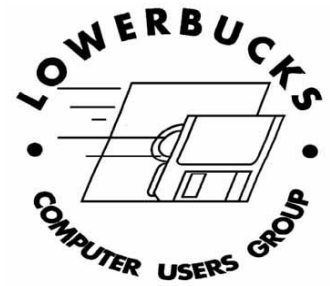


# *The ASCIIriber*

THE JOURNAL OF THE LOWER BUCKS COMPUTER USERS GROUP

Volume 29 • Issue 6, June 2010



## *Office 2010 and Adobe CS5*

This is our last meeting before the summer hiatus so we are going to go out in a real blaze of glory.

We are previewing two new suites of programs – Adobe's CS5 and Microsoft's Office 2010.

CS5, the CS representing Creative Suite, is a bundle of products that handle everything from video to sound.

The anchor for this suite is Photoshop so that's what we'll concentrate on this at the meeting.

More than any other version, Photoshop CS5 embraces digital photography. There are many new tools designed for editing and manipulating camera RAW files.

Also on the agenda is a look at Office 2010. It too has many new features.

The entire Office suite uses the ribbon bar so say goodbye to tool bars. But there is more to this program than just a pretty face.

You can now do things never available before such as saving files to the Internet and editing graphics within a Word document.

It's new, it's exciting and you can see it all at our next meeting.

See you on Sunday.

**NEXT MEETING:** Last meeting of the summer

**SUNDAY, June 6, 2 P.M.**

Good stuff here from Jim McGorry. Read it and learn what you can do to protect your computer.

- Microsoft Security Suite Test Drive
- AceMoney Lite
- FindRun Robot
- Review of Windows security suites
- Going Green With Windows 7
- Wallpaper Master

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

## **THE 120-DAY MICROSOFT SECURITY SUITE TEST DRIVE**

### **Frustration with most commercial antivirus suites launched a long-term, real-life test of Microsoft Security Essentials, Microsoft's free anti-malware application.**

In one of the rare extended tests outside a lab, Microsoft's software has quietly kept two Windows 7 PCs free of infections, even in dangerous public environments.

I've tried many commercial security suites over the years and eventually grown unhappy with each of them. An anti-malware publisher would layer new features on top of old, and each new version would require more disk space and system resources — eventually making the software too big, too slow, or too hard to customize. Moving on to another publisher's suite only restarted the same pattern. So four months ago, I decided to look into a new option: the recently released Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE) — the company's first antivirus and anti-malware application. (MSE is available as a free download from the product's [info page](#).)

So far, my real-life test drive indicates that Microsoft may have finally got basic security right.

### **Three critical elements for basic security**

I generally rely on three interlocking kinds of security protection: First, a firewall to protect against direct hack attacks. Next, various built-in filters and prescreens provided by online apps (browsers and e-mail, for example) to block malware downloads and prevent open doors to bad sites. Finally, an active anti-malware tool that monitors all file activity.

The software screens out known or likely worms, viruses, Trojans, and other malicious code — either by identifying them directly or by watching their behavior.

For the first time, in Fall 2009 Microsoft provided all three pieces of the online security puzzle — and offered them free.

It's been a long time coming. Microsoft's first serious foray into online security was Internet Protocol Security (IPsec) — a primitive kind of firewall — bundled with Windows 2000. Improved and extended a bit in XP, IPsec became a fully functional firewall in Vista and was further refined in Windows 7.

Today, Win7's built-in firewall can protect as well as many third-party products can. (A WindowsSecurity.com [article](#) details what's in the Win7 firewall.)

Microsoft's anti-malware efforts began in earnest in 2005 when Microsoft bought out the modestly respected Giant AntiSpyware. Revamped and eventually renamed Windows Defender, Microsoft hoped this free antispysware application would bolster XP's aging and massively attacked infrastructure. Indeed, XP users can still download it from its [product page](#). Later, Windows Defender was bundled into Vista and Windows 7. But Windows Defender didn't specifically target viruses — a glaring omission. Microsoft Security Essentials finally corrects that.

MSE is a general anti-malware tool, protecting against viruses as well as the kinds of threats that Defender handled. In fact, MSE automatically disables any versions of Defender it finds on a PC. That's important because duplicated security services will *often* cause trouble. The rule of thumb is never to have different security tools performing the same job at the same time. MSE is smart enough not to compete with a sibling tool.

### **Running all-Microsoft protection — in the wild**

With Microsoft now providing all the major pieces of a comprehensive security setup for free, the question arises: Do you really need any third-party security software?

