

TEKJOURNAL 2

I haven't received a lot of comments on the new format, except for the fact that it no longer fit on a single page. Being fairly new to web design, I just assumed if I could see it, so could everyone else. Wrong assumption. The lowest my resolution goes is 800 x 600, and at 640 x 480 the pictures of the task bar extended past the page and widened the entire document. I tried to get a fix out but couldn't do it in time. I am sorry for the inconvenience and will try to do better from now on.

The last two weeks have been very hectic for me, I have been redesigning my web site. Not that you would notice a huge change, but internally it has been streamlined so it will be easier to expand and maintain in the future. I have added pages for ink jet cartridges, so if you use Canon or Epson you should check them out if you want to save a lot of money.

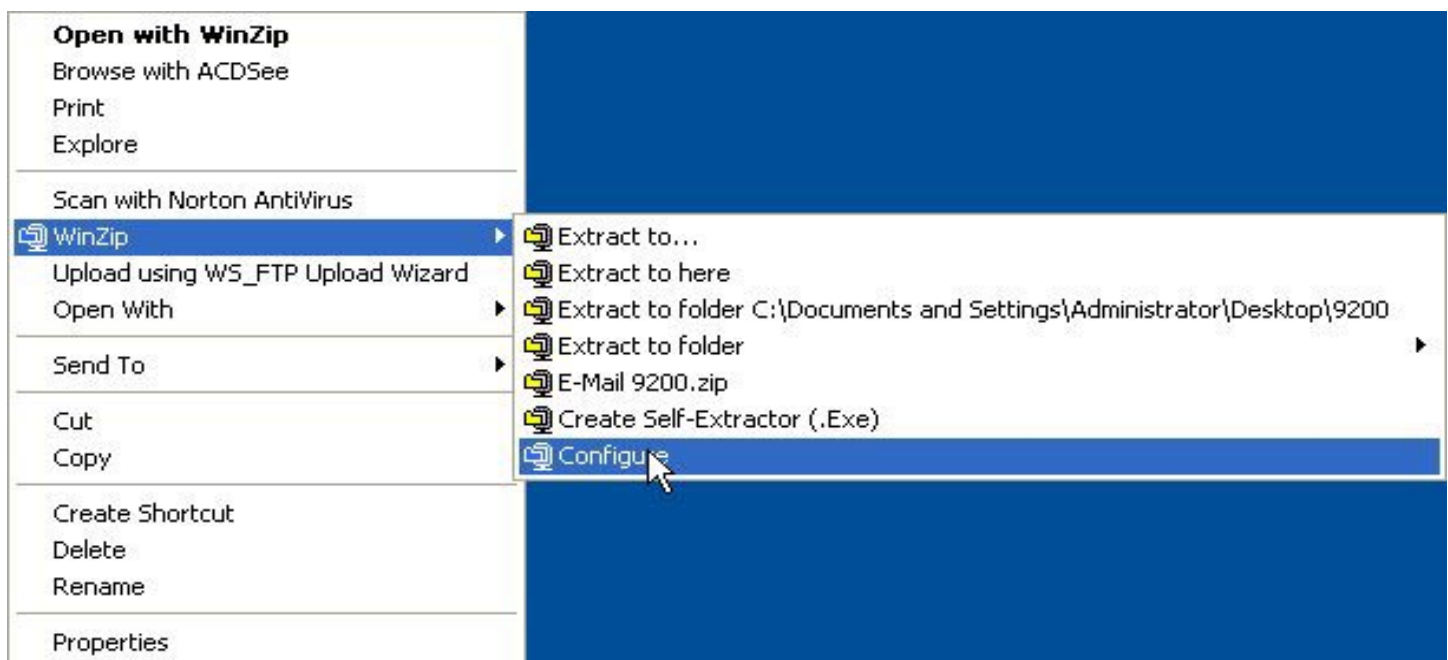
I have had a lot of people ask when a good time to buy a computer is and I can finally say I have the definitive answer. If you always want state of the art, the best time to buy is Never. Technology is always changing. If you want fast, dependable, at the best price, and able to handle all of the current (and probably most of the next to be released) software, NOW is the best time. Next TekJournal I will explain why. Just a note here, the next TekJournal will be released on August 8. I am taking a little break and will be gone from July 30 to just after the August 4th long weekend.

