

As you know my job involves going to peoples homes and offices to fix their computers. We have all been taught, mainly by our mothers, to be neat people. However, what you don't see, you don't clean. This is a habit that must change. Even if you have to call someone else to do it. I have reported before that dust is a killer of computers. 15 volts can fry a chip, and dust inside your computer constantly releases static discharges that can readily become fatal. This week I rebuilt a nine month old system that died because of dust. The cost, \$ 1,250.00. A quick service call every 3 - 4 months can help save your system, and costs a lot less. Remember to dust and vacuum the space around your system regularly. And never move your computer while it is running.

An update to the pop-up killer I identified in the last issue. Although it appears to be small, it also seems to take up quite a few of your systems resources. On some systems as much as 9%. If your system appears to hang or run extremely slowly after installing this utility, this may be the culprit. As an alternative, POW! is available from Analog X at <http://www.analogx.com/contents/download/network/pow.htm> It operates a bit differently in that you must be bothered the first time each pop up appears, but once you identify the bad ones, they never come back.

BITS, BYTES, AND NIBBLES

AMD has announced the introduction of the Hammer line of processors for early 2003. The Hammer Architecture uses a 754 pin grid for the processor, and the CPU's operate at 64 bits. Even running in 32 bit mode, these new processors are expected to outperform their Athlon counterparts. The Hammer platform is currently operational and reliably runs in a Linux environment. Microsoft is expected to have a 64 bit version of Windows XP Professional available at the time this chip released. All the major board manufacturers are gearing up to produce for this chip. Is Intel worried? Maybe...

Microsoft, the world crusader to stop software piracy, was recently found guilty of piracy themselves in France. They apparently included another company's proprietary source code in SoftImage 3D, a top-level animation package that it acquired from SoftImage in 1994. This verdict was rendered last year and Microsoft was fined 3 Million franc and the story mysteriously was not reported anywhere until recently. Microsoft is said to be appealing the verdict.

From the Infinite wisdom department at Microsoft: If you are purchasing a new computer, it must come complete with Microsoft Windows XP Professional in order to allow the user to install a previous paid for copy of Windows 98 Second Edition and remain legal. I don't know who thinks these up, but they couldn't answer my question of how to police this or why a consumer would want to spend an additional \$ 350.00 to use an old operating system. Wierd!!

TEKQUESTIONS

I use Microsoft Outlook Express and want to keep e-mail in different folders, but don't want to continually move it around. I also want to stop repeated junk mail automatically. How do I do it?

Microsoft Outlook Express and Outlook use *Rules* to perform repeated tasks. These include moving email when it is received, deleting unwanted email automatically, etc. Here is how to set it up...

Outlook Express & Outlook - Make sure *Local Folders* (or one of the folders under it) is highlighted and click File -> Folder -> New. Highlight *Local Folders* if you want a new folder, or the Folder where you want a sub folder to be placed, key the new name areqa marked *Folder Name:* and press OK. (Outlook Exception - you will also specify the type of information being stored in the new folder)

Outlook Express Rules - Begin by clicking *Tools, Message Rules, Mail...* Here you select the Conditions and Actions for your Rules and they are displayed in the box titled Rule Description. The rule description is also where changes are made to the scope. For example if you select the condition Where the From line contains people, the description line would underline the phrase contains people and you would click on that line to edit the scope of who those people were. You could type in names and click Add, or select from your Address Book. If you select two or more choices under Conditions, they are joined with a Boolean operator either AND or OR. AND means that both selections must be True in order to continue, OR means either one is True. Unfortunately, Outlook Express does not differentiate between operators in a single condition. All operators are treated the same. The last item is to name it with something you will remember and select OK to save it and make it active.

Outlook Rules - Begin by clicking Tools and Rules Wizard. Create new rules with New... These rules are a little tighter in that People to check for MUST be in your address book, however you can Add new contacts while you are making the rule. To perform a global address create a new contact identified by the global name, i.e. Excite, and enter an address of @excite.com. You will be prompted that it may not be a valid address but you may accept it anyway and it works. You can select options for Suspected Junk Senders and Suspected Adult content. Another option is the exception - I don't want to receive any mail from anyone @excite.com unless it is from someone specifically in my contact list. This rule can be created.

In Outlook filters for Junk Mail and Adult Content must be turned on before they will work. Click on Organize and select Junk Email. Select the action (Move or Colour) and click the button marked Turn On to activate the rule.

Rules allow us to make our Inbox safer from porn, hate, unwanted mail, etc. and also allow us to separate the mail for different recipients. For example, my mail is sorted by tech, questions, general, e-zines, etc, and the junk and adult content is deleted automatically.

If you have email questions, contact me at tekjournal@mbts.mb.ca

SURF'S UP

This site is for the techie (wannabe) who may be having trouble with Windows XP or just wants bit more speed/stability. This site claims to have tested thoroughly each configuration and has posted the results, complete with read me's. Good Luck... <http://www.blackviper.com/WinXP/servicecfg.htm>

Life can be too hectic. Sometimes you need a quick short break. Most video games take too long to get into, so where do you go to get quick diversions. Kewlbox - Log on and goof off! The name says it all... Play on-line games and some can be downloaded to play at your leisure. <http://www.kewlbox.com/>

I often get asked for an alternative to Internet Explorer. Initially my reaction includes options like Mozilla, Opera, Netscape, ..., Netscape, ... until now. Here seems to be the definitive site for web browser history complete with downloads for many browser alternatives, and for many platforms including Windows, Linux, OS2, and Mac. Now you too have an alternative to Microsoft... <http://browsers.evolt.org/>

TIPS & TWEAKS

Speed up Windows 98/Me

Even though your system never seems to run fast enough, you may be able to rev it up a little with these tweaks. If most of your programs run in the foreground you may get more speed by changing the processor priority value. Since this involves editing the Registry*, make a backup first. Start -> Run -> Regedit opens the editor. Navigate to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\BIOS and add a DWORD value named CPUPriority and set it's value to 1. The default value is 3, so you could try 2 instead. NEVER set it to 0 since this cripples all background processing and your system would probably quit working altogether.

Windows 9x views all your drives as if they were on one IDE channel. Having the system see more than one channel may improve disk performance and therefore speed up your system. To make this change right click on My Computer, select Properties, Device Manager Tab, and Open the Hard Disk Controllers section. You should see an entry including the words Bus Master. Using it's Properties, flip to the Settings Tab, and select "Both IDE Channels Enabled" from the drop down menu. Reboot your system. IDE I/O should now be optimized.

Windows XP

One of the nice things about Windows is the task bar which frames each open application so it can be found in the background quickly, unless you have more than 5 apps open and then each task bar entry is too narrow to read. XP allows these tasks to group if they were started by the same primary program. To set this up edit the Registry* by navigating to HKEY_CURRENT_USER \ Software \ Microsoft \ Windows \ CurrentVersion \ Explorer \ Advanced and adding a DWORD value for TaskBarGroupSize and setting it to 2 or more. NOTE Setting it to 1 disables this feature completely. Reboot after saving your changes.

*We take no responsibility for the operation of your system for any modifications made to the registry. before modifying the systems registry always make a backup copy you can restore from.

VIRUS ALERTZ

Computer viruses are becoming commonplace. Hoaxes are also becoming common. Be informed of the difference and protect your system. If you don't surf with protection, you will get infected. It's just a matter of

time. The six newest version of viruses since the beginning of June, according to Symantec are

Backdoor.Latinus allows a hacker to remotely control and infected computer - discovered June 7, 2002

Backdoor.AntiLam gives a remote attacker unobstructed access to your computer - discovered June 7, 2002

VBS.Chick.F@m is a self mailing worm that spreads as a compressed html file and through mIRC (Chat). It sends email only to the first address on the users Outlook Address Book - discovered June 7, 2002

W32.Frethem.D@mm uses it's own SMTP engine to email itself to the addresses in the Windows Address Book and .dbx files. The subject line is usually Your Password and has an exe attachment - discovered June 7, 2002

W32.Chir@mm is another mass mailing worm that uses it's own built in SMTP engine. This worm creates a file called Runouce.exe in the Windows/System folder for attaching to emails. Discovered June 8, 2002

W32.Fishlet.A@mm is a mass mailing worm written in Visual Basic. It uses it's own SMTP engine to send emails to everyone in your Windows Address Book looking like it came from e-Bay. Discovered June 10, 2002

If your system has become infected with a virus, please call MicroByte TekSolutions immediately for on site service to remove the threat. Unless you have the proper tools, you may damage your system further by performing these procedures yourself.

INVENTORY CLEARANCE SPECIALS

Creative Labs Web Cam, 1 only, \$ 34.95*

25 pc "cakebox" CD Recordable disks, 5 only, \$ 16.25*

25 pc slim line coloured jewel cases, 2 only, \$ 8.75*

Logitech Optical Wheel mouse PS/2 & USB, 2 only, \$ 26.50*

*prices do not include PST or GST

SYSTEM 1

Internet/Business System for Home or Office
4 Bay 300 watt power supply ATX Case
MSI 6340 Socket A Motherboard, Integrated S3 savage
AGP Video, Integrated Direct Sound AC97 Audio, 2
SDRAM DIMM Slots (to 1GB), 4xAGP Slot, 3 PCI exp
Slots, 2 USB, 2 Serial, 1 Parallel
AMD Duron 1 GHz processor with 256 MB PC-133
SDRAM
56k v.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
52x CD ROM, Floppy, 20 GB Hard Drive, Win9x Key-
board, Logitech Optical Mouse, Norton 2002

\$ 975.00**

SYSTEM 2

Internet/Business System for Home or Office
4 Bay 300 watt power supply ATX Case
Asus A7V133 Socket A Motherboard, Integrated AC97
Audio, 3 SDRAM DIMM Slots (to 1.5GB), 4xAGP
Slot, 4 PCI exp Slots, 2 USB, 2 Serial, 1 Parallel,
UDMA 100 RAID, 2 Front USB ports
AMD Athlon 1.4 GHz processor with 256 MB PC-133
SDRAM & Hi Speed Copper Core Heatsink/Fan
56k v.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
52x CD ROM, Floppy, 20 GB Hard Drive, Win9x Key-
board, Logitech Optical Mouse, Norton 2002

\$ 925.00**