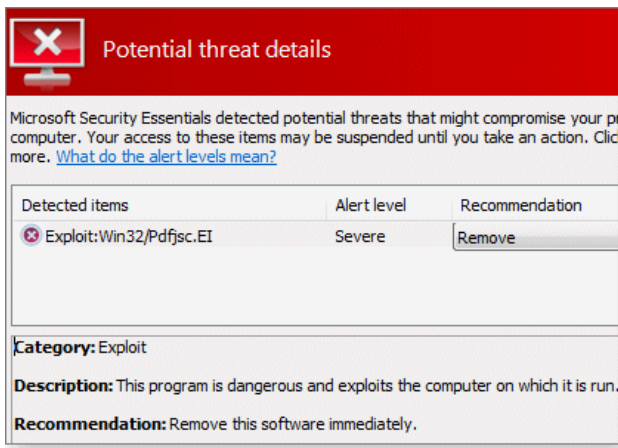
To find out, I uninstalled all third-party security apps from two Windows 7 systems — one a portable, one a desktop — and created a basic security setup using only Windows' built-in firewall and Microsoft Security Essentials in their default state (no customizations).

Both machines included Mozilla's Thunderbird for e-mail and Firefox and IE8 for browsing (all fully updated and set to their default security states).

After four months of running those setups not just in my home office, but at public hotspots that are a potential gold mine for hackers — WiFi in coffee shops, hotels, and airport lounges — I have yet to see a successful attack on either system. (Later, I'll explain how I tested the systems to make sure the security tools were doing their job.) One other note about testing MSE: Most of the lab tests of this security suite's AV capabilities are extremely dated — typically, completed when the product originally launched. In my search of the Web, I could find only one recent lab test of MSE. A brief April 14 [report](#) by MaximumPC stated that the suite passed its synthetic testing "without so much as flinching and fared equally well at thwarting our attempts to inflict damage with genuine payloads." Although that report backs up my findings, this review — as far as I can determine — is the only extended in-the-wild test published.

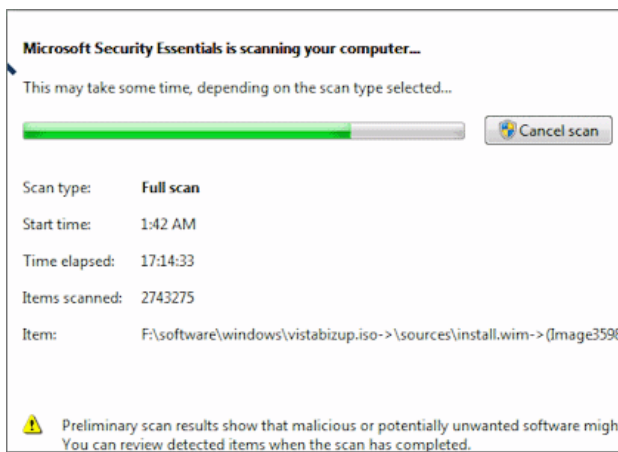
### Security working quietly behind the curtains

In operation, Microsoft Security Essentials is nearly invisible — there's almost no user interaction needed. (Windows' firewall, likewise, has never needed much interaction.) MSE automatically scans files when they're created or accessed, and it monitors system activity for suspicious malware-like behavior. MSE also performs unattended scans of your entire system at a time you designate. MSE even updates itself silently in the background. MSE calls for attention only when it finds trouble, as shown in Figure 1. But you can skip even this minor level of interaction if you direct MSE to automatically run recovery actions such as remove, clean, or quarantine.



**Figure 1. Microsoft Security Essentials works quietly in the background until it discovers a potential attack. In this case, it intercepted malware in Firefox's cache.**

You can't, however, ignore MSE's full scans — they can grind on for hours, as Figure 2 illustrates. The first few times I ran it, each full scan of my 1.5TB laptop took about a full day to complete. (See Figure 2.) Even running the scan mostly at night didn't let it finish in a reasonable time. Other MSE reviewers also noted long scan times.

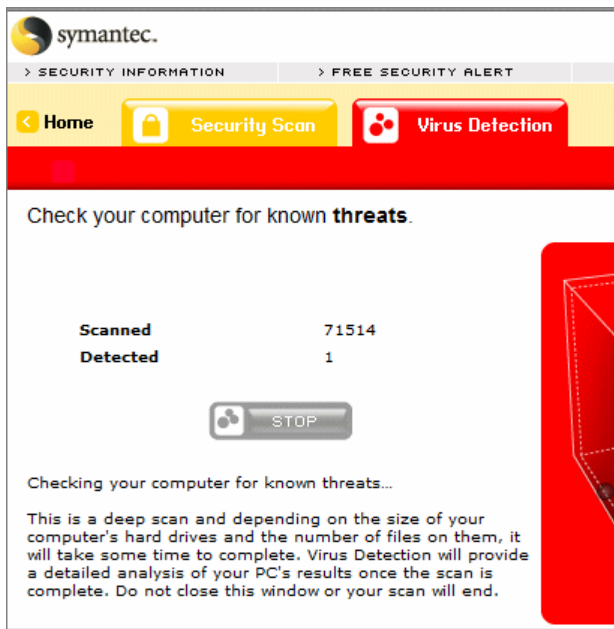


**Figure 2. Though thorough, MSE's full, file-by-file scan is exceedingly slow. This dialog window displays the progress after 17 hours — in what turned out to be a 24-hour process.**

Fortunately, once a system is completely checked, you reduce the need for full scans. After confirming that all of my files were clean, I reset MSE to focus only on the most-frequently used partitions. Now scans complete in a couple hours, at night, when the PC is otherwise idle.

### Trust is good, but verification is better

Before giving MSE a thumbs-up, I had to know for sure that it was working. As Figure 2 shows, it did catch attempts to download malware onto my machines. But did it miss any? To check, I periodically scanned my Win7 systems with standalone security tools that would not interfere with MSE. That way, I continually ensured that no new infections had taken up residence in my machines. Typically, I ran a different scanner each night: Microsoft's Windows Live Safety [Scanner](#), then ESET's Online [Scanner](#), then either McAfee's [FreeScan](#) or Symantec's [Security Check](#). (See Figure 3.)



**Figure 3. Using several standalone, third-party online AV scanners, I verify that my PCs remain uninfected. The one "infected" file detected in this scan was a known false positive.**

These scanners do pick up dubious bits from time to time. For example, I have several password-recovery tools that all the scanners tag as malware (when obviously they're not.) So-called *tracking cookies* routinely show up in browser caches and are often tagged by the scanners as malicious. (These cookies are almost always harmless. I rarely bother to block them.)

### MSE gets a thumbs-up, but with caveats

Four months in, and no malware has infected my Win7 systems. I've experienced no malware-like misbehavior on my machines, and to the best of my knowledge, my systems remain clean and unhacked. So I'm comfortable saying that the combination of the Win7 firewall, Microsoft Security Essentials, and fully current browsers and e-mail clients is proving to be a wholly acceptable security solution for routine use.

However, I'm not ready to recommend this combination to advanced users — especially those with demanding needs or who require the ability to easily customize their setup. For example, MSE is harder to customize than competing software. Built to run mostly in full-automatic (for maximum ease of use), MSE lacks an advanced mode — where you can dig into the app and modify how it works. Maybe I have spent too many years tinkering with Windows, but I feel uneasy with a *black box* solution.

Other (mostly early) reviews of MSE echo my sentiments. Examples include:

Ars Technica's September 29, 2009, [article](#), "First Look: Microsoft Security Essentials Impresses"  
PC World's Oct. 2, 2009, [security blog](#), "Microsoft's Free AV Looks Good in New Test Results"  
PC Mag.com's March 3, 2010, [review](#), "Microsoft Security Essentials Probably Not for You"

Washington Post's Sept. 30, 2009, [report](#) on AV-Test's MSE performance results.

MSE's poorest reviews come from synthetic lab tests that exercised MSE in isolation. While that's interesting information — it makes me go, "Hmmmm" — security tools don't work in isolation in the real world.

As I've already stated, *in combination* with the Win7 firewall and up-to-date browsers and e-mail apps, MSE kept my PCs clean. Weigh the evidence for yourself. I'll continue my tests — probably for another three months — and let you know what I find.

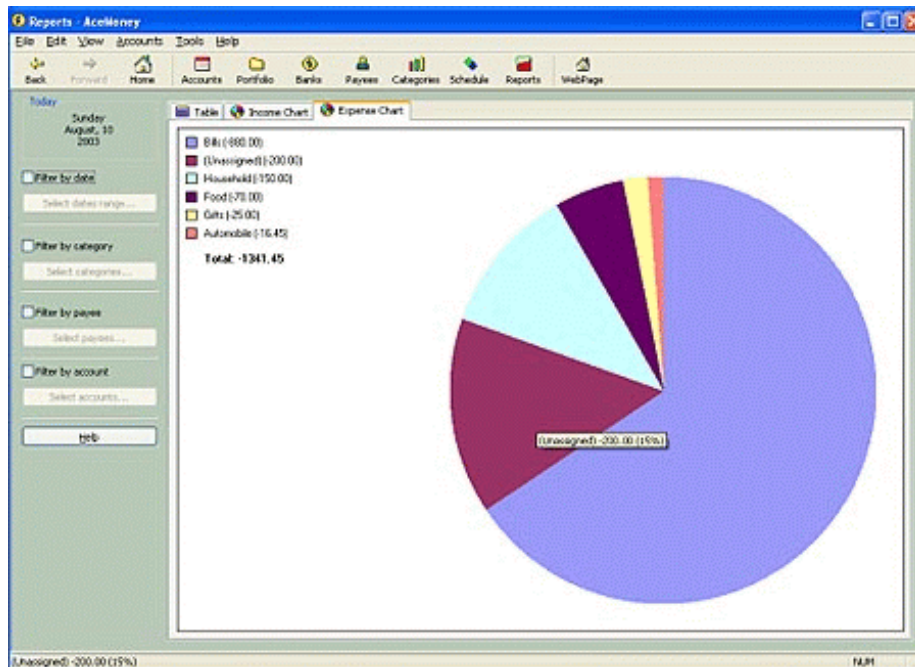
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## Weekly Download Section from Jim McGorry

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.

