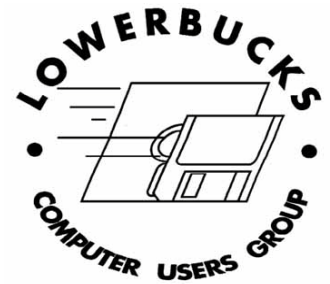


The ASCIIriber

THE JOURNAL OF THE LOWER BUCKS COMPUTER USERS GROUP

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Multi Media Mania

If you have a PS3, or Xbox 360 then you already have the basic component needed for streaming data from your PC to your TV. Both of these devices are DLNA compliant (Digital Living Network Alliance). Simply put, they are network aware. They can see a PC, a DLNA compliant NAS box, other gaming systems, etc.

All you need is some software that will allow you to view the content of these devices on your gaming systems menu. That's where programs like TVersity or GoPlay come in. They provide an interface between a PC and a gaming system. Now files on a computer can be streamed to your TV via the gaming system.

GoPlay costs about \$40 while the standard edition of TVersity is free. The pro edition of TVersity is \$30. Why pay when you can use the free edition? TVersity Pro and GoPlay both allow you to pull streaming content from the web. Examples include Hulu, Netflix (account required), PBS, National Geographic, etc.

Okay, so what if you don't have a gaming system? Then you can buy one of the new set top boxes that are available, some for less than \$150. They do much the same thing as the software listed above but don't require a PC. At the meeting we'll look at some of the models and then talk about the pluses and minuses of both the hardware and software methods of streaming data.

See you on Sunday.

NEXT MEETING:

SUNDAY, January 3, 2 P.M.

Some useful utilities and timely information courtesy of Jim McGorry.

- Amp Font Viewer
- Inexpensive Alternative to Secure Flash Drive
- Extended Credit Card Warranties Come in Handy
- Evernote
- Microsoft Mucks Up Win 7 Licensing
- Obscure Windows 7 tricks
- Ploadroid
- Undiscovered Firefox Tricks

Weekly Download Section from Jim McGorry

Welcome members and visitors alike to this new section I hope it will be of interest and use to you. Each month I will try and have interesting and useful programs for you to download and try on your systems as you see fit. Some are free and some may have a nominal fee.

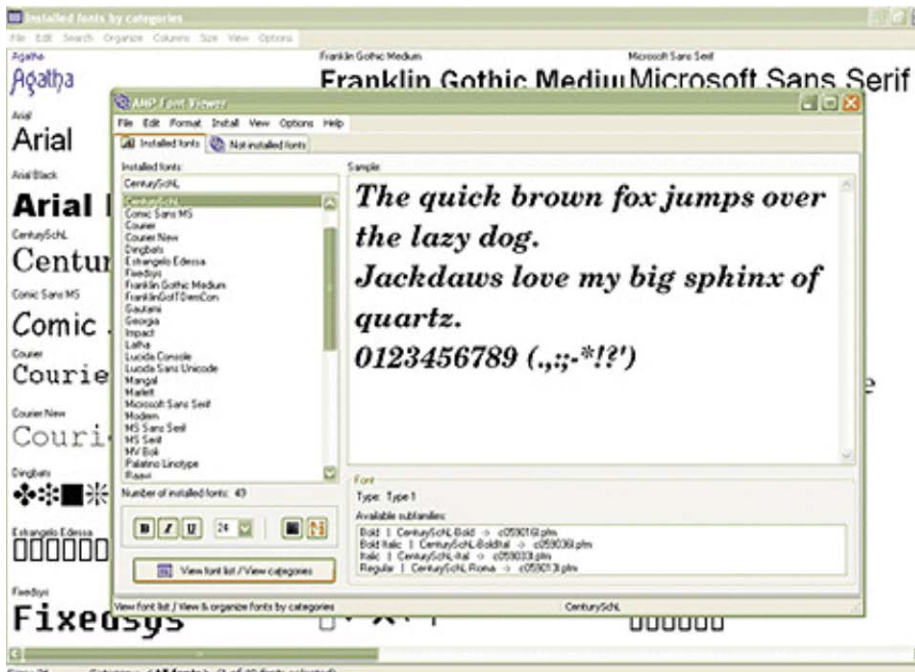
A brief write-up and link to download page will be displayed here so you can determine if you wish to get it and use it.

ALSO NOTE: Some web addresses may not be a direct link. If not, then just copy and paste the address into the “Address Location” window and hit enter.

