

The Bridge



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The Bridge

The newsletter of the Memphis PC Users Group, Inc.

www.mpcug.org

The official website of the Memphis PC Users Group, Inc.

Announcement

MPCUG March Meeting (7:30 p.m., March 28, Wednesday) will meet as usual and no topic is on agenda but Wizard session will start at 6:30 p.m.

Location:

Jennings Room #8
Southwest Community College

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The Issue Quote

"I think and think for months and years. Ninety-nine times, the conclusion is false. The hundredth time I am right."

~ By Albert Einstein

The Bridge

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The Beginning of 2007 Saw Two Interesting Presentations from Two Computer Experts



Focus on the New User in January

John Schuster offered tips and answered questions at the January meeting. The tips ranged from taking care of you hardware, to protecting data, to protecting your computer. The questions were all over the board.



Focus on the Printing Need in February

University of Memphis computer technician Tommy Towery shared the ins and outs of printing online for very little money at the regular February meeting at Southwest Tennessee Community College.

Towery demonstrated how to create free business cards using templates at vistaprint.com. He recommended visiting the site and signing up for their regular e-mail promotions. They come about every two weeks and feature lots of specials. While the cards are free, shipping and handling is not. Five hundred cards should cost you a little over \$4.

VistaPrint runs specials on post cards, sticky notes, calendars, rubber stamps and more. See all their products at their Web site.

Next, he showed club members how to print pictures for less than home printing. He used the Costco site and Wal-Mart sites as examples. We watched as he uploaded a photo to print. Prints can be sent directly to our home (with postage extra) or can be picked up at our local store. Towery noted that he has sent photos to other people and had them delivered to a Wal-Mart store near where they live.

Towery showed samples of work these vendors have produced.

Finally, he shared with members how he produces bound books using instantpublisher.com in Collierville. He writes and lays out the book. Then he prints to their server, and in about 8 to 10 days he picks up his books. Pricing is on the site. He showed us three books he had already produced.

It was great having Tommy re-visit the group in February. The URLs for sites he showed or talked about are listed below. vistaprint.com; Costco.com; walmart.com; instantpublisher.com; mypublisher.com; www.cafeexpress.com; rubberstamps.net

Story and photos by Rick Fischer

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Computer News

Daylight Saving Time Guide

Beginning in 2007, daylight saving time (DST) will be extended in the United States. DST will start on March 11, 2007, which is three weeks earlier than usual, and it will end on November 4, 2007, which is one week later than usual. This results in a new DST period that is four weeks longer than in previous years. Unless certain updates are applied to your computer, the time zone settings for your computer's system clock may be incorrect during this four-week period. In particular, you must make sure that both your Windows operating system and your calendar programs are updated.

This Daylight Saving Time Update Guide will help you make sure that your computer is updated for the new daylight saving time.

However, before you take the guide steps, make sure you know What windows operating system you are on and what version of Outlook you are using. Then relying on http://support.microsoft.com/gp/cp_dstto to set up your Outlook calendar and computer clock. There are six easy steps:

- Select your operating system
- Update your operating system
- Reset your computer's system clock (if necessary)
- Select the program you want to update
- Update your programs
- Finished

February is O'Reilly Web Design and Development Month

It's Web Design and Development Month here at O'Reilly and O'Reilly just puts together a special resource page dedicated to web development essentials including books, PDF Short Cuts, articles, and author events:

<http://www.oreilly.com/go/webdev>

Streets and Trips 2007

By Rick Fischer



I wasn't real happy when drum machines tried to replace drummers, but I am very happy to see navigation

machines aid folks who may have difficulty with directions. Full disclosure: I was a Navy (air) navigator in another life. We were replaced by very reliable navigation systems quite some time ago. I got over it and learned a new trade.

So, it was fun to play with the Streets and Trips 2007, especially the version with the GPS system.

I'm a Streets and Trips 2005 user — have been since it came out. Also, I use MapPoint, Microsoft's program that supports geographic data plotting. I will be comparing Streets and Trips version 2005 and 2007 in this review.

