

## MBTS TEKJOURNAL - 2004

Even though there seems to be quite a buzz about Windows XP Service Pack 2 being released, I haven't seen it. Microsoft doesn't even confirm, or deny, that it has been released, but a lot of industry people are talking about it as if it exists. One of the biggest changes supposedly deals with ICF or Internet Connection Firewall. The service pack apparently turns it ON, and if you have a router in place you will have to turn it off before your internal network can work again.

However, one feature of this service pack is that Microsoft is expected to be adding a Popup Manager to ICF. I can't understand why Microsoft would add such an option and then leave it turned OFF but that apparently is what is going to happen, and you will have to turn it ON if you want to use it. According to various sources "The new Pop-up Manager "blocks most unwanted pop-up windows from appearing. Pop-up windows that are launched when the end user clicks a link will not be blocked." This is a very good choice, since some pop-up blockers don't recognize the difference between a page-generated pop-up and a click that opens a new window as a pop-up." You will also be able to create different settings for Allow Pop-ups from This Site, Show Blocked Window, and Block Pop-up Windows.

## HOW DO I ...

I have tried changing how my Folders look in Windows XP, but they either keep changing back or I am not doing it right. How do I change the default view in Windows Explorer so that all my folders are the same?

1. start | All Programs | Accessories | Windows Explorer
2. Select a folder and set it up the way you want to see all your folders. Use the View menu to select toolbars, select Thumbnails, Icons, Details, etc. Next select how icons (or files) are arranged in the folder. When you have the folder set up just right, go to the next step.
3. Tools | Folder Options
4. Click the View Tab.
5. Click Apply to All Folders.
6. You will be provided a second change to accept the changes and told the changes will appear the next time you open Windows Explorer. If you are happy with the changes you have made, click Yes.
7. Close and reopen Windows Explorer and look at several different folders. They will all be displayed in the same format.

## SURF'S UP

What is generally the one inexpensive item that no one can do without? If you said a Calendar, you're right. And if you have a curiosity about dates and calendar like things, here is a site that might interest you. [Calendar Magic](#) offers you a free program that offers a new insight into our old Calendar providing such tidbits as reminders, unit converters, days apart, calendar comparison, and lots more.

Here is a cute little game that will take you back to your first IBM PC. Oops I'm dating myself. Anyway, [Gorilla](#) was one of the free games that came with DOS 1.x and the idea was to have the gorilla throw an explosive banana and try and destroy his opponent. This version is the unofficial update.

Every once in a while you may have a need to distribute something you write in a format that is readable by all computer users whether they have PC's or Mac's. The generally format is a PDF file which can be read using Adobe's Acrobat Reader. But converting a file into PDF format from any other type of word processed document generally requires Adobe Acrobat, the full version which can be really expensive. Welcome to [CutePDF Writer](#) which is a free utility which requires two small downloads found on the site, and voila – any document you want to make into a PDF is as simple as sending it to a special printer. The only problem I immediately see with the conversion is that all hyperlinks are lost.

Ever want a Translating Dictionary at your fingertips but can't remember where you last put it? The [Everest Dictionary](#) can be an absolute monster weighing in at 76MB but comes with 35 dictionaries including acronyms, medical terms, synonyms, and many languages. It may just be worth the download wait to find out how to say something in French, German, Bulgarian, Romanian, ... I haven't gotten mine to talk yet, so if someone gets it working please let me know.

If you have been having any kind of trouble with Microsoft Mice or Keyboards and have tried all the normal fixes and they haven't helped, the problem may be in the driver. [Microsoft Mouse and Keyboard](#) Products page is where you can identify your mouse and or keyboard and then download the latest drivers.