### ACEMONEY LITE



When times are tough and money is tight, it's always good to be able to take a closer look at your finances. The biggest problem is though, finance tracking software usually costs a lot of money.

To me, that doesn't make much sense! If you're trying to keep track of your money and spend less, why would you want to spend a lot of money on the software? Well, today, I have a program that will help you keep track of your finances and I promise, the price is just right. Yep, it's free! The program is called **AceMoney Lite** and it's a great piece of software.

There are tons of features and categories included with AceMoney Lite. It's perfect if you're looking for an easy way to track your expenses.

You can get more information about AceMoney Lite and download it for yourself right here:

[http://download.cnet.com/AceMoney-Lite/3000-2057\\_4-10208687.html?tag=mncol%3btxt](http://download.cnet.com/AceMoney-Lite/3000-2057_4-10208687.html?tag=mncol%3btxt)

Enjoy!

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#### **FIND AND RUN ROBOT**

Many people out there would say that Windows XP's search feature isn't anything to be desired. And I would have to agree. Also, many people would say it's hard to find a program via your All Programs menu. I would also agree with that statement.

Well, all of those difficulties can be solved with a free download called the **Find and Run Robot**. Its little box allows you to quickly type what you're looking for and simply click to launch! For example, I installed the Find and Run Robot and then typed in "Windows Update." The Robot found the Windows Update application the moment I stopped typing. I clicked on it and had my system updated immediately!

If you have a lot of stuff on your computer, you should try the Find and Run Robot. It's easy to install and very easy to use. You can download the Find and Run Robot for yourself right here:

[http://download.cnet.com/Find-and-Run-Robot/3000-2072\\_4-10433609.html?tag=mncol%3btxt](http://download.cnet.com/Find-and-Run-Robot/3000-2072_4-10433609.html?tag=mncol%3btxt)

Enjoy!

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

#### **NEW FINDINGS UPDATE WS SECURITY BASELINE**

**Our monthly update of the Windows Secrets Security Baseline focuses on anti-malware suites — all-in-one commercial packages that fight viruses, spam, spyware, and malware that's still unknown — plus suites you assemble yourself.**

Regardless of your skill level — beginner, intermediate, or advanced user — you should be able to find security protection that's right for your needs. In the past, security suites have been roundly criticized for their deleterious effects on PC performance and because they were often difficult to uninstall. From the e-mails we receive, the dislike for paid AV suites runs deep among long-time PC users.

But over the last decade, I've probably reviewed almost any antivirus product you could name, and I'm here to tell you that today's Internet security suites use fewer resources than their predecessors and most are much easier to remove. That's an achievement, given the ever-more sophisticated threats these applications face. Though they started out combating simple viruses, they must now include tools to fight spam, spyware, and malware that's still unknown.

Most of today's top-rated suites charge \$30 to \$70 a year to protect up to three PCs. The suites discussed in this article all support Windows XP, Vista, and Win7. The primary benefit of one-package security suites is a unified interface, so the various components are easier to access and configure. Do-it-yourself suites are more difficult to maintain but let you pick the best-of-breed software for different types of malware threats.

I've broken down the choices for suites into three groups: basic, intermediate, and advanced.

### **Suites that quietly work in the background**

For PC users seeking a security suite that delivers good protection with minimal fuss, the three commercial suites listed below are best. These packages are for average PC users who do not feel comfortable delving into a suite's sometimes-complex controls. Everything you need to know is displayed in a simple window, including whether or not you've received the latest product update. If that simplicity does not appeal to you, skip down to the intermediate or advanced lists below. Our top three — Norton, Kaspersky, and Microsoft — each showed the most innovation in their 2010 offerings, with the first two sandboxing Web applications. All three scan only those files that have changed since the previous scan (as opposed to scanning the entire hard drive every time).

#### **Symantec's Norton Internet Security 2010:**

Symantec's suite, probably more so than any other AV software, has taken hard knocks for slowing down PCs. This time around, however, CNET, PCWorld, and PCMag.com all noted that the suite's impact on PC performance is much improved. That and the software's ability to block new threats earned it top scores from all three publications. Using test data from AV-test.org, PCWorld's [review](#) noted Norton's superior virus behavior analysis, which helps stop new malware not yet catalogued by the AV vendors.

#### **Kaspersky Internet Security 2010:**

PCMag and PCWorld both thought Kaspersky's strength was its easy-to-use interface. A new "Safe Run" feature also lets you test new software by installing and running it in an isolated *sandbox* environment prior to installing it for real. However, both PCWorld and PCMag reported middling overall performance results.