Find

Maybe the function I use most often is the "find" function. This is the geographic look up feature. Input an address and locate it on the map. Both versions (2005 and 2007) have difficulty telling you which side of the road the property is on. But I can see that 2007 is overall more accurate and reflects a larger database of stored addresses.

My first lookup was the Woodland Hills Country Club. Version 2005 places it at the intersection of Houston Levee Road and Woodland Hills Road. And, if you found that intersection you would likely see the country club off to the west.

Version 2007 places it (correctly)



about 250 yards to the west of Houston Levee Road.

Next, I entered my own address. It is easy to pinpoint because of it is at the intersection of two streets. In this case, version 2005 was slightly more accurate (by 12 yards).

My mother lives in a small town in Illinois. Version 2005 could not find her house, but did show her street and would position me at the eastern end of the street when I entered the whole street address. And, when I clicked on the exact location of her house — also at the intersection of two streets — it was pretty close, although it didn't know how the house numbers were assigned on that street.

In version 2007 it now can find the house number and puts you close enough to pull into the driveway

One last check. Just after version 2005 came out I went to Starkville, Miss. and the campus of Mississippi

Software Review

State. Of course, I used Streets and Trips to show the way. I was very frustrated because I went around the town and pretty far out of my way.

In version 2007 the new road is shown clearly along with the exits I could have taken had I known. There is another reason I ran this particular check. I may be returning to the campus in a few weeks.

Routing

So, let's route the trip to the Mississippi State campus. I did it in version 2005 and 2007. In both programs "quickest" was selected. To the best of knowledge all other settings were identical. The recommended routes were similar, but not identical. Of course, it depends on the algorithms and information it holds about the roads. The version 2005 trip is four miles longer. They both claim to take exactly the same time. In case you are wondering and know the area, the newer version routed me south along state route 15. The older version took me to Tupelo and down highway 45.

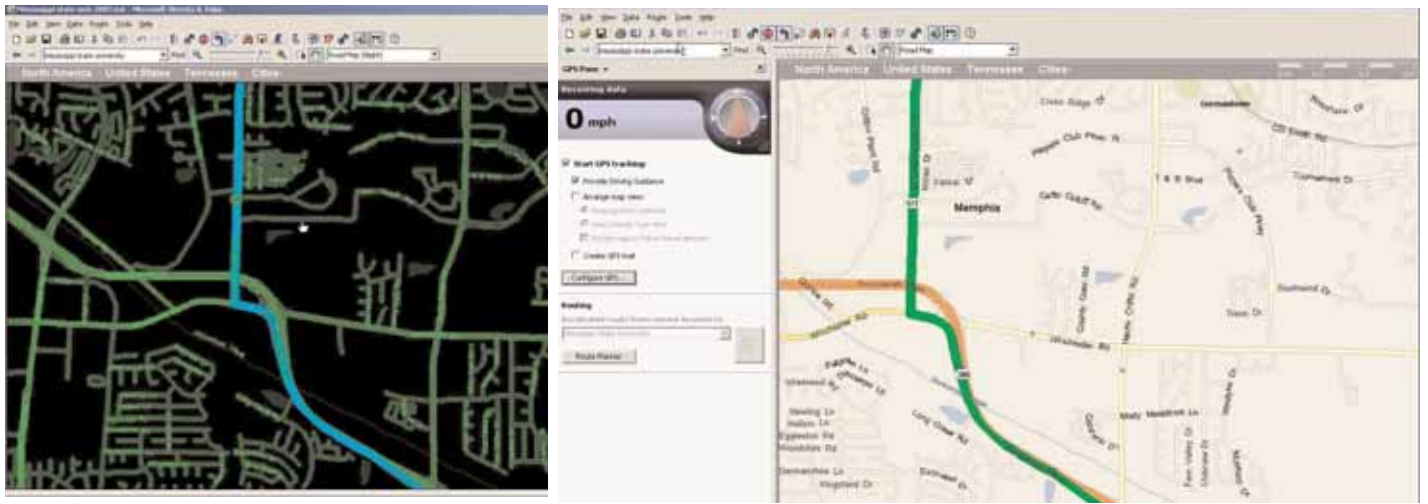
GPS

While this technology is new to me (on land), it is a maturing technology. Microsoft claims this GPS device, with SIRF start III technology, is ten times better than previous editions. In January I was in Switzerland. The two cars I took to and from airports had built-in screens with navigation systems. Both drivers seemed very comfortable with the technology.