This is not an endorsement, but a pass along. I received an interesting email from one of our readers with a note pointing me toward [Surveys Down Under](#) with a note about how someone close to them has tried this and actually received "free" things, like cash, a palm pilot, coffee mugs, etc. and wondered if I would like to share it with others. I might just try it and let you know how I make out, but in the mean time you may want to do it yourself. Here is the description from the web site itself: "Welcome to Surveys Down Under - a resource site for people looking to help with online research, and to earn the odd reward- be it cash, prizes, or gift certificates, along the way! To get involved in taking rewarded surveys, simply select the companies that appeal, from my lists. Enter your details on the sign up forms at these sites, which are all free to join. They'll then contact you by email if and when they have a rewarded survey for you! Enjoy your surveys, and SDU!"

## TIPS AND TWEAKS

### Security Updates

With all the problems that have been reported in Windows Security recently, wouldn't it be nice if you could make sure you have all the proper security upgrades installed so you know you're safe? Here is a link to a Microsoft Security site where you can download and reinstall each security update since November 2002. [http://www.microsoft.com/security/security\\_bulletins/](http://www.microsoft.com/security/security_bulletins/)

### Lock your Homepage

Since virus activity has been known to change (or hijack) your homepage, you can lock it down with a straightforward Registry Tweak.

1. start | Run | Regedit
2. File | Export and provide a name to backup your registry in case something goes wrong
3. navigate to the key  
HKEY\_USERS\S-1-5-21-1078081533-1060284298-839522115-1013\Software\Policies\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Control Panel
4. Locate a DWORD value called Homepage and change its data value from 0 to 1. If the DWORD Homepage doesn't exist, create it.
5. Exit from the Registry. You may have to restart your system for the change to take effect.

### Quick Launch Sort

To keep my desktop from being cluttered I make great use of the Quick Launch bar. It lives right beside your start button and if you don't see it there you can right click on the task bar, select Toolbars, and select Quick Launch and it will immediately appear. Every time I get a new icon shortcut added to the desktop I right click on it and drag it down the screen to the quick launch area. When I see a black I bar I release the mouse, and from the pop up menu I select Move Here. This puts all my shortcuts in one convenient place. From the Quick launch bar you only need one click to start a program, whereas on the desktop you need two clicks. Also, desktop shortcuts must be loaded into memory whereas the quick

launch bar doesn't waste memory. But it can get cluttered, so here is how you sort it.

1. Click on the hash marks at the end of the Quick Launch bar >>
2. When the popup menu appears, move your mouse to anywhere on the menu and right click your mouse.
3. From the popup menu that appears, choose Sort by Name.

This trick can also be used on the All Programs menu to sort them in alphabetical sequence. With the Quick Launch bar, if you have 1 to 3 programs you always want to be displayed in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, rename each item and put a 0 or 1 or 2 in front of the name. Numbers are always sorted first.

### Clear Type

Unfortunately I am getting older, and with age my eyesight seems to get worse. That's my story and I am sticking to it. So I was forced recently to upgrade my monitor to a 19 inch flat screen and it makes a great difference. But there was still something missing in the detail of printed words. So I checked around on the Microsoft site and found Clear Type. "With Windows XP, ClearType delivers improved font display quality over traditional forms of font smoothing or anti-aliasing. ClearType improves readability on color LCD displays with a digital interface, such as those in laptops and high-quality flat panel displays. Readability on CRT screens can also be somewhat improved."

Since everyone's eyesight is different it is very unlikely that this feature was ever set up on your system, assuming you are using Windows XP. Start at the [ClearType Setup](#) page to first Turn On ClearType (a little box near the bottom of the screen) and then follow the steps to get the text set right for you. It may just make reading something as simple as this document more enjoyable.

## VIRUS UPDATES

This year has been largely dominated by worms that contain backdoors which may allow others to control your computer system. The most notable of these were MyDoom, Netsky, and Beagle, but they are definitely not the only viruses to be concerned about. The portion of source code for the Windows 2000 and Windows NT operating systems that were leaked to the Internet and then spread via file sharing programs may have been what has led hackers to locate new vulnerabilities and develop ways to exploit those targets.

During my research this month into viruses, quite by accident I found a link to a Symantec site that lists all the active viruses and when they are likely to be executed on each day of the month. Click here to view the [Virus Calendar](#). I started at March 2004 but with the arrows you can navigate to any month you choose. The reason for publishