

The Bridge



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The Bridge

The newsletter of the Memphis PC Users Group, Inc.

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Important Notice

- MPCUG Meeting:
To be Announced
- 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22, 2006
- Jennings Room 3; Southwest
Tennessee Community College

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The Issue Quote

"640K [of memory] ought to be enough for anybody. "

~By Bill Gates in 1981

The Bridge

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Valentine's Day: 2.14



One legend has it that Valentine's Day originated to commemorate the anniversary of the death of St. Valentine, a Roman clergyman who was executed on Feb. 14, about 270 A.D., for secretly marrying couples in defiance of the

emperor. According to another, the holiday began as a Roman fertility festival. Americans probably began exchanging handmade valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther Howland, a native of Massachusetts, began to sell the nation's first mass-produced valentine cards.

Sixty-five percent of the nation's households which purchase a greeting card for Valentine's Day, making this act the top way to celebrate this observance. Other popular ways to celebrate include "date night" (44 percent) and giving candy (38 percent), flowers (32 percent), gift cards (29 percent), plush (i.e., stuffed toys) (21 percent), perfume/cologne (12 percent), jewelry (11 percent) and other gifts (17 percent). (Source: Hallmark)

Computer News Digest

Route emails to mailbox

From Wired

Two of the world's biggest e-mail account providers, Yahoo and America Online, plan to introduce a service that would charge senders a fee to route their e-mail directly to a user's mailbox without first passing through junk mail filters, representatives of both companies said Sunday.

The fees, which would range from 1/4 cent to 1 cent per e-mail, are the latest attempts by the companies to weed out unsolicited ads and identity-theft scams. In exchange for paying, e-mail senders will be guaranteed their messages won't be filtered and will bear a seal alerting recipients they're legitimate.

The plan, while it's optional and would apply to only a fraction of people sending e-mail, amounts to a reversal in the economics of the internet because it would charge message senders rather than those receiving them. The current model has led to the proliferation of spam and so-called phishing scams because the people perpetuating them can turn a profit even when only a minority of recipients respond.

AOL and Yahoo said the program, which is being offered through a company called Goodmail Systems, will target banks, online retailers and other groups that send large amounts of e-mail. In exchange for a payment and a pledge to contact only people who have agreed to receive their messages, the companies

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Computer News Digest continued

would be ensured their e-mails aren't diverted to spam folders or have images or web addresses filtered out.

Browsing for Browsers

From PC magazine

But what should you look for in a browser? That depends on your priorities. Most people use Internet Explorer 6, which lets them view ActiveX pages. ActiveX page makes the Web more interactive, but ActiveX support can also be used as a back door for spyware. Firefox and Opera don't support ActiveX, so they miss out on some functionality, but it makes for safer browsing. Netscape sidesteps the issue by offering both Firefox's and IE's rendering engines, so you can run ActiveX when you need to.

Firefox In the space of a roughly a year, Firefox has gone from relative obscurity to being the second most popular browser in the world. And the recent 1.5 update makes the nimble browser even better. Firefox is slim but full-featured, and a lot of the features in IE7 clearly take their cues from the open-source browser.

Internet Explorer Love it or hate it, IE commands somewhere around 80 percent of the market. IE6 is becoming quite long in the tooth, however, and lacks some of the convenient features included in the other browsers.

Internet Explorer 7 (beta) The first beta version of IE7 isn't intended—or ready—for the masses, so we don't recommend downloading it quite yet unless you're a developer. We're glad to (finally) see tabbed browsing in IE, and the integrated RSS reader, smooth printing and zooming, and redesigned interfaces are all welcome changes.

Netscape Netscape is more than just a browser; it's an information platform. We love useful features like the Multibar and the ability to choose between two rendering engines. The user interface can be cluttered and

confusing, but overall, Netscape is a solid choice. **Opera** Opera 8.0 is a very capable browser that was first to market with some unique features, such as rearrangement of tabs and page zooming, and the next version of Opera will even include integrated BitTorrent support. Overall, it has a host of attractive and innovative features that make browsing easier.

Information Security

From Computerworld

An apparent attempt to recycle discarded internal reports has ended up in the compromise of credit card and bank number information belonging to more than 240,000 subscribers of The Boston Globe and the Worcester Telegram & Gazette.