#### **Microsoft Security Essentials:**

Given Microsoft's tepid efforts at anti-malware software in the past, its free MSE security suite has received surprisingly good reviews. Windows Secrets Patch Watch columnist Susan Bradley recommends MSE for average PC users, and senior editor Fred Langa wrote a lengthy and generally positive review in his [May 6 Top Story](#). There is little in the way of recent independent lab testing of MSE. One of the most recent is AV-Comparatives.org's February 2010 PDF-based [report](#), in which MSE was given high marks for malware detection and scan times. In particular, MSE scored very few false positives compared with Trend Micro, Panda, and McAfee.

What about the other household-name AV products? This year McAfee got tepid reviews and took a huge hit when it inadvertently sent out a bad virus update. CA, Panda, and Trend Micro also received mediocre scores.

### **Intermediate suites provide more customization**

The intermediate products listed below have a large and dedicated following among experienced PC users, mostly because these suites offer more user controls. They don't have the marketing clout of the brands in the basic group, and their interface and integration are not as polished. It's best to combine these suites with one or more of the standalone security products listed in the advanced section.

#### **Alwil Avast Internet Security 5.0:**

This suite is worth a look, even though the suite is a brand-new offering. Its signature-based protection is solid, its interface is intuitive, but it offers just the basics — according to a PCMag.com [review](#). PCWorld's [review](#) stated that its behavioral detection could use more refinement. Still, there's considerable positive buzz around this late entry to an already-crowded security market.

#### **Sunbelt Vipre Antivirus Premium:**

Although this suite has been around for a few years, when Sunbelt combined its antivirus with its anti-spyware engines, it started from scratch — producing a leaner and meaner anti-malware engine that has earned the VirusBulletin VB100

[designation](#) for good antivirus performance. Vipre includes a firewall and anti-rootkit protection but lacks sophisticated browser protection

Although other middle-tier products — BitDefender, Zonealarm, PCTools, Webroot, and F-Secure, for example — have their fans, each product has its own strengths and weaknesses you'll need to take into consideration.

### **Advanced security — build it yourself**

Ask a dozen security experts what they'd put into their suite of anti-malware tools, and you'll get a dozen different answers. But the following products are considered top-tier by advanced PC users. Many are also free. ***Anti-malware detection and removal***

#### **G Data Antivirus 2010:**

In a February antivirus test [report](#) by AV-Comparatives, G Data earned the best score for virus detection, and it had a low rate of false positives. At \$25, it's also modestly priced.

#### **Immunet Protect:**

This free, cloud-based antivirus product was created by some former Symantec engineers. Cloud-based antivirus apps take up little room on your hard drive, and their defenses against new malware outbreaks can be pushed out faster than with the conventional signature-based method. Unfortunately, this new technology has not been tested as thoroughly as more-traditional methods. You can download [Immunet Protection](#) directly from the vendor.

#### **Malwarebytes Anti-Malware:**

One of the gold standards of standalone antivirus apps, it is favored by Windows Secrets contributing editor Ryan Russell. It has not been evaluated alongside Norton, Kaspersky, or any other leading AV apps — though most advanced users consider it an important tool in their AV arsenal. It's a free download at the Malwarebytes [site](#).

### *Firewalls*

#### **Comodo Firewall:**

A free combination firewall and antivirus app, Comodo's product is recommended by several sources, including Windows Secrets senior editor Ian "Gizmo" Richards. In recent tests by matousec.com, the firewall's performance was rated perfect.

Comodo is also offering its new, free Comodo Internet Security suite that includes an antivirus component. A PCWorld [review](#) recommended a pass on the suite's AV tools, stating poor malware detection and a high rate of false positives.

#### **Online-Armor Personal Firewall:**

Gizmo rated Online-Armor's product equal to Comodo, and it's earned accolades from many other reviewers as well. The software, available as a download at [online-armor.com](#), comes in both free and paid versions — the latter \$40-product adds a Web shield feature, anti-phishing filter, and online banking protection.

#### **Windows 7 firewall:**

If you have Windows 7 installed, you should not need a third-party firewall, according to WS contributing editor Susan Bradley. She believes that Win7's built-in protection is best

### *Other*

#### **Browser protection: Linkscanner:**

Is a free browser-security product from AVG that scans Web pages and content for malicious links. Unlike most other browser-security products, Linkscanner blocks only malicious elements on a Web page — not the whole page.

For aspects of the Security Baseline other than security suites, see my [March 18 column](#).