AMP FONT VIEWER

The other day, I received an e-mail from a reader, asking if there was a program that would allow for a quick look at all of the fonts on their system, without having to open a big program such as MS Word. I started looking around and I happened upon a great free download that does just that! It's called **AMP Font Viewer** and it's very simple to install and use. Just install the program, open it and you'll be good to go!

Here's what it looks like:



As you can see from the image above, all you need to do is click on the name of the font and it will show you what the font looks like. This little program now saves me a ton of time when I'm searching for new fonts!

You can download the AMP Font Viewer right here:

<http://www.ampsoft.net/utilities/FontViewer.php>

Simply click on the **Download** button at the top of the page and then click on the **Installer** button. Enjoy!

From: The Desk of Jim McGorry
Excerpts taken from the Windows Secrets Periodical

INEXPENSIVE ALTERNATIVES TO A SECURE FLASH DRIVE

You don't need to spend \$100 or more to ensure your safety while computing on the road.

The do-it-yourself approach to creating a secure flash drive for use on someone else's PC can be just as effective — and much less expensive.

Scott Dunn's **Dec. 10 Top Story** review of the IronKey secure flash drive touched on some less-costly options for safe computing outside the home or office. Trevor Valentine was one of several readers who expanded on the low-cost ways to achieve the same goal:

"For another alternative, I recommend the duo of TrueCrypt [**more info**] and PortableApps.com [**more info**]. TrueCrypt is a disk-encryption program that allows you several options, including encrypting your USB key or hard drive. PortableApps.com takes free, open-source software and configures it to run entirely from a USB device so that no traces are left behind on the desktop you're using. Still not as secure as using a service like IronKey, but far more affordable since both are free!"

Scott described PortableApps and other programs that run off flash drives in the **Oct. 18, 2007, Top Story**. You'll find additional detailed information about the benefits of portable software in Ian "Gizmo" Richards' Best Software columns of **June 18** and **July 2** (paid content).

Some extended warranties are better than others

Scott Dunn's **Dec. 3 Insider Tricks** column, "Beware of tech vendors' dirty tricks" (paid content), discussed the pros and cons — mostly cons — of the extended warranties offered by vendors. B. P. points out a noteworthy exception to this general rule:

"The one exception to not getting an extended warranty is if — like me — you shop at a computer store whose service department you especially like. By buying, say, the Micro Center Extended Warranty, you are no longer dealing with the manufacturer, even during the initial warranty period.

"Instead, you get the services from the Micro Center Service Department. This is certainly not what I would do at Best Buy, but I trust the Micro Center and have dealt with their service department at my local store for years. I therefore would get their extended warranty — as I have done on my laptop and three external hard drives — just to be dealing with a service department I can talk to face to face."

Finding a local PC repair operation you can trust is as valuable as discovering an honest and knowledgeable car mechanic in your neighborhood. Maybe this is a case of "think locally, act locally."

Implied-warranty laws are consumer safety net

Depending on where you live, local laws may supersede the limited warranties offered by the product manufacturers themselves, as M. B. explains:

"The state of Maine has an implied warranty that takes precedence over the manufacturer's warranty. It states that an article sold in the state must be usable for the purpose intended for the length of time most such

articles or appliances are useful, unless it has been damaged by the purchaser.

"The general length of time is four years for most articles. The seller must make the arrangements for the buyer with the manufacturer for repair or re- placement without cost to the buyer. I have found most sellers willingly comply once the buyer asks, but they won't tell you about the law.

"I don't know if other states have such a law, but it's always worth asking or reviewing consumer law online. I'm always surprised at how few people are aware of the law. Maine discourages the sale of inferior products in this way, and it covers everything but cars, which are covered under a different law."

We also heard from subscribers in Australia and other places that protect consumers with similar implied warranties. Perhaps your local politicians could be persuaded to enact such legislation.

In the U.S., the Consumer Action Website provides a **list** of state, county, and city government consumer-protection offices. The information includes street and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and links to the organizations' Web sites.

From: The Desk of Jim McGorry
Excerpts taken from the Windows Secrets Periodical

CREDIT-CARD EXTENDED WARRANTIES COME IN HANDY

Most experts recommend against paying for an extended warranty when you purchase a PC or peripheral, partly because you may already be covered beyond the vendor's standard warranty period.

If you used a credit card to buy the system, your card company's extended warranty could be the key to a free repair or replacement.