The snafu occurred when the account information of Globe and T&G subscribers who pay for their home delivery subscriptions by credit card was disclosed on the back of more than 9,000 individual routing slips used to label bundles of the Worcester Sunday Telegram, the Globe said in a statement today. The bank routing information of some T&G subscribers who do not pay by credit card may have also been inadvertently disclosed, the paper said.

Web Site Lets Public Track Alaska Volcano

From Associate Press

From his home in Nanwalek, Vince Evans can stare across the water at Augustine Volcano as it pumps out clouds of ash and steam, but Evans prefers to check the Internet for the latest on the erupting island mount. The Alaska Volcano Observatory's popular Web site lets the public track Augustine's activity, from live earthquake data to hourly updates on the blasts of ash and rocky pyroclastic flows that have rumbled down the snowy volcano since it began erupting in mid-January.

Fortify Our Computers: *RootkitRevealer*

By Gil Hennon

Security Program

Once upon a time there were only viruses, Trojans, and worms. One decent anti-virus utility could protect your PC from all three at a modest price and without much fuss and bother. Then came broadband Internet connections, and firewalls became necessities lest hackers invade your files. Most of us use both a hardware and software firewall, and the price of PC security is a lot higher. Next we were slammed by spybots and adware, requiring sometimes several different utilities to catch and kill all those pesky critters. Do you believe that your anti-virus, anti-spyware, and firewall protection has you safely covered? Don't bet on it!

With the recent exposure of the Sony BMG, Symantec, and Kaspersky rootkit type infections, now another piece needs to be added to the security arsenal—a rootkit sniffer—because without one, you'll never know that a rootkit is in control of your PC.

I recently tested Mark Russinovich's RootkitRevealer. It is a powerful program that uncloaks all hidden directories and files on all hard drives while being very easy to use. The default settings, the way it runs without any tweaks, works fine and is all that most users will need.

There is no installation: Just unzip and run the executable program file. For really picky folks, there are a few settings that can be changed for very special circumstances.

RootkitRevealer reports any directory or file on the PC that was not visible to all operating system functions. Some files will be invisible to one or two functions occasionally, but when all three can't see it, there is probably a rootkit doing some cloaking inside the system.

RootkitRevealer does not remove rootkits when they are found—it only reports them. At that point, the best course of action is to go to Mark's SysInternals forum and identify what was found, then get an uninstaller from the rootkit creator's Web site. Manual removal of a rootkit can be a very tricky procedure, and a mistake can render a PC inoperative. If an uninstaller is not available, a complete system reload is usually the best fix.

The SysInternals Web site has a download link at <http://www.sysinternals.com/Utilities/RootkitRevealer.html> and detailed instructions on the utility's use. There are sample screens of results and explanations of any messages you might receive. Best of all, RootkitRevealer is freeware. It won't raise the cost of maintaining a secure PC.

Microsoft Office Word Power Keys

Tricks & Tips

Working with text

- * To add a check box to a document, point to Toolbars on the View menu, click Forms, and then click Check Box Form Field on the Forms toolbar.
- * To return to the location of the last edit, press SHIFT+F5.
- * To look up synonyms in the thesaurus, select a word and press SHIFT+F7.
- * To restore selected text to its original formatting, press CTRL+SPACEBAR.
- * To sort dates, numbers, and other text in ascending or descending order, click Sort on the Table menu.
- * To edit in print preview, click Magnifier on the Print Preview toolbar.
- * To hyphenate a document automatically, click Language on the Tools menu, and then click Hyphenation.
- * To select a rectangular block of text, press ALT and drag.
- * To turn overtype mode on or off, double-click OVR on the status bar.

* To insert symbols and other special characters, click Symbol on the Insert menu.

* To count the number of words in a document or selection, click Word Count on the Tools menu.

Automatic text options

* To turn on AutoFormat for creating lines: In Word 2003 and Word 2002, click AutoCorrect Options on the Tools menu, click the AutoFormat As You Type tab, and then select the Border lines check box. In Word 2000, click AutoCorrect on the Tools menu, click the AutoFormat As You Type tab, and then select the Borders check box.

* To create a line, press and hold the hyphen key to make at least three hyphens, and then press ENTER. To create a thicker line, hold the SHIFT key down at the same time, making at least three underlines before pressing ENTER.