## GOING GREEN WITH WIN7 IS HARDER THAN IT LOOKS

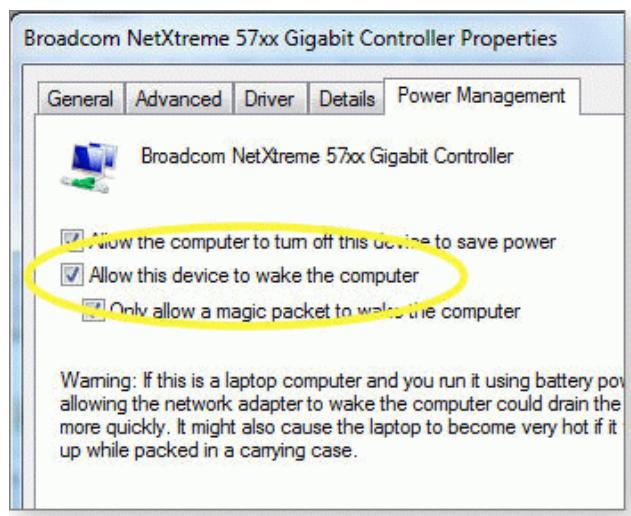
**Trying to consume less energy in a home office by putting workstations to sleep automatically seemed like the right thing to do.**

But when two Windows 7 PCs developed insomnia, returning them to a greener state let me discover some interesting tricks and tips. It started about five months ago. I looked at what we contributed annually to the local utility company and was not pleased. It was time to look at ways to cut our power consumption.

The first step was to calculate how much power we were actually using, in real numbers. To that end, I purchased a Kill a Watt device ([info page](#)), which tests and tracks the amount of energy computers and other household appliances use. Costing less than U.S. \$30, this small box sits between an electrical device's power plug and your wall outlet.

I discovered that, on average, I spent about \$200 a year just to power my office PC, monitor, and printer if I leave them on all the time. Enough to make researching energy-saving techniques worthwhile. However, simply turning those devices off was not the perfect solution. Sometimes I'm out of my office and need to access my workstation PC. Rather than leave it on, I want it to *wake up* when I sign in remotely.

This capability is called **Wake-on-LAN** (WOL) — a technology found in most of today's network cards and a key component to my energy-saving plans. To determine whether your PC supports WOL, click Settings, Control Panel, and then Network Connections (or the Network and Sharing Center in Win7). Click Local Area Connection, Properties, and then Configure (near the box listing the network card name). There should be a Power Management tab; if so, look for a checkbox labeled **Allow this device to wake the computer** or something similar. (See Figure 1.) Checking the box should ensure that a received Wake-on-LAN network packet will power up the computer.



**Figure 1. Check for Wake-on-LAN capabilities in your network card's configuration settings.**

### Home Server wakes up your office network

Controlling when PCs wake up and go to sleep gets complicated when you want to remotely sign into more than one system on your network. One solution is a good remote-access application such as logmein.com. My solution was to purchase an HP server with Windows Home Server (WHS) installed. An accessory app, **Wake on LAN Add-in for WHS** ([download page](#)), lets me remotely access the server and use it to wake up the workstations; it costs U.S. \$20.

While the wake-up part was relatively easy, getting the PCs to consistently and automatically go back to sleep proved far more challenging — nearly impossible, in fact — which was surprising, given Win7's enhanced power-management controls. According to the advice on many Web sites, disabling the network card's Wake-on-LAN control is the best way to ensure a PC goes to sleep automatically — good advice for a simple home PC setup. But since I needed

Wake-on-LAN for remote access and so that Windows Home Server could automatically back up my workstations each night, that trick was out.

I've also found that using USB devices can make the computer suddenly stop dropping into sleep mode even after going to sleep for weeks. My fix is to either reboot the system or manually put it to sleep.

When any PC's automatic-sleep mode proves unreliable, my first step is to confirm that the BIOS is up-to-date. (Surprisingly, I've had to flash the BIOS on Vista and Win7 systems more often than on any preceding OS.) I next check that the network adapter drivers are current.

In the case of my Windows 7 machines, the last stop was the PCs' power-management settings, where I selected the Power Saver option. I also applied the hotfix described in Microsoft Support article [981112](#), which may fix a known sleep-mode problem — sleep mode and hibernation fail when you have Windows Media Player installed and media-sharing is *not* turned on. (There's a hotfix I didn't need, but you might if you're running Win7 and have a biometric device attached. According to MS Support article [975599](#), you could receive a system *Stop* error when you try to put the machine into sleep or hibernation.)

### Discover what sleep modes your PC uses

To test what sleep modes are enabled on your system, do the following: In Win7, click Start, All Programs, and Accessories. Right-click Command Prompt and select **Run as administrator**. In the Command Prompt window, type **powercfg -a** and press the Return key.