In his **Dec. 3 Insider Tricks** column, WS contributing editor Scott Dunn points out that paying for an extended warranty is usually not a good idea. A reader named "J." reminds us of an added layer of protection that you may not be aware of:

It's my experience that few CC users know about this nice benefit. At some point, you received a summary of benefits, and the coverage is described there. "Typically, the extension is a doubling of the original warranty up to one year. A standard requirement is that you paid for the product completely with the credit card. There are exclusions (e.g., automobiles are not covered), but most small items are covered, including computer equipment. I once used this benefit for an internal CD/DVD drive that went bad.

"I have made use of this a number of times through Visa and American Express without any major problems. American Express has been the easiest. Not too long ago, my digital camera died a few months outside the one-year warranty. I submitted a claim and got a full refund of the camera price (\$300) applied to my credit card in a few weeks!"

That sound you hear is me shuffling through my old credit-card bills to find the statement listing my HP notebook, whose motherboard fried just beyond its one-year warranty.

Scott's article also referred to the incomprehensibility of most online end-user license agreements (EULA). J. L. recommends a free tool that attempts to make sense of these nonsensical documents:

"Those darned EULAs can be pretty tricky, and I'm sure very few even scan them — let alone read them — before clicking the Accept button. I see some of them now have a Print button, so we can send a copy to our lawyer before clicking the Accept button. But that seems to take too long when we're itching to use our new software.

"A great tool I've discovered is the EULalyzer. Perhaps [using the program is] not as good as reading — and understanding — the entire contract (the 'A' in EULA may stand for 'agreement,' but technically it's a contract) or having it vetted by one's lawyer, but [it's] leaps and bounds better than 'Accepting without even looking.'"

For more information on EULalyzer, visit the **Javacool Software site**. Paying a lawyer to review the EULA for a free or low-cost software app? Now *that's* what I call a hidden cost.

Now we have to worry about labeler security?

An **article** last month on the Web site of Boise, Idaho, television station KCBI reported that discarded old fax machines retain on their carbon ribbons any images that were recently received. This could provide quite a treat for thieves seeking Social Security numbers or other personal information you may have received via fax.

R. M. points out another unexpected source of potential security breaches:

I have a Brother PT-2700 label maker. It runs on label-editing software. The big problems are the label tape cartridges. When the tape runs out, the cartridge still contains a dry ink tape that has a reversed image of everything that has been made with it.

"If a spy (or your neighbor) were to pick that out of the garbage, they could see all the labels that you made, i.e., labels for your \$68,000 coin collection, etc. The way I solve this is to remove the tape and burn it. This is the only sure way to destroy it."

Discarded fax ribbons and label tapes are unlikely security threats, but some thieves will go to great lengths to separate you from your valuables. (Personally, my "labeler" is a roll of masking tape and a felt-tip pen.)

From: The Desk of Jim McGorry
Excerpts taken from the Windows Secrets Periodical

USERS OF DEFECTIVE HP NOTEBOOKS GET NO LOVE

Some laptop vendors, discovering they'd sold machines with chips that overheat, respond by immediately replacing the defective units.

Unfortunately, if you bought one such notebook from certain companies and the motherboard burned itself out just after the warranty expired, you may have found yourself out of luck.

In an **April 9 Top Story**, WS contributing editor Michael Lasky described the reticence of Dell and HP to replace an overheating Nvidia graphics chip in many of the companies' laptop models. My **April 16 Known Issues** column provided more information for people who had bought one of the defective notebooks.

While both vendors claim to have addressed their customers' complaints on this matter, reader E. L. begs to differ:

"I began wrestling with the problem, because I was trying to troubleshoot my brother-in-law's nonfunctioning HP DV9000 laptop.... I also discovered a site called HPLies.com. It has become a gathering place for people from all around the world to describe their laptop problems ... and to inventory in a database the serial numbers, product numbers, dates of purchase, etc., of defective HP laptops.

"While the database may contain only around a thousand entries, the actual number [of affected machines] is in the *thousands* and has hit people in all corners of the world. It appears that the HP 'help' described in Mr. O'Reilly's article and on the HP Web site applies only to an extremely small subset of problem laptops....

"HP has continued to put its corporate head in the sand. The people who leave messages in the forums on HPLies.com describe efforts to work with HP support people, send letters to Mark Hurd (CEO of HP), and take the computer back to the place it was purchased, with limited or no success.