Microsoft Money 2006 Premium Part I

By Rick Fischer

Book Review

We don't normally run multi-part reviews. I think this is a worthy exception. I've used Quicken for years. The head-to-head reviews in magazines usually suggest it is a tossup between Money and Quicken. I wanted to find out for myself. So, follow me as I set up Money 2006 Premium in this part. This is the kind of program that you'd want to test drive for a while.

Getting Started

Money 2006 ships with a CD and a brochure that tells you what all comes with your version. No manual in the box. I looked on the CD. No printable file there. The brochure tells me to see the Users Guide under the Help menu. I click. I find that I must be online to view it.

After connecting to the Internet, I can view the Users Guide. It is all online. No option to print it as a unit and take it with me. I can print individual pages and I can cut and paste the content of each page into Word, but it looks very big. I confess I copied and pasted one chapter so far. Also, I ordered a copy of Microsoft Money 2006 for Dummies from Amazon. There are only two book choices there. I saw no books on Money 2006 on the Microsoft Press site. That probably means it's an easy program. Easy is one thing, but I want to form a mental model of what I can do with Money before I start.

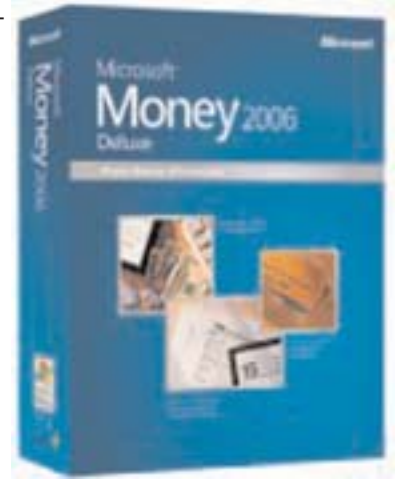
A big reason vendors encourage reviews is to see how end users use their products. So I'll confess – I want to read about the program before I get started. So, my preference would be a manual I can hold. Note to Microsoft: If you are not going to package a manual anymore, include the Users Guide in a pdf file that I can print. Then let me just sit, read, highlight and make notes in the margins indicating how I will use my new program. I understand a little better why O'Reilly calls one series: "The Missing Manual."

The program load went well. It took all my Quicken data and imported it into Money. If you skip that part during setup, you can come back later and convert your Quicken file. My Dummies book tells me that several things do not come across: memorized charts, transaction passwords, category groups and savings goals. My expense categories did come over, so this must be another kind of category they are talking about.

I did not use online banking services in Quicken, but my Dummies book tells me that I would have to cancel

my Quicken online services and reapply for those same services under Money.

When you open Money 2006 it asks for a username and password, or your Microsoft Passport Network username and password. According to my Dummies book you can override the request, but I missed the override and provided my Passport information. Money presumes you will want to work online. But, you also have the option to work offline.



Browser look and feel

The first thing I noticed when I opened Money 2006 was the relaxing soft blue colors around the screen. Then I noticed that the program itself was made to look and behave like a browser. There is a home page that you will want to customize (see Figure 1). As in your browser, click on what you want and use forward and back arrows to move around. Yes, there are dropdown menus. In fact, the designers of the Money interface clearly wanted you to use this program while connected to the Internet. Remember how the Users Guide was only available online? Your interaction with the Money Website is seamless. I set up downloads for financial news which are updated when I go online. And, I can update the prices of my mutual funds. There's a window to enter Web addresses in Money. You will view them inside Money.

Setting up accounts

I see all my old accounts. But they all could use a little tweaking. Now is the time to change the names of some of my accounts. I can use long names in Money and I take advantage of that feature right away. Each account has settings so that I can easily click "Settings" and see my account number, interest paid, and how to contact my bank or other institution. I take the time to fill in as much as I can.

I find I have some accounts that are no longer active

Microsoft Money 2006 Premium Part I continued

and there are some I never entered into Quicken. To delete an account, you just select the account and click delete. To add an account – well, there are a number of ways to do that depending on whether you are connected to the Internet or not.

I followed the recommendation of the Dummies book and set up my accounts first. I want to try online banking, so at some point I will go back and enter the information I will need to access and update my accounts. All my financial institutions have arrangements with Microsoft to help me make the connection.



