

Our format is still evolving. I am also still planning on converting to an email HTML format as well as this format which will be converted into PDF and available from my future website. I want to thank everyone who reads this newsletter for their kind words of encouragement and tell you it really is a lot of fun to do. Believe it or not, I too am learning a great deal and spending more quality time on the Internet instead of just random surfing. Keeping everything in simple english and easy to understand is the goal of this newsletter. You too can help. I need more feedback on sections you like, don't like, what's missing that you want to know about, and I need more questions. Please send replies to [tekjournal@mbts.mb.ca](mailto:tekjournal@mbts.mb.ca). I have also set up a new email account [mbts\\_mobile@msn.com](mailto:mbts_mobile@msn.com) using Microsoft's new .Net passport, and you can also add MicroByte\_TekSolutions to your MSN Messenger user list to access me on-line. Since evolution is the mainstay of technology, I am discontinuing the Build your own system section from this newsletter. I will however finish the article and email it out to everyone as soon as I can. Instead I am adding a Tips & Tweaks section for Windows 98 & XP.

## BITS, BYTES, AND NIBBLES

KaZaA, Streamcast and other peer-to-peer sharing software companies are still in the news. The record companies and movie studio have deeper pockets and the cost of fighting for what you think is right is becoming too expensive to continue. Decisions may never be made since the defendant are literally going broke trying to keep up. The prediction is that all Napster like companies will be extinct very soon.

Intel has just announced the next generation is bus speed at 533 MHz and added new P4 processors up to 2.53 GHz which take advantage of the new front side bus. AMD's line of processors currently maxes out at the XP2100+ running at 1.73GHz. However, the speed rating of the processor is becoming meaningless. I use an AMD 1.333 GHz CPU in my desktop and an Intel P4 1.7 GHz in my laptop. My desktop is a faster system. The AMD has a FSB of 266 MHz, as does the DDR memory, and the Motherboard also supports this. With all components working in tandem, there is no delay waiting for information, therefore a faster solution is provided.

## TEKQUESTIONS

### **How do I add pizzaz to my email?**

E-Mail as we know it today is generally dull and lifeless. It can be spruced up with third party programs like Incredimail which adds stationery, figures, sounds, etc., or you can use the tools you have by adding stationery backgrounds to your Outlook Express and Outlook software. Stationery comes installed with these products, you just have to change the dull white background for something better. In Outlook Express, start a new email request in the normal fashion by selecting the Create Mail icon and then select Format and Apply Stationery from the menu at the top. It will list about seven choices, as well as an option for More Stationery as well as No Stationery. More stationery will take you to the directory where your choices are stored and you can select from there, or if you had previously selected one type and now want Blank, select No. In Outlook Express and Outlook you can choose Tools and Options to set the stationery you want as the default. OE also has a button to go get more stationery from Microsoft. See Surf's Up for another Stationery site worth looking at.

### **How do I stop unwanted pop-up ads from the Internet?**

Popup ads while surfing the Internet are the best way it seems to advertise and just about as welcome as a telemarketer at dinner time. While there may be no way to get rid of them completely, the best method I have found is EMS Free Surfer mk II. "Surf" over to <http://www.free.surfer.tc/Support.htm> to download a copy for your system. Once installed, this program runs in the system tray and will make a small beep everytime a page has not been allowed to be displayed. You can access the options panel by double clicking the icon in the system tray which looks like a white box with a blue X in it. Using the tools you can turn off/on the warning sound, load the program at Startup (a good idea with hi-speed connections), and even "Lock" your home page. Some banner ads will try to hi-jack your home page and this options makes sure this doesn't happen. The latest version is 2.1.020 and comes with enhanced sound support & cache cleaner.

# MBTS TEKJOURNAL

Technology and Information in plain English

## SURF'S UP

Have you ever wanted to brighten up a dull e-mail by adding pictures and colour? You can spice up your e-mail with stationery, and here is a prime site to get more than enough to challenge your senses.

<http://www.thundercloud.net/>

Anyone who uses Microsoft Office rarely uses it to it's fullest. Me included. With the help of this newsletter, that is about to change... Microsoft has dedicated a site for Office users called Tools on the Web and it's at <http://office.microsoft.com/default.aspx> Here you can find Clipart, Templates, Help, and a link to Updates for your software.

If you don't want the standard party line on how good, or bad, Microsoft Office is, surf on over to Woody's Office Portal <http://www.wopr.com/> for more information, additional programs, and office news and help.