"It appears that the HP support people have been directed not to acknowledge that there's a widespread problem with laptops and [also] to perform a \$400 'repair' which, as it turns out, means that HP replaces the bad part with the same bad-but-functioning replacements.... They also reformat the hard drive (huh?) and modify the BIOS in such a manner as to make the cooling fan run continuously to try to keep the unit from overheating! So of course, the battery life of the laptop is crippled even more.

"The forum members on HPLies.com have written to the Better Business Bureau, state attorneys general, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, and directly to Mark Hurd, to no avail....

"I think it's a substantial issue. HP is turning its corporate back on its customers. I see why HP doesn't care — they're the largest computer maker in the world now, so I guess a few thousand unhappy customers is par for the course. This issue is important, because HP knowingly and willfully sold defective merchandise and in most cases charged the customer for the repair.

"HP should be held accountable for knowingly putting a defective computer on the market and for turning a deaf ear to its customers."

As the owner of a doorstep that was once an HP notebook with the defective chip, I couldn't agree more. When I complained about the problem to HP support, they offered to sell me a new motherboard for half the normal \$400 price. But, as E. points out, the "repair" HP proposed was hardly a bargain.

Windows Secrets contacted HP for a response to E.'s letter, but no reply has been received. Frankly, HP's silence on the matter is no big surprise.

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Welcome members and visitors alike to this new section I hope it will be of interest and use to you. Each month I will try and have interesting and useful programs for you to download and try on your systems as you see fit. Some are free and some may have a nominal fee.

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the "Address Location" window and hit enter.

EVERNOTE

For this week's download, I found something for those of you who want to keep your ideas organized. The program is called **Evernote** and it's much more than just a program! Evernote can be installed on your computer, visited on the Web or even installed on some cell phones, like the iPhone and a few Blackberrys.

Here's how it works! When you install Evernote on your computer, you can put things you want to keep for later use on it. For example, you can write a small note using your keyboard, you can drag images, words and Web sites to it, you can drag whole Web sites to it and you can even record a voice note to it.

After doing that, Evernote will save the information for you and index it so that you can find it later. Now, here's the coolest part! Let's say you were on a friend's computer and you wanted to show them something you saved on Evernote. To do that, all you have to do is go to: www.evernote.com and log in. Everything you saved to Evernote will be there. All the pictures, shortcuts and words you put on your own computer. Pretty cool, huh?!



On top of all that, if you have a supported cell phone, you can install Evernote and save items from your phone too. That way, you can take a picture with your phone and it will be organized and saved on your computer.

If you want to learn more about Evernote and sign up for a free account, you can do so here:

<http://www.evernote.com/>

Enjoy!

From: The Desk of Jim McGorry
Excerpts taken from the Windows Secrets Periodical

MICROSOFT MUCKS UP WINDOWS 7 LICENSING

Windows 7 is a great product with relatively few foibles, but there's one major Win7 mess that has me seeing red.

The licensing terms for the new version of Windows are inconsistent, inaccurate, and downright inane — assuming you can wade through Microsoft's legalese in the first place.

If you're one of the millions of people considering a Win7 upgrade, you need to distinguish the upgrades you **can** do from the upgrades Microsoft's license **wants** you to do. The overlap between what's possible and what's "permissible" leaves a lot of gray area.

Unfortunately, there are no clear and simple answers to many important questions. These include the validity of dual-boot Win7 configurations, the use of upgrade discs to perform a clean install, and the ability to upgrade to Win7 a PC that's currently running a pirated copy of XP or Vista.

Here's the nutshell version of where things stand on these issues at present. (You'll find the official end-user license agreement for your version of Windows on Microsoft's **Legal and Corporate Affairs page** as a PDF download.)

Dual-booting Windows 7 may violate the license

You know about dual-booting, right? Since the dawn of time, Windows has allowed you to install more than one operating system on a PC and choose which OS to use at boot-up. Dual-booting is a good way to migrate from an older operating system to a newer one. I've used the technique for years whenever a new OS has come around.

For example, once you set a machine to dual-boot, you can use the new OS until you run into trouble — for example, you forget a password or can't remember an e-mail setting. You just boot into the old OS and use it long enough to jot down the missing information. Once you're sure you no longer need the old version, you delete it: safe, simple, and easy.

I first jumped down the Win7 licensing rabbit hole when I realized you aren't supposed to use an upgrade version of Windows 7 to create a dual-boot system. Er, well, more precisely, it's *physically possible* to use an upgrade version of Win7 to create a PC that will dual-boot Win7 with XP or Vista. But the licensing terms *say* you can't do so.