There are six power modes, S0 (fully on) through S5 (fully off). Labels such as standby and sleep are used interchangeably by different vendors, so are not a precise guide to identifying the mode you're using. To save power, you might use any of the following:

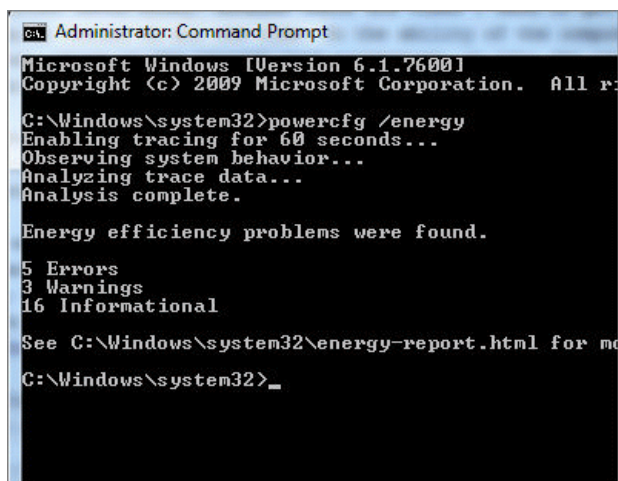
**S1** is closest to fully up and running — the PC simply powers down the hard drive and monitor. Hit a key, and the system is instantly ready for work.

**S2** is power standby mode — the PC is on and maintaining full power to the RAM, thus preserving your open applications and data, but the CPU is essentially inactive.

**S3** maintains just enough power to keep the information in RAM from being lost. Standby takes a bit longer to restart than does Sleep.

**S4 (Hibernate)** saves the state of the computer system (running programs and applications to a file on your hard drive and then powers off. Because the PC's state is saved on the hard drive, shutdown and restart take longer. But you're using almost no power. (Modern PCs are almost never *completely* off.)

When my system fails to go to sleep, I run an energy report to let me know exactly what device is keeping the system awake. You can create the report with the following steps: Launch the Command Prompt window as described above. Type in **powercfg /energy** and let the system run the test for 60 seconds. (See Figure 2.)



```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7600]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\system32>powercfg /energy
Enabling tracing for 60 seconds...
Observing system behavior...
Analyzing trace data...
Analysis complete.

Energy efficiency problems were found.

5 Errors
3 Warnings
16 Informational

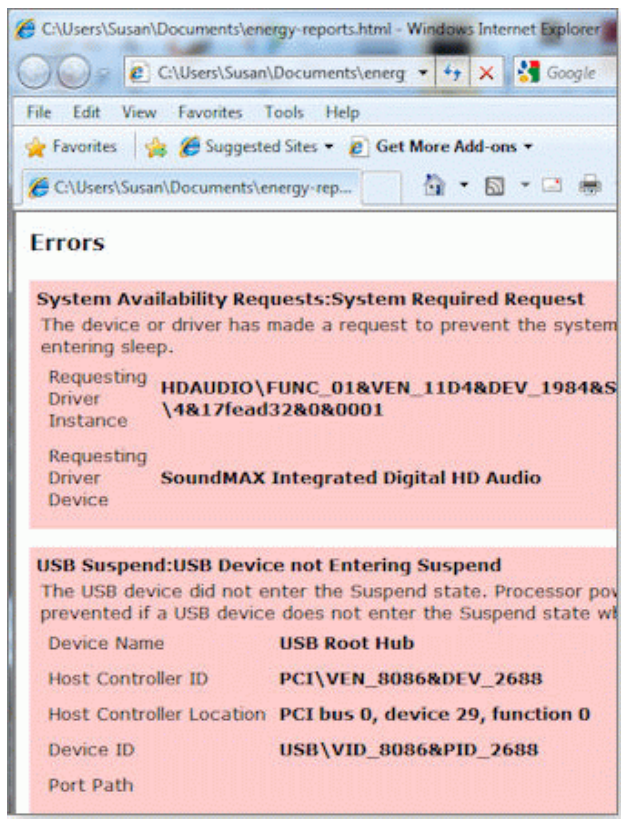
See C:\Windows\system32\energy-report.html for more details.

C:\Windows\system32>
```

Figure 2. You can generate a report of your Win7's energy use with a Command Prompt control.

Look for the test results in a file called **energy-report.html**, located in the **c:\Windows\system32\** folder, and open it in a browser. In that report, scroll down to the error section and you can see the sort of devices that are keeping your

system from going to sleep. In my case it tends to be after I've connected USB devices (such as an iPhone or Zune) to my workstation. I have yet to figure out *why* it happens.



**Figure 3. Windows 7's "energy-report.html" text report can tell you why your PC will not go into sleep mode.**

I have two techniques for forcing my errant PCs to sleep: I reboot the workstation (which is a pain), or I manually make the workstation go into sleep mode. There are three ways to do this in Win7, but the easiest is to hit the Windows key, click the right-arrow next to the Log off button, and select sleep mode. After that, automatic-sleep mode works as it should when I end my remote-access sessions.

I also fine-tuned my power requirements on the various Vista and Win7 computers, following these steps: Click Start, Control Panel, and then Power Options. Choose Power Saver and customize the settings for the length of time you want the system to stay on after you've finished using the computer. Then go to the advanced power settings and select Hybrid Sleep. This mode of sleep ensures that I will not lose any documents I forgot to save.

You can see other custom settings as documented on the Windows 7 power-plan settings [forum](#) at Windows SevenForums. For now, automatic-sleep mode is still so unreliable that I take the extra steps of forcing my computer into sleep — even at the end of remote access. I'm hoping that the upcoming Windows 7 Service Pack 1 will help to solve my issues. Until then, the bother of sleeping is worth the power and cost savings I get.

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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.

## WALLPAPER MASTER



Have you ever wanted to change your desktop wallpaper, but had trouble choosing between different images?

Wallpaper Master is a free program that will cycle through a series of desktop wallpapers saved on your computer at periodic intervals. All you have to do is select which images you want it to cycle through and it will regularly change your desktop wallpaper after a period of time that you decide.

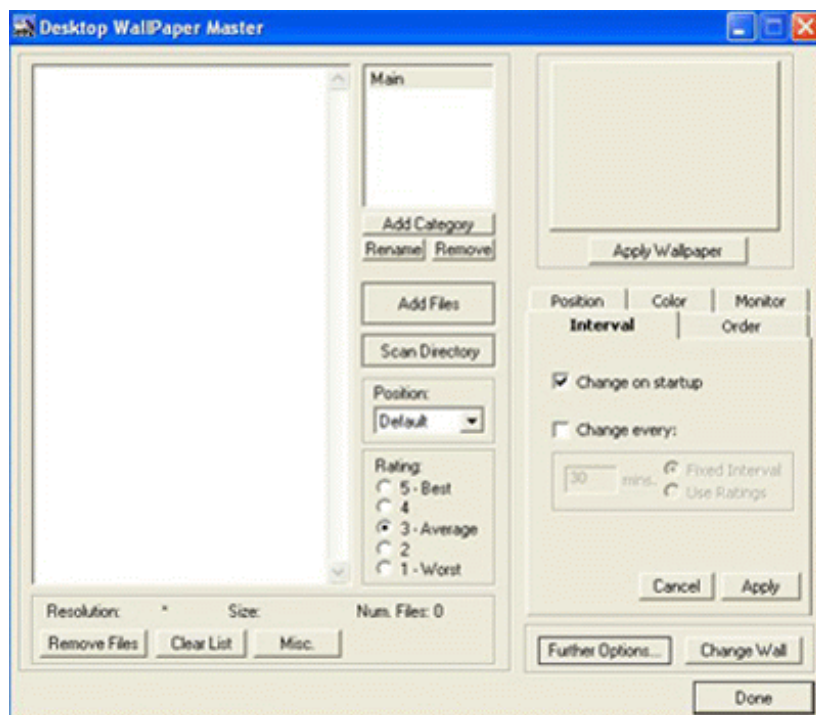
There is a “Pro” version of Wallpaper Master that costs \$20 to download, but for now we will concentrate on the freeware version that has all the features you need.

To download the freeware version, log onto: <http://jamesgart.com/wallpaperchanger/> and click on the **download** link at the bottom of the page. Click on the **freeware** option, then click **Run** after downloading the .exe file.

Click **Next** when the Setup Wizard pops up and select an appropriate file destination on your hard drive. Select the option to create a desktop icon (or not; whichever you prefer), click **Install**, then it's finished.

Wallpaper Master should launch the next time you start up your PC, and you will notice an icon in your toolbar. You can launch it manually by **right-clicking** on the toolbar icon and selecting **Wallpaper Master**.

You can begin selecting a series of wallpaper images by clicking the **Add Files** button and browsing images on your hard drive. Hold down the **Ctrl** key while using your mouse to select multiple files.



When you are finished, a list of files should appear in the white box on the upper left-hand corner. To make these images change during regular intervals, click in the box next to **Change Every** under the Interval tab, and type in the number of minutes you wish each image to remain as your wallpaper for. So if you want your wallpaper to change to one of your other images every ten minutes, just type “10” in the box provided, then click on the **Apply** button.

You can also modify the appearance of each wallpaper just like you can in Windows. Click on an individual file in the white box and then click on the **Position** tab. You can decide whether or not this wallpaper will be tiled, centered or stretched to fill the screen.

Clicking the Color tab can alter the background color of your screen if you click the **User Defined** option, before selecting a color from the drop-down box. Or you can allow your computer to select an appropriate color for each wallpaper by selecting **Auto-Analyze**.

Clicking the **Order** tab will present you with the option of each wallpaper appearing in a random order, with no repeats, or in a certain sequence that you decide.

These are the basic functions of Wallpaper Master. When you are finished, click **Done**, and your new sequence of wallpapers should start immediately. If you can't be bothered to wait for your wallpaper to change to the next image, a simple **left-click** on the Wallpaper Master icon in the toolbar will change it immediately to the next one in the sequence.