HOW DO I...?

A lot of people ask what a zip file is, and what is it good for. ZIP is a compression tool originated back when DOS was common that is used to substantially shrink the size of a file, or a group of files. It was originally intended so you could fit more than 1.38MB on a standard floppy, but has been adopted by users of the Internet to make huge files smaller and therefore faster to download.

There are many compression utilities available, but the most common for Windows is probably [winzip](#). You can download a 30 day evaluation version of [Winzip](#) here. Files that have been "Zipped" can be identified by the file extension zip.

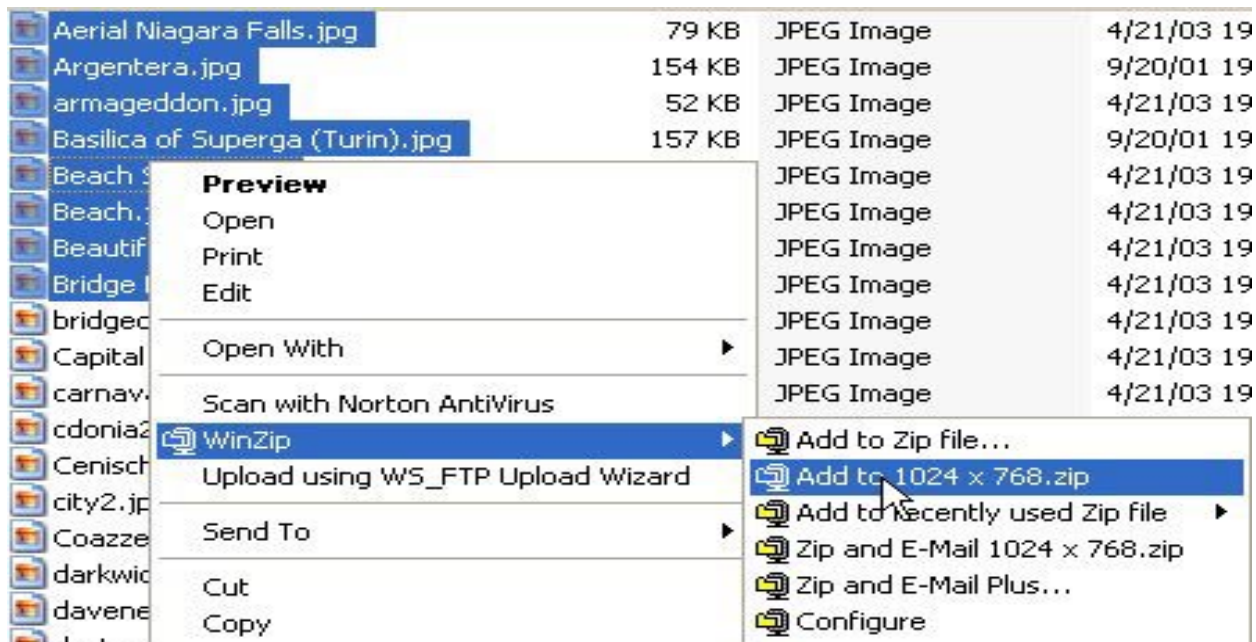
Since WinZip becomes part of Windows upon installation it is always available via the Right Mouse button context menu when working with files. It too, has a menu list of things it can do.



Here is a snapshot of my desktop after having right clicked on a zip file showing the available menu

options within WinZip.

The most common uses are to extract or Email something. The auto extract option has three selections: Extract to... means you will be given an opportunity to browse your hard drive and decide where to unzip the file; Unzip to here means the contents of the zipped file will be placed in the current folder, or on your desktop if that is where you are; and Extract to folder C:\... means that a new folder will be created under the folder (or Desktop) where you are with the name of the main file you are unzipping and the contents of the zipped file will be placed into that folder.



Zipping up your own files is easy too. Above I am working in Windows Explorer in one of my picture folders. In the top left you can see I have highlighted eight files, and using the right mouse button pulled up the context menu to access WinZip. From here, I can add to a zip file that I will name on a dialog screen when presented, or create a file automatically named by the folder I am in, or I can even zip the files and then email to someone else.