This is one of those areas where verbiage indicates you shouldn't, but the software and all of its supporting documentation show that you can. It's also one of the areas where the rules have changed. Dual-booting with an upgrade copy of XP was perfectly kosher. The licensing language changed with Windows 7. (Actually, it changed with Vista, but nobody seems to have noticed.)

The crux of the matter lies in the following sentence in Windows 7's EULA:

"15. Upgrades. To use upgrade software, you must first be licensed for the software that is eligible for the upgrade. Upon upgrade, this agreement takes the place of the agreement for the software you upgraded from. After you upgrade, you may no longer use the software you upgraded from."

Yes, you read that correctly. As soon as you install the upgrade version of Windows 7, Microsoft claims that your license for the existing version of Windows goes kaput and you may no longer use the software you upgraded from. While you can create a dual-boot system — heck, it's easy to do so, using the upgrade DVD — under a strict reading of the EULA, you aren't supposed to boot it up.

The Windows 7 installer will automatically set up the entire dual-boot infrastructure, making it easy for you to dual-boot. But the license says you can't still use the previously purchased and installed operating system.

This leads to all sorts of craziness. For example, a friend of mine wanted to dual-boot the 32-bit version *and* the 64-bit version of Windows 7. This would allow him to test 64-bit drivers but fall back to 32-bit if he encountered a problem.

He bought the Windows 7 Upgrade Family Pack, whose license permits three installs. To dual-boot, he simply needed to install Win7 twice. But he was a bit, uh, disconcerted to discover that dual-booting with the 32-bit and 64-bit versions theoretically negates the license of whichever Win7 version was installed first.

I still can't believe that Microsoft made such a ridiculous rule. I'm amazed there hasn't been a mass uprising of Win7 users brandishing pitchforks and blazing torches as they threaten to ride the legal beagles out of Redmond on a rail. But no. In fact, I've hardly heard a peep about this matter in the trade press.

The simple fact is that a dual-boot system created using the upgrade version of Win7 works fine. Microsoft may say your license for the original software gets tossed into the bit bucket, but I've never heard of anybody failing a Windows Genuine Advantage check on an old XP or Vista system that's part of a Win7 dual-boot hookup.

I don't know how Microsoft could tell which old system you had. I don't know of any mechanism Microsoft could use to disable a running copy of Windows 7 or prevent it from receiving critical updates. In short, the rule's there, but it may in fact be legally unconscionable as well as unenforceable.

The install-over-itself trick skirts the rules

In his **Feb. 1, 2007, Top Story**, editorial director Brian Livingston described how to clean-install Windows Vista using only the upgrade CD. Thunder and lightning descended from a few outraged spokespersons who felt that such a trick shouldn't be widely publicized. After all, Microsoft has a right to charge the price it wants, and if it restricts the cheaper upgrade version to systems that already have a valid copy of Windows, it's Microsoft's decision, right?

Well, not exactly. Microsoft can say whatever it likes. But by the same token, Microsoft purposefully built the backdoor into Windows so it could be used. The Redmond company explained in its own published documents how to use the trick to install the upgrade edition on a new, bare hard drive. With Vista installed in this way, as Brian noted, the Vista EULA specifically lists Vista itself as a "qualifying operating system" that would pass validation tests by upgrading Vista over itself. This was all deliberately programmed in by Microsoft and retained as part of Service Pack 1.

Fast forward two and a half years and we find the same backdoor in Windows 7. Microsoft even enhanced the trick by adding a command line that eliminates the need to run setup twice.

As I explained in my **Nov. 12 Top Story**, you can use the Win7 upgrade DVD to clean-install Windows 7 in precisely the same way Brian demonstrated in 2007 for Vista.

Legions of "Softies" have known about the trick for years, and it still works. Microsoft didn't close the hole in Vista SP1, and it didn't close it in Windows 7. It doesn't look like a "trick" any more. The only possible conclusion is that the clean-install method is included by Microsoft so its tech-support people can resolve customers' setup problems quickly and cheaply.

Aside from the EULA, what does Microsoft tell Windows 7 buyers about installing the upgrade DVD on a clean hard drive? The company's official upgrade booklet — called "Welcome to Your PC, Simplified" — provides an answer at the bottom of page 6:

"If your PC doesn't have an operating system currently installed, insert the Windows 7 installation disc before turning on your computer. Setup should start automatically."

That's very specific advice, and it carries no admonition whatsoever restricting the upgrade to any particular machine.

If this is a violation of the EULA, shouldn't Microsoft have removed by now the technique that the company created and documented so many years ago?