So, in that context, we no longer ask "Does it work?" We ask "How easy is it to use?"

It may sound crazy to the folks in Redmond, but I wasn't sure which (the black or clear device) was the

Streets and Trips 2007_{continued}



Left: This is the Roadmap Night view. Here we are heading south across

Nonconnah. Right: This is the same Roadmap Day view with the GPS

tracking on. Since I am sitting in my study, I'm not going very fast: 0 mph.

GPS device. The product ships with two gadgets and a USB connector cable. They both say Microsoft on them. The picture of the GPS device in the box labels the one in the clear case as the GPS device. But, on page 10 of the instruction booklet (the only picture of it connected) it shows the GPS device connected directly to the USB cable. But, they don't mate. I checked the Help menu. No additional help on this topic.

Long story short, I figured out that the other black device (that looks like a thumb drive) could be opened at both ends and might serve as a connector between the GPS device and the USP cable (see picture).

With that, my computer happily recognized the new device and we easily incorporated it into the system. Since this test is on my desktop computer I can only say that it knows where I live and is prepared to give me oral and written instructions to go elsewhere. I am only missing a laptop with a DVD player to test the navigation portion in the wild, as they say. When that happens, I will share my experience.

The woman (who lives in the program and who gives oral instructions)

is already telling me to "proceed to route."

Safety Warning

Before you can use the real-time navigation and tracking function you have to "agree" that you understand that you have to drive and pay attention to the road. They don't want you using the excuse that you were fiddling with your computer and couldn't drive safely.

New Map Style

In version 2005 you had your choice of three map styles: road, terrain and political. In 2007 you have the addition of Roadmap Night. It is designed to be used with your open laptop while driving at night. Your routing stands out from the background in high contrast.

Live Search

Live Search is an Internet extension of the database included with the product. Roads, addresses and businesses that are updated in the Internet database will keep the product fresh.

Selecting Live Local calls up a satellite view of the area you have selected. This is a very interesting feature. It is part of Microsoft's VirtualEarth™. Microsoft recommends a broadband Internet connec-

tion to use this function. It only partially loaded with my dial-up home connection. See:

<http://www.microsoft.com/virtualearth>

Printing Problem

Routing instructions are printed as a mirror image on my Brother laser printer. The problem is not covered in the Streets and Trips Help menu, but I believe I ran into this with MapPoint and found the answer on Microsoft's support site. Meanwhile I can right-click in the route window and get the option to copy the directions. They copy nicely into Word where they print correctly.

This is a nice update with some very useful features. It takes 1.2 GB for a full installation. I think it is a cost-effective alternative to a stand-alone GPS system. Assuming you already have a laptop, and most business travelers do, this is a smart way to leverage the gear you already have.

Requires: DVD drive. Pentium III. Windows 2000 Pro, Windows Server 2003, XP Home or XP Pro. Super VGA monitor. XP or later compatible sound card for voice instructions. The program takes 1.2 GB for full installation or 600 MB for a minimum installation and it costs \$129.

Windows Vista: The Missing Manual

By E. W. Brody

Somewhere between weighty tomes written for computer nerds and books designed for the technologically challenged, there should be something for the rest of us.

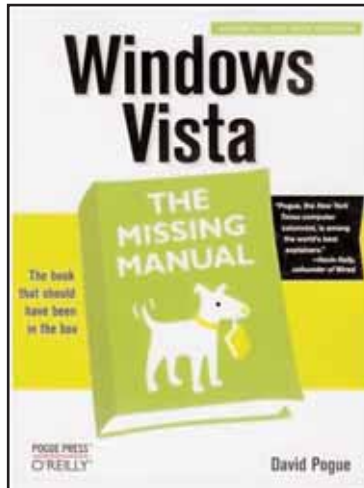
Fortunately for those pondering an upgrade to Windows Vista, that book has arrived at last. Subtitled: "The book that should have been in the box," David Pogue's Windows Vista sets new standards in giving readers:

- Complete information on Microsoft's new operating system in words readily understood by average readers
- Concise descriptions of new features and their limitations
- More than enough facts to support informed decision-making as to upgrades in some 400 fewer pages than competitors require and at about half the price.