File compression has been made very easy with WinZip. Just download it, install it following all the standard prompts, and you're ready to go.

Users of Windows XP have a compression utility built into the operating system that handles files made by WinZip automatically. Look in the help section for Extract. Files that are associated with the Windows Extract compression feature have a zipper on them.

SURF'S UP

Last issue we spent our whole surf time on Movies. This issue we are going to the museum for a little culture. While it will never be the same as actually being there, it can be thought of as close.

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) is a great place to while away countless hours, but who can go to New York at the drop of a hat. You can now. Right now you can visit and see a special exhibition on Art of the First Cities: The Third Millennium B.C. from the Mediterranean to the Indus. There is also a link to sign up for newsletters on up coming Special Exhibitions.

The [Smithsonian](#) is a museum that may literally take a lifetime to view everything inside. It is always changing and has warehouses of interesting product to draw on.

Everyone has an artist in the family, or at least someone who enjoys it. Why not take the to the

[Museum of Modern Art](#) in New York. It's only a click away.

The [American Museum of Natural History](#) currently features an exhibition on Chocolate. From this site you can also send a friend an e-card and pretend you were on vacation.

Since this could probably go on forever, until I found a museum for everyone, I will point you to probably the perfect spot for everyone. The [Museum Directory](#) itself. From here you can search the net for the museum of your choice, or search by category. Have fun and remember, a day without learning something new, is a wasted day!

WINDOWS 101

This edition's topic is your desktop. Does anyone remember the saying "An empty desk is an efficient desk?" The same is true for Windows, but your desktop doesn't have to be boring even though there is nothing on it.

Why should the desktop be kept empty?

When Windows starts there are a number of programs that must be started and loaded into memory. In addition to these programs, your desktop is loaded into memory so that it can be re-displayed after you close a program, come back from a screen saver, exit from any program which lies over your desktop. Therefore, the more you have on your desktop, the more memory you are wasting.

What actually gets stored is the name of the wallpaper, the name of each icon, each icon's top left and bottom right co-ordinate. In this way, whenever your screen has to be redisplayed, all of these files can be accessed to show you your desktop as it was the last time you saw it. Therefore, the more you have on the desktop, the more memory it takes to redisplay it, and the less memory you have to make your system more efficient.

But I have 512MB of RAM, so why do I care?

The reason is that only a small portion of the physical memory in your computer is actually used for system functions and it is in this special area that all the desktop information is stored.

So where do I put all my shortcuts?

There is a special area that takes no memory call the Quick Launch Bar. If you right click on your task bar, the context menu has an option called Toolbars. When you click on Toolbars, one of the options is Quick Launch. Icon shortcuts on the Quick Launch bar are started by a single click, and take up no room in memory. All the icons that are currently on your screen can be moved to the Quick Launch bar by the following:

- Right Click and hold the cursor over the icon to move
- Drag the icon down to the Quick Launch bar until you see a tall black I bar
- Release the right mouse button and a menu opens up
- Select the Move function and the icon will be moved from the Desktop to the Quick Launch bar

So how can I change my screen without adversely affecting the memory available to my system?

Right click on the desktop and choose Properties from the context menu. Click on the Appearance tab to be able to change the colour scheme used by Windows which changes what the background of the desktop looks like as well as changing the coloured bars at the top of the Windows, the text, etc. The

Window Items allow you to change the colour and or font of almost everything you see displayed in any Window on your system.

If you access the Mouse properties from the Control panel (Start -> Settings -> Control Panel) you can also change how your mouse looks, as well as the different icons used for Help Select, Working in Background, Busy, etc.

TIPS, TWEAKS, AND TUNE-UPS

If you spend a lot of time online, it can be handy to have multiple email accounts. But checking each one every day, and many times per day, can be a hassle. This is where [E-Prompter](#) comes in.

This free utility checks up to eight password-protected email accounts. It alerts you when you have new messages. It can access Web accounts such as Hotmail and Yahoo!, as well as POP3 accounts provided by your Internet service provider or web host.