Microsoft doesn't do so because it doesn't want to.

No trick needed to upgrade a pirated OS to Win7

As part of my pursuit of truth, justice, and the American way, I tested a Windows 7 upgrade DVD on a PC that I knew had a pirated copy of Windows XP. This particularly sorry piece of hardware had never seen a licensed copy of Windows in its life. The PC might as well have been flying a skull-and-crossbones flag and displaying

its "You may be the victim of software counterfeiting" notice like a badge of honor.

Since the machine didn't really have much of an OS to begin with, I decided to take Microsoft's advice for installing Win7 on a PC with no operating system at all. I booted the PC from a genuine, paid-for upgrade DVD. The Win7 installer kicked in with no problem. During installation, I typed in the activation key. Win7 activated immediately once I was connected to the Internet. Go figger.

It would be trivially easy for Microsoft to have the installer scan for "nongenuine" copies of Windows and scold the upgrader. But no — the upgrade proceeded as slick as could be.

Now that the formerly swashbuckling PC has a genuine copy of Windows 7, is there any indication that I broke any EULA provisions? More to the point, does anybody at Microsoft really care? There are millions of pirated copies of Windows out there. Isn't getting them qualified as genuine a good thing for everybody?

Seems like it is to me.

From: The Desk of Jim McGorry

Excerpts taken from the Windows Secrets Periodical

OBSCURE WIN7 TOOLS CAN SAVE YOU TIME AND TROUBLE

Some of Windows 7's best new features aren't so easy to find.

These include a problem recorder to aid tech support, a list of the programs affected by a System Restore, more precise power adjustments for notebooks and netbooks, and keyboard shortcuts that open system resources.

Somehow, the new tools have been lost in all the Windows 7 hype. That's a shame, because they can increase your productivity tremendously. Unfortunately, finding them is often like hunting for snipes. Here's a quick review of my favorite, little-known Win7 features.

Win7's troubleshooter is a boon to tech support

One of Win7's handiest new tools is the Problem Steps Recorder, a sort of help-desk aphrodisiac. When something goes haywire with your PC, tech-support staff will usually ask you to reproduce the specific sequence of actions that led to the problem. But trying to explain what happened — and when it happened — can be difficult.

Problem Steps Recorder to the rescue! To launch the utility, press the Windows key, type **psr**, and press Enter. Click Start Recorder and redo the steps that led to the problem. PSR records every mouse click and key press. It also creates screen shots and zips the lot into an MHTML file you can send as an e-mail attachment to tech support. (See Figure 1.)

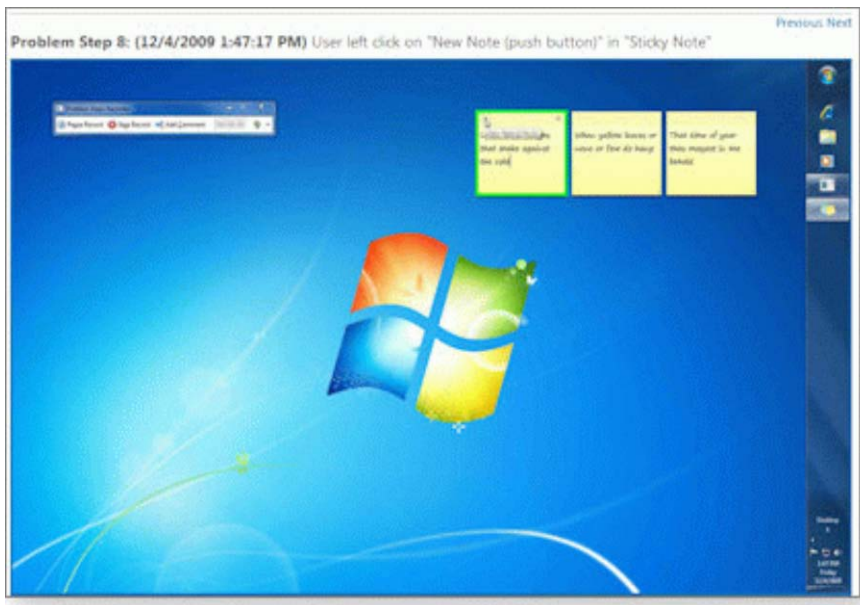


Figure 1. Windows 7's Problem Steps Recorder allows support staff to review the actions causing a PC glitch.

After the techs open the MHTML file, they can determine exactly what's going on with your system.