I purchase Money 2006 Premium. From Experian I can get one credit report and one year's worth of credit monitoring. From GainsKeeper I get free one year of capital gains tracking. I access GainsKeeper through Money 2006 and can use their what-if tools. Microsoft included a copy of H&R Block's DeductionPro. This is

great for tracking donations of non-cash items. We have used it for several years. The built-in database suggests the fair market value of items you enter. That means you will want to update it from time to time to update the values database. Moonjar provides educational materials for kids about handling money. You can go to their Website and sign up for a free cardboard money box package. Finally, there is a discount coupon should you want to purchase checks and forms to use with Money.

So the accounts are set, but not refined. There's more to learn and enable. Let's get used to using Money 2006 Premium. I plan to sign up for online banking. Part 2 will let you know how it went. And, there are still planning tools to explore. If you would like to know more, here is the reference site: <http://www.microsoft.com/money>

Working with accounts

Let's start with checking accounts. You will have two ways to enter transactions. One, you can enter information in a form that includes the date, check number, amount, payee and category. You have to enable this by checking the box called "show transaction forms." Two, you can enter the same data directly into the register much like you do in Quicken.

I received my bank balance at the start of the month. Time to balance my checking account.

Although the entries that had previously cleared going back to 1992 (from Quicken) show that they are reconciled on the register, when I tried to balance my account they all showed as unreconciled on the balance screen. That created a problem that I am still trying to sort out. I didn't like any of the options Money offered me for handling the difference. I don't believe this would be a problem if you were starting fresh.

For now I do not intend to track credit card purchases, but I could if I wanted to. Since I pay them off each month anyway, I am trading off recording categories for my purchases – useful at tax time.

Odds and ends

Microsoft has a quarterly eNewsletter for Money users. Sign up at the Microsoft Money Website (see below). They used to be archived on the site, but for some reason have been removed. I am waiting for my first copy.

My box tells me that I get free stuff worth \$249 when

Record from IT Helpdesk

Computer Humor

Helpdesk: What kind of computer do you have?

Customer: A white one...

Customer: Hi, this is Celine. I can't get my diskette out.

Helpdesk: Have you tried pushing the button?

Customer: Yes, sure, it's really stuck.

Helpdesk: That doesn't sound good; I'll make a note."

Customer: No. Wait a minute. I hadn't inserted it yet. It's still on my desk. Sorry.

Helpdesk: Click on the 'my computer' icon on the left of the screen.

Customer: Your left or my left?

The Sony's Rootkit Tale: A Follow-up

By Gil Hennon

Computer Security

The hullabaloo over Sony BMG music CDs installing a rootkit on customer PCs died down during January. The company settled a major legal action by promising to exchange infected CDs for clean ones. The deal includes offering a tool to remove the rootkit, a free music download, and a small cash remuneration for the customer's trouble. That settled a New York lawsuit. With fourteen more suits on the dockets, and expecting more to come, Sony BMG hopes that its quick agreement in the New York court will influence the rest to accept a similar deal.

Although Sony BMG publicly apologized for violating the privacy and security of their customers' PCs, the company is still mum about how many computers their rootkit actually infected. Considering that at least 52 music CD titles containing the rootkit were released since March of 2005, and that more than a half-million Internet Domain Name Servers cached the address that the rootkit used to "phone home," estimates of several million PC infections are probably reasonable.

As word of the Sony BMG rootkit spread during November and December of last year, and the public learned what to look for, reports of infections have included not only individual music customer PCs, but also mission critical computers in businesses, governmental offices, and military installations all around the world. Sony BMG probably never considered the legal and public relations fallout that would result from its creative scheme for protecting its copyrights, and initially appeared completely unaware of the serious computer security vulnerability inherent in a rootkit installation. Hopefully, it is now a wiser and more cautious company.

Besides promising to clean up all of the PCs infected by its eXtended Copy Protection (XCP) rootkit, Sony BMG has also agreed to quit collecting personal information from MediaMax, its previous copy protection scheme. MediaMax got a more thorough examination by security specialists after the XCP rootkit brought suspicion on the entire line of music CDs, and MediaMax has been found



The cool "Sony CD with Teeth" image used in this article is from Collapsibletank at <http://www.jimcromwell.com/landfill/sonybmg-wee.jpg>.

to contain some security holes and vulnerabilities of its own. Sony BMG has a legal right to protect its property. Unfortunately, the methods it chose for doing that have been insecure, abusive, and very probably illegal. There are also still unanswered questions about how well the company is fulfilling its repentant promises.