You choose how often ePrompter checks for new mail -- as often as once per minute if you really need to know when a message comes in. Don't open each email client every time you have mail. EPrompter lets you read new mail, send replies, or label email "mark as read" from within its interface. The screen saver feature will even display the number of messages in your inboxes when you're not using your PC. Download a copy of [E-Prompter](#) and try it for yourself. I have been using it for a while and it's nice to be notified without having to go check. And then when you do ever open your email client, all the mail you have been prompted about will be downloaded to your computer, unless you have disposed of it some other way. Really a neat tool.

Windows 9x - Speed up your Drives

Use the following to possibly squeeze a little more speed out of your current hard drives in your Windows 9x system.

1. Start - Settings - Control Panel - System
2. Select the Device manager tab
3. Open the Hard Disk Controllers. You should see your device controller at the top of the list, something with the words BUS MASTER in it, most likely.
4. Pull up it's Properties and flip to the Settings tab
5. Select 'Both IDE Channels Enabled' from the drop-down menu
6. Save all settings and then reboot to see if the performance has improved. The programs that access the swap file the most should provide a definitive improvement.

Windows XP - Change the Start Menu Style

Some people just don't like change. They don't mind using Windows XP but liked the look and feel of classic Windows. You can easily change the look back to the Windows Classic Start menu by following these steps:

- Right-click the Start button, and then click Properties.
- Click the Classic Start menu choice.
- Click the Customize button to select items to display on the Start menu.
- NOTE ** By default, selecting the Classic Start menu also adds the My Documents, My Computer, My

Network Places, and Internet Explorer icons to your desktop. If you don't want this, right-click a blank area of the Desktop, choose Properties, and then navigate to the Desktop page. Click Customize Desktop to determine which icons are shown on the desktop.

Virus Updates

If you suspect you have a virus and want help cleaning the infection, or just want a copy of Norton Anti Virus 2003 installed on your system, contact us at 204 771 8930 for assistance.

Recently I asked Symantec themselves about Virus threat levels since they went from one (1) to four (4) and here is what they wrote back. "Threat level is a measure of how well current AntiVirus technology can keep this threat from spreading. As a general rule, older virus techniques are generally well-contained; new threat types or highly complex viruses can be more difficult to contain, and are correspondingly more a threat to the user community. The measures are Easy (the threat is well-contained), Moderate (the threat is partially contained), and Difficult (the threat is currently uncontainable)."

From this I am assuming that a level 1 means they found it, 2 means they can contain it, 3 means they can sometimes can and fix it and are working on a more permanent cure, and 4 means we are all in trouble.

Luckily there are no 3's or 4's to report this edition. There are however a couple of 2's. If you know of someone using a computer without protection, pass them on to me or implore them to install a good anti virus program ASAP.

W32.HLLW.Symten@mm is a mass-mailing Worm that distributes itself by a randomly generated email. The worm is written in Visual Basic. It was discovered on July 17 and the fix was released on July 18th.

W32.HLLW.Indor.E@mm is a mass-mailing worm that uses Microsoft Outlook to send a zipped copy of itself to all the contacts in the Microsoft Outlook Address Book. When W32.HLLW.Indor.E@mm runs, it displays a fake message that states "Error in file #1: bad Zip file offset (Error local header signature not found): disk #1 offset: 68669733"

W32.HLLW.Indor.E@mm can also spread through network drives, floppy disks, the KaZaA file-sharing network, and mIRC.

The email has the following characteristics:

Subject: The subject line is one of the following:

Your verification is required Confirm FFA submission and receive 1000 Credit

Your Success Is Guranteed!

You are Losing Income

WHY NOT CHECK IT OUT? IT'S FREE!

Free Software, Download it now !!

Free MP3, OGG/VORBIS Hit Songs !!

Download DVD Movie Now !! Its Free..!

URGENT: Please Verify Your Submission Confirm FFA submission !!

The E.A.S.E System Can Make You Money At Home!!

Thank You !

Re: Your Daily Report

Re: Web Site Report

WE send the TRAFFIC, YOU make the SALES!

Thank You For Your Subscription - Confirmation

Need a quick \$100 today?

Confirmation Email - Required !

Attachment: The attachment, which is a zipped copy of the worm, is one of the following:

SaveNow.zip

Report.zip

Bonus.zip

FFA.zip

FreeJoin.zip