advertisers later this month. Google will not earn any revenue during the test, but when the system is formally introduced next year, it will take a cut of the advertising revenue. Google keeps about 20 percent of revenue for Internet ads it places.

HP Blasts Off With Mercury

By [Clint Boulton](#)
from [Internetnews.com](#)

HP (Quote) can officially begin transforming its software business as a one-stop shop for business technology optimization (BTO) after completing its purchase of Mercury Interactive Corp. for \$4.5 billion today.

Operating as a new subsidiary, HP Software will offer customers application management and delivery and IT

governance capabilities along with its OpenView management software portfolio.

Taken together, these assets will form the meat of HP's BTO strategy, which HP said is a category of software and services that helps CIOs better gauge the value of IT investments.

"We're going to drive BTO very hard in the market," said Yuval Scarlet, a vice president of marketing with HP Software, told [internetnews.com](#), noting that eight Mercury executives, including himself, began their new positions at HP Software today.

The unit has yet to put former Mercury CEO Tony Zingale in a formal role.