One serious concern of many security administrators is whether infected customers are actually downloading and installing the fixes that Sony BMG agreed to provide. There is now a link on the Sony Home

page to the instructions and downloads, but for a while they were buried deep in the site and were somewhat difficult to find. There does not seem to be any program going on at Sony to contact customers and guide them to the fixes—nothing like the mechanism that the automobile industry uses for recalls. The rootkit was briefly mentioned in articles in a few major newspapers. Usually the piece ran in the business sections, where the financial implications and stock prices get more attention than any boring technical details. Only PC users who read computer magazines or technical forums on the Internet are likely to understand the security implications of a rootkit installation and the risks it poses. What percentage of Sony CD customers fall into this group? No one knows! Probably the only customers getting the fixes are those who know enough to fear the rootkit.

I checked a music loving friend's PC with Rootkit Revealer and found that he was infected. I gave him the URL for the Sony BMG fixes. Several weeks have gone by and he still has not bothered to get the repair utility. His PC is running okay and he can't see the security holes. His PC is still exposed to hackers. He is also lax about getting patches and updates. What scares me is that he is not at all unusual. I believe the majority of infected PC owners are just like him.

No one knows how many infected CDs have been returned to Sony BMG either, but it's a pretty good bet that a lot of them are still around. Even a few would be

The Sony's Rootkit Tale: A Follow-up continued



enough to keep reinfesting PCs for years. Those who write malware programs that exploit the Sony BMG rootkit's back door are counting on PC user apathy to provide a rich and ongoing environment for mischief and profit. Without an expensive and time consuming hunt to eradicate all instances of the rootkit installations and the infectious CDs, nearly every business, government, and military network remains vulnerable to hackers. Sony BMG says that they manufactured 4.7 million infected CDs and that about 2.1 million were sold. The remainder are supposed to be removed from the store shelves. But who is keeping count to make sure that all of these infected CDs are destroyed and no longer infecting any PCs?

Another very troubling result of the Sony BMG rootkit scandal is the growing erosion of consumer faith in the companies whose products they buy. Public protests and citizen protection groups in many countries are fed up with media companies that don't mind abusing the rights of consumers while protecting their profits. A popular petition in Great Britain is calling for Parliament to pass more laws insuring consumer rights, and citizens of other nations are considering similar governmental controls. The behavior of recording and movie industry companies in treating their customers like pirates has not been fair or impartial, but both sides of the issue should be very scared of handing control of a market over to government regulators. Can't we ever learn from our past mistakes?

Even with all of these unanswered questions and unresolved issues, the Sony BMG rootkit eventually became old news and only gets an occasional mention anymore. The hot news these days is coming out of other companies as they also own up to using rootkit or similar technologies in their software. Mark Russinovich, who first discovered the Sony BMG rootkit last year, exposed another commercial software rootkit installation early this January. His Rootkit Revealer utility found cloaking software guarding the Norton Protected Recycle Bin in Symantec's SystemWorks software. Symantec admitted that the cloaking function was added to the software during the 1990s, but claimed that it did not fit the definition of a rootkit because it was not installed with malicious intent. Russinovich and other security professionals disagree. Symantec, they contend, cannot justify using rootkit technology even for a good purpose. By hiding the existence of files and directories from the operating system, Symantec

created a nest where any number of malicious programs could exist without being detected by the user or scanned by anti-virus and anti-spyware utilities. Whether well-intentioned or not, the installation of this kind of software results in a PC owner no longer in control of his/her private property.

A few days later, other security investigators reported that Kaspersky Labs, another anti-virus software manufacturer, uses rootkit-like cloaking techniques to hide files used in scanning functions. Mark Russinovich has also gone public in his SysInternals BLOG about the increased use of rootkit technology in commercial software.

On January 10, Symantec issued a patch that disables the rootkit cloaking feature in the recycle bin of its SystemWorks and SystemWorks Premier products. Increased hacker awareness of rootkits and how they can be used to compromise PC security changed Symantec's corporate mind about the wisdom of using this technology in their products. The Moscow headquarters of Kaspersky Labs is said to be considering a similar action. Very likely the company will not be willing to sacrifice its excellent reputation to retain a software feature that can be accomplished in another, less risky manner.