The differences arise, one suspects, out of the background of the author. He's written a number of "Missing Manuals" dealing with Windows XP and the Mac operating system but he's arguably better known as the New York Times' computer/technology columnist. In the latter capacity, he regularly translates technological terminology into clear, concise English and that ability, more than anything else distinguishes his books from those of other authors.

Windows Vista is logically organized in eight sections. Several chapters were written by contributors whose names will be familiar to many readers. The authors (in addition to Pogue) and their subjects:

- Joli Ballew — Tablet PC and Media Center
- C.A. Callahan — Control Panel
- Preston Gralla — Security, Backup and Maintenance



- Brian Jepson — Domain, Remote Control and Installation

The authors make no specific recommendations as to whether (or when) their readers should migrate from XP to Vista. They begin, however, with lists of new features, programs, and cosmetic changes within Vista. More importantly, they specify within the text the abilities and limitations of each feature. They describe Shadow Copy, for example, as "a time machine for documents in the same way System Restore is a time machine for your system software," but follow with a cautionary note:

The Shadow Copy feature isn't a substitute for backing up your computer. For example, this feature won't help you if you deleted a document because it's designed only to give you previous versions of existing documents. It's also no protection against hard drive death, since shadow copies are usually stored on the same hard drive as the originals.

Shadow copies also aren't the same as an infinite undo command. Copies are made only once a day, so you can't, for example, rewind a document to the state it was in three hours ago.

Book Review

Information of this sort is highlighted in attention-getting "Up to Speed" boxes that enable users to "scan the book for detailed information on differences between Vista and XP to facilitate decision-making. Other features contribute equally to making the book what it is. In the author's words: "This book is not for system administrators of programmers; it's for the novice or budding power user who just wants to master the machine and get down to work.

It is, indeed, "the crystal-clear, jargon-free book that should have been in the box."

Windows Vista: The Missing Manual by David Pogue (2007). O'Reilly. 396 pages. \$23.

O'Reilly User Group Discount: 35% on all O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint, and Syngress books and conferences when you order direct. 35% off two or more books. Free ground shipping on orders of \$29.95 or more in the U.S. Include your User Group code: DSUG. Go to: www.oreilly.com/store

Computer Glossary

Computer Humor

Analog: Hors d'oeuvre, usually made from cheese and covered with crushed nuts.

Binary: Possessing the ability to have friends of both sexes.

Bit: 12 1/2 cents (\$.125).

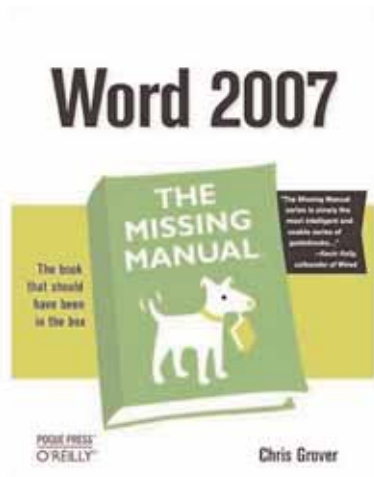
Buffer: Programmer who works in the nude.

Bug: Any type of insect.

Word 2007: The Missing Manual

By Rick Fischer

Book Review



We are all starting fresh with a new program. Or, soon will be. So, where to start?

Perhaps with the "missing manual."

I will be getting Word 2007 sometime soon and I wanted to know what to expect. My demographic likes books. My children, on the other hand, just start clicking.

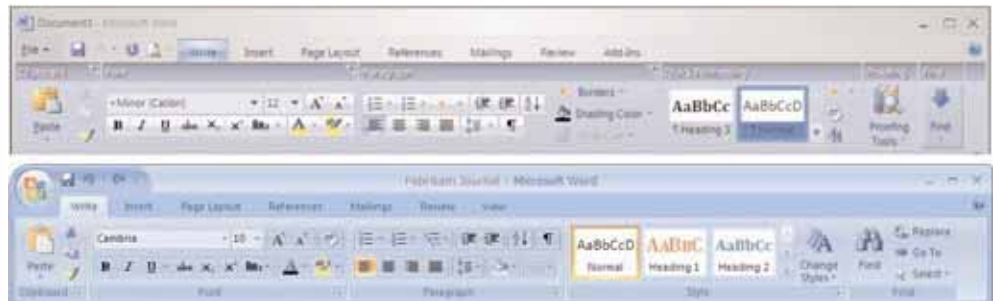
So what did I learn?