Preview the changes before restoring your PC

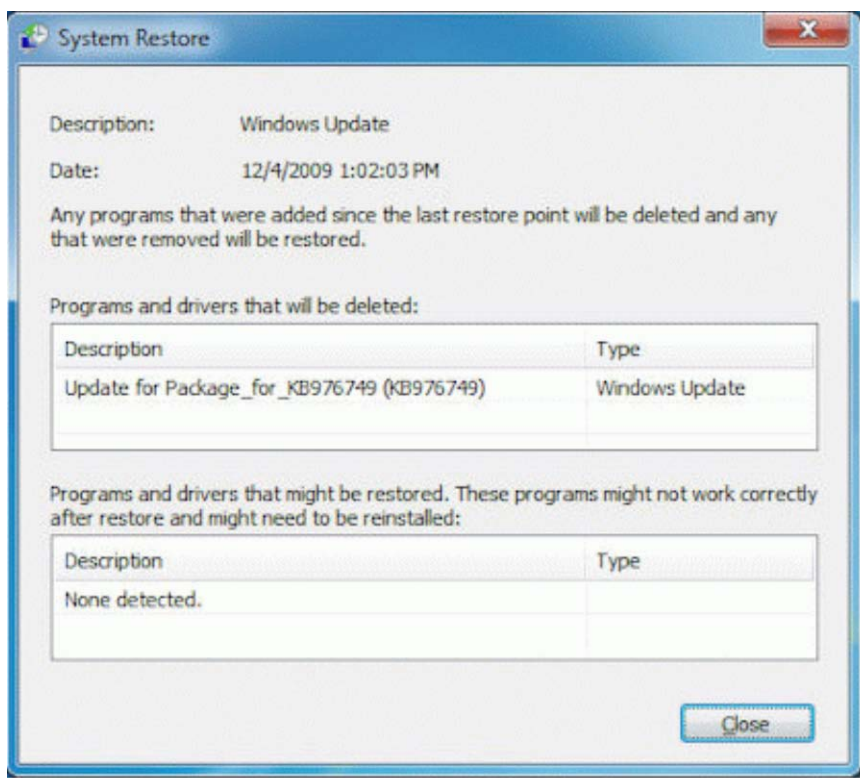


Figure 2. Prior to applying a restore point, preview the changes that Monitor the power used by a notebook or netbook

The venerable System Restore app gets a welcome makeover in Win7. The XP and Vista versions of System Restore let you pick a restore point but give no indication of the apps, drivers, and settings that would be affected by the restoration's changes. By contrast, Windows 7's System Restore adds a new index reader that

lets you see exactly what will be changed if you revert to a specific restore point.

To use this feature, press the Windows key, type **system restore**, and press Enter. When the applet opens, select a restore point and click **Scan for affected programs**.

A list of the files that will be deleted, added, or changed by the action will be displayed for you to review before committing to that particular restore point.

(See Figure 2; note that in this example, the restore point would affect no files or programs.)

Windows 7's Powercfg utility gives you insight into what's sucking up the battery power of your notebook or netbook. Powercfg also lets you adjust your power settings and extend the machine's battery life.

To start your new power-efficiency calculator, press the Windows key, type **cmd**, right-click **cmd.exe**, and click **Run as administrator**. Type **powercfg -energy** at the command line. Powercfg scans your system and saves its findings in the System32 folder by default as an HTML file named **Energy-Report.html**. To open the file, press the Windows key, type **energy-report.html**, and click or double-click the resulting file.

Using Powercfg and deciphering its test results can be tricky. For information on Powercfg's reports, a **How-To Geek article** goes into more detail.

Fast access to Win7 resources via the keyboard

Some of Win7's best timesavers are staring you right in the face on your keyboard, particularly via the previously underutilized Windows key. You probably already know that pressing the Windows key (Win) opens the Start menu. But now, holding the Win key in combination with other keys does a lot more.

Win7's Windows-key combinations speed up opening system tools, navigating between files and apps, and performing other common tasks. (Note that many of these shortcuts work in XP and Vista as well.)

Win+Pause: Displays the System Control Panel applet.

Win+D: Shows the desktop.

Win+Spacebar: Shows the desktop without minimizing open windows (Aero Peek).

Win+E: Opens Windows Explorer with Computer selected.

Win+F: Opens a Search window for finding files or folders.

Win+Ctrl+F: Opens a Search window for finding computers on a network.

Win+G: Cycles through Gadgets (if any are installed).

Win+L: Locks your computer or switches users.