Neither Symantec nor Kaspersky's rootkit cloaking device was as dangerous as the Sony BMG rootkit. The former were carefully written to perform only as intended and were considered to be "bug free." Not so with Sony's code, which had several security exposure holes as well as a function to "phone home" with information about the PC and its users. But regardless of whether or not a rootkit is well written and reasonably well behaved, it still poses a serious threat to any PC.

Eventually the rootkits that have been exposed will no longer be active. Operating systems and applications change, as well as hardware. Many old viruses hung around for several years until they could no longer find a system that they knew how to infect. So it will be with today's rootkits. Over the long run, there is a different concern. Bruce Sterling put it quite well in his article "The Rootkit of All Evil" in the February 2006 issue of Wired Magazine. "The real issue is the blurring of lines between blackhat hacking and legitimate business. It's one thing when Russian gangsters take over a few million computers to shake down online casinos. It's another when commercial enterprises adopt the same methods to protect their market. At that point, good corporate citizenship devolves into vigilantism and the implicit trust between supplier and customer unravels."

Make Your Own Halloween Mask in Minutes

By Katherine Murray

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From Microsoft

Sure, you could go to the store and buy the same Halloween masks as everyone else. Or in just minutes you can make an original mask that will wow the Halloween crowd.

Imagine the perplexed looks of the neighborhood children when they come to the door and see you wearing a mask of your child's face. Or, for a last-minute costume, you can go as your spouse or your pet. The possibilities are endless.

To begin, you'll need a good close-up photo of a face; a person or a pet. Some other things you'll need:

- * Microsoft Windows XP
- * An image editing program or image library program with a cropping tool
- * A photo printer
- * Photo printing paper (the thickest-or heaviest stock-that your printer can use)
- * A paint stirring stick or strips of wide ribbon



Capture your photo

Here are some tips to keep in mind when you're shooting the photo for your mask:

- * **Check your lighting:** Whether you take the photo indoors or outdoors, be sure that your subject's face is well-lit, with no deep shadows.
- * **Get close:** Move in as close as possible, so your subject's face fills the screen. You can use your camera's zoom feature, but you'll get a better photo by shooting close up and using less zoom.
- * **Give them a clue:** Prompt your subject with, "Look scary!" or, "Make the funniest face you can!" to get the expression you want for your mask.
- * **Make it up:** You can add makeup to create Halloween scars, whiskers, funny moustaches, or other embellishments before you take your picture.
- * **Take several shots:** Shoot four or five images so you can choose the best one for your mask.
- * **Add special effects:** Use your image-editing program to add special or funny touches to your photo. Add dramatic colors, eye patches, glasses, scars, facial hair, or whatever strikes your fancy.

Crop the image

The next steps outline how to crop the photo to ensure that your mask looks right.

1. Select the cropping tool in your digital image editor or image library program and select only the face. Get in tight around the perimeter of the face, eliminating as much of the background as possible.



2. Crop the image and save a copy with a new name. An easy way to remember what file is your mask image is to add the word "mask" to the end of the file name so it's easy to find.

If you are adding any special effects with your digital image editor, add those artistic touches now before you print the mask.

Print the mask

The Photo Printing Wizard in Windows XP will print a photo that is large enough for a mask. Make sure to use thick-or heavy stock-photo paper so your mask is durable.

1. Open the folder in which you saved your cropped image.

2. Click Print pictures under Picture Tasks.



3. In the Photo Printing Wizard, click Next.

4. Click to select the photo you want to print by making sure that the box in the corner of the photo has a check mark in it. Be sure that other photos in your folder do not have a check mark in their corner boxes.



5. Click Next.

6. Select a printer and then click Next.

Make Your Own Halloween Mask in Minutes continued

7. In Available layouts, under Full Page Prints, click to select Full page photo print.



8. Click Next to print your mask image.

Let the photo dry thoroughly before assembling the mask.

Assemble the mask

Assembling the mask starts with cutting out the mask. With sharp scissors, carefully cut around the perimeter of the face.