I learned that I am looking forward to the switch. I also learned that I want to wait until I get a break at work so that I can play with it for a while before I have to use it as my primary tool.

Reorientation

Office 2007 products will share a certain "look and feel" — but we will have to get reoriented. The ribbon replaces drop-down menus. And the "Office Button" replaces the File drop down menus.

You need to know that because the Office button looks like a logo (which it is) in the upper left corner of the screen. That's where you will access open, save, and create a new document. With trial and error, I might have found it eventually. Fortunately,



it was explained in the first chapter.

Experienced Word users will already know what they want to do. They will use this book to look up how to do it with 2007. So, I took that approach with this review after reading the introductory chapters.

How to insert page numbers

The index did not list "page numbers" or "number pages." Even under Headers and Footers it did not suggest that page numbering was an option (although that's where I would find it in the book). My clue was under numbers — "removing page numbers." I figured if that's where they covered removing page numbers, it was likely near where I could enter page numbers. And, I was right.

I went back a few pages (from removing) and found the start of the discussion on Headers and Footers. The description was clear. It assumed I had Word 2007 open to follow along. Not all the options had accompanying figures. I think I can do this one and I think I will like the new options.

Insert a Table

The tables function is clearly noted in the index. It leads me to the chapter called "creating tables." I see lots of illustrations and easy-to-understand description guides my every click. I feel comfortable with tables in Word 2007.

Formulas

The index identifies the formula dialog box. It allows you to do computations within tables. That's not the function I want. I want to know how to show the fancy math and statistical terms in Word 2007. It's not under statistics. I see "typing symbols" under math. That is the insert symbol function. That's the hard way and yields very uneven results.

After looking in my Word 2003 Help menu I see that Microsoft calls the function the Equation Editor. The word "equations" is in the index. The equation editor is mentioned in the context of cross-referencing. If it is mentioned elsewhere, it is not indexed. I come up short on this one.

Making .doc the default

I had already read about the new .docx extension, but was pleased to learn how save a document to the .doc format as the default.

Ok, I think I am ready. Bring on Word 2007. Give me a week to play with it and I should be good to go.

Word 2007: The Missing Manual
by Chris Grover (2007).
O'Reilly. \$30.

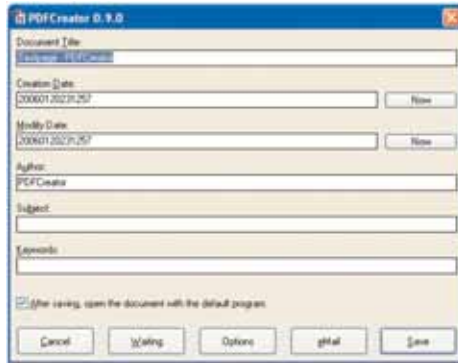
Great Freebies and Downloads

Excerpted from *PC World*

Computer Download

PDF Creator

Creating a PDF file doesn't have to be a difficult, time-consuming process. PDF Creator is a printer driver that lets you create Adobe Acrobat files from within most Windows applications.



Once PDF Creator is installed, you can use it from within your applications. If you are working in Microsoft Word, for example, you select "Print" and then choose PDF Creator as your printer. We found it to offer a wide range of options for controlling the output, and it even

creates password protected PDF files, so you can limit users' ability to print, copy, or modify the documents. http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,62649,00.asp



Skype

With Skype you can use your computer to call other Skype users anywhere in the world for free.

This software lets you make PC-to-PC calls conducted over the Internet. Using the Skype service requires both parties to have the software installed and active, plus a microphone headset attached to the computer. It supports video calls, too—for that, you'll need a Webcam.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23523,00.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)
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
 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.