## TEK SPECIALS

Special pricing is in effect for the accompanying systems (Page 3) only.

Windows XP Home \$ 175.00      Windows XP Professional \$ 250.00

Daytek 755 BF "Perfectly Flat" 17 inch Colour Monitor \$ 255.00

Hansol 920D 19 inch 1600 x 1280 Dynaflat Colour Monitor \$ 400.00

Mustek 1200UB 8.5"x11.7" Flatbed Scanner \$ 100.00

Altec Lansing 3 pc Speakers AVS300 \$ 75.00

Altec Lansing 5 pc Speakers AVS500 \$ 92.00

Memorex Multimedia Internet Keyboard MX2700 \$ 27.00

## TIPS & TWEAKS

Computer users generally come in two forms; turn it on and write letters, play games, do email, etc. and Power Users. Power Users systems generally don't have the cases on because they are always changing something. However, even every day users want to get as much as they can out of their current system. They want it to run as best as it can, but are not really experimenters. That's where this section is handy. Everything here has been tried and tested, before being passed on to you.

### Temporarily disable screen saver (Windows 98)

Defragging your hard drive periodically helps it to run better and speeds up your system. However, if it is interrupted by your screen saver, it starts over at the beginning. By editing the registry you can have your screen saver disable itself automatically whenever Disk Defrag is run. Here's how.

Run REGEDIT.EXE\*, navigate to HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER \ Software \ Microsoft \ Windows \ CurrentVersion \ Applets, and create a new key: "Defrag" (without quotes). Within this newly created key, create the key: "Settings" (without quotes). In the Settings key, create a string value and label it: "DisableScreenSaver" (without quotes). Next, edit the value "(Default)" and change it to: "YES" (without quotes).

### Keep your favourite App on top (Windows XP)

XP Keeps a list of your latest used programs, just like the Recent Documents. The more you use a particular application depends on it's position in the list. However, you can identify the placement and order of a particular program even if you use others more.

Right-click the link to your favorite program on the Start menu and select Pin to Start Menu. Your program will be moved permanently to the top part of the list, just below your browser and e-mail programs.

\*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.

## TEK SPECIALS LIMITED QUANTITY

### SYSTEM 1



Excellent Internet system/Office Workstation  
4 Bay 300 watt power supply ATX Case with 2 Front USB Ports  
Jetway 630 Socket A (AMD) Motherboard with on board Video, Audio, LAN, Serial, Parallel, 3 PCI expansion slots, 2 Banks SDRAM (to 1GB), optimized for 133MHz FSB Intel processors  
Intel Celeron 1GHz processor with 128 MB SDRAM  
52x CD ROM, Floppy, 40 GB Hard Drive, Win9x Keyboard, Logitech Optical Mouse, Norton 2002  
**\$ 720.00**

### SYSTEM 2



Excellent Internet system/Office Workstation  
4 Bay 300 watt power supply ATX Case with 2 Front USB Ports  
Jetway 630 Socket A (AMD) Motherboard with on board Video, Audio, LAN, Serial, Parallel, 3 PCI expansion slots, 2 Banks SDRAM (to 1GB), optimized for 133MHz FSB Intel processors  
Intel Celeron 1GHz processor with 128 MB SDRAM  
52x CD ROM, Floppy, 40 GB Hard Drive, Win9x Keyboard, Logitech Optical Mouse, Norton 2002  
**\$ 720.00**

### SYSTEM 3



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 Keyboard, Logitech Optical Mouse, Norton 2002  
**\$ 975.00**

### SYSTEM 4



Power System for Home or Office  
3 Bay 250/300 watt ATX power supply Case  
Via P4XB-SA Socket 478 Motherboard, 3 DDR266 RAM Slots (to 3GB), 4xAGP Slot, 5 PCI exp Slots, 2 USB, 2 Serial, 1 Parallel, on board AC'97 Audio  
Intel Pentium 4 1.6GHz processor with 256 MB DDR266 RAM  
ATI Radeon 7000VE 4x AGP Video Card, Dual monitor support and TV Out  
52x CD ROM, Floppy, 20 GB Hard Drive, Win9x Keyboard, Logitech Optical Mouse, Norton 2002  
**\$ 999.00**

### SYSTEM 5



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 Keyboard, Logitech Optical Mouse, Norton 2002  
**\$ 925.00**