You can assemble your mask in two different ways:

- * If you are going to wear the mask, cut holes for the eyes and mouth. Punch a hole on each side of the mask and reinforce the holes with masking tape and small pieces of cardboard for added durability. Now tie a piece of ribbon to each hole. Use the ribbon to tie the mask around your head.
- * If you want to carry the mask, just cut holes for the eyes and then glue the mask to a paint stir stick or strip of balsa wood so that you can hold it in front of your face. This is a good option for greeting trick-or-treaters because you don't have to wear it around the

house all evening. You're done! In just a few minutes, you made a personalized mask that will at least get a few shrieks of laughter on Halloween.



Meeting-in-a Box Works Well

Meeting Report

Members and guests who attended the January 2006 meeting were transported to the 2005 Photoshop World Boston exposition. The DVD video captured much of the excitement of the show along with some wonderful Photoshop CS pointers from experts who also write books for Peachpit Press.

Rick Fischer introduced Peachpit's Meeting-in-a-Box and John Schuster handled the actual presentation. Peachpit even included a bag of popcorn and candy for sharing. Between bites members discussed Photoshop capabilities and what was legally and ethically appropriate when handling images.

The DVD contained a series of training seminars that were conducted during the exposition. The presenters were well-known Photoshop experts. The focus of the techniques seemed to be the Curves tool and how it can correct over- or underexposed details of a photograph. Several of the experts provided some detail in how to use the Curves tool and the effect it can have in the final image.

Another presenter demonstrated the Curves tool on a Camera Raw image. This, of course, required that the Camera Raw plug-in be present. The emphasis was that making the adjustments in the Camera Raw environment was equally as effective as on JPEG or TIFF images. Following the DVD the group discussed the differences between Photoshop and Photoshop Elements. Members benefited from having Larry Hunt as a guest for the evening. He was able to field image/graphics questions and provide a context for that was shown.

Editor's note:
Thanks to Larry Hunt and Rick Fischer for contributing to this summary.

Photo Works Using Photoshop

Photo Display



By Joey Greenwood for Desktop Journalism class at the University of Memphis in 2004

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 Me: The Missing Manual	Greg Adams
Teach Yourself GoLive 5 in 24 Hours	Allison Banks
Excel 2003 Personal Trainer	Rob Bertling
Photoshop CS2 One on One	Bill Brody
TIVO Hacks	Jacob Burke
Home Theater Hacks	sborne Burks
Windows XP in a Snap	Vicki Dabney
Windows Security Handbook	Dorothy Drum
Smart Home Hacks	Megan Hefner
The Little Web Cam Book	Mike Heinrich
Microsoft Works 7.0	Jim Ingram
How to Use Microsoft FrontPage 2002	David Levine
The Complete Idiot's Guide to Starting A Business Online	David Levine
User Interface in C#	Jim McGee
Photoshop Restoration & Retouching	Vanessa Muldrow
Windows XP Pro (book)	Daniel Notowitz
Surviving a PC Disaster	John Schuster
Create Your Own Website	Jesse Strauch
Macromedia (book)	David Stowell
Windows XP (book)	Terry Thomas
Photoshop Retouching Cookbook	Jin Yang
Create Your Own Digital Photography	Qihong Zhou

Thanks to all who checked out products for review. Let's keep the Group vital and provide value for membership.

For Your Information

Do you know how many PC user groups in Tennessee are listed under the Microsoft Mindshare web Site?

East Tennessee Computer Society
Knoxville, TN

Security

Personal productivity

General interest/hobbyist/home use

Entertainment & games

<http://www.etcgs.org/>

Mid-Tenn Computer Group

Murfreesboro, TN

Personal productivity

Hardware

General interest/hobbyist/home use

Entertainment & games

<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/mtcg/index.htm>

Philadelphia HUB PC User Group

Clarksville, TN

Personal productivity

Hardware

General interest/hobbyist/home use

Digital Photography

<http://member.apcug.org/phlhubpcug>

Plateau PC Users Group

Crossville, TN

Personal productivity

Hardware

General interest/hobbyist/home use

<http://www.ppcuginc.com>

Tri-Cities Macintosh Users Group

Johnson City, TN

Personal productivity

<http://www.tccc.org>

Tellico Village Computer Users Club (TVCUC)

Loudon, TN

E-Commerce

Knowledge management

Security

Personal productivity

Hardware

General interest/hobbyist/home use

Entertainment & games

<http://www.tvcuc.org>