Win+M: Minimizes all windows.

Win+Shift+M: Restores minimized windows.

Win+P: Chooses a presentation display mode.

Win+R: Opens the Run dialog box.

Win+T: Cycles through and previews programs on the taskbar.

Win+U: Opens the Ease of Access Center (Utility Manager in XP).

Win+X: Opens the Windows Mobility Center (which isn't installed by default on desktop PCs).

Win+(numbers 1 to 5): Starts the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number. If the program is already running, it switches to that program.

Win+Shift+(numbers 1 to 5): Starts a new instance of the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number.

Win+Ctrl+(numbers 1 to 5): Switches to the last active window of the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number.

Win+Alt+(numbers 1 to 5): Opens the Jump List of recently accessed items for the program pinned to the taskbar in the position indicated by the number.

Win+Tab: Cycles through open programs by using Aero Flip 3-D. (You must have Aero working; Win7

Home Basic and Starter don't use Aero.)

Win+Ctrl+Tab and then Left or Right Arrow: Opens Aero Flip 3-D to cycle through open programs.

Win+Ctrl+B: Switches to the program that displayed a message in the notification area.

Ctrl+click: Pressing **Ctrl** while clicking a taskbar icon will scroll multiple windows of that icon's application.

Win+Up Arrow: Maximizes the window.

Win+Left Arrow: Docks the active window to the left half of the screen.

Win+Right Arrow: Docks the active window to the right half of the screen.

Win+Down Arrow: Minimizes the window.

Win+Shift+Up Arrow: Stretches the window to the top and bottom of the screen.

Win+Shift+Left or Right Arrow: Moves the window from one monitor to another.

Win+Home: Minimizes all but the active window.

For more productivity-enhancing keyboard shortcuts, see WS senior editor Ian "Gizmo" Richards' **Dec. 3 Best Software** column (paid content).

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ALSO NOTE: Some web addresses may not be a direct link. If not, then just copy and paste the address into the "Address Location" window and hit enter.

POLADROID

Here's a fun little download for those of you who like to experiment with your photos! How many of you have old Polaroid cameras? Those cameras are now a dying breed with digital cameras taking over, but many people miss the fun those photos used to provide. You know, you take the picture, shake it for five minutes and hope it turns out okay! I'm sure not everyone misses those photos, but it would be fun to have one occasionally, wouldn't it?!



Well, that's where today's download comes into play! It's called **Poladroid** and it takes any regular picture on your computer and turns it into an old fashioned Polaroid picture. All you have to do is install the program and then drag the picture of your choice to the camera that appears on your desktop.



Here's an example:

After you drag the picture to the camera, this is what happens:

As you can see, your Poladroid picture is created, but it hasn't developed yet. You can then shake it and after a few minutes, your picture will start to appear!

I'm not going to show you that part though. You'll have to download the program and see for yourself!

Note: This is a great program, but the author doesn't have very good English. You may notice some grammar errors when you visit the Web site.

You can download Poladroid for yourself (for both Windows and Mac) right here:

<http://www.poladroid.net/download.html>

Enjoy!

From: The Desk of Jim McGorry
Excerpts taken from Worldstart Newsletter

UNDISCOVERED FIREFOX TRICKS

There are some lesser-known features in **Mozilla Firefox** that can make your Internet browsing experience much more enjoyable. I'll admit, that even I didn't know about these features up until about a week ago. So let's explore together, shall we?

1. View your saved passwords for a page.

You're in the habit of saving your passwords, but the convenience has caused your memory to lapse and now you can't remember what it actually was! Rest easy, because all you need to do is **right-click** anywhere on the current page, select **View Page Info** and under the security tab there's an option to "**View Saved passwords**".

Sounds a little unsecured, doesn't it? That's where a **Master Password** comes in. Under **Tools>Options>Security** there's a checkbox for "**Use Master password**". Select this and enter in something you'll remember. Now anyone who tried to view your saved passwords will be met with...well, another password!

2. Duplicate tabs with drag and drop



Sounds easy enough, right? Well, it is! Just hold the **Ctrl** key and drag a tab to an empty spot on your tab bar. Instant duplication!

3. Small Icons on the toolbar.

This is a minor feature, but one I'm sure at least a few of you will use. All you need to do to make your navigation buttons smaller is right click on the home icon on the toolbar and select “**Customize...**”. From here, you can add and remove icons, but also check the tick box that says “**Use Small Icons**”. There's a little more space on your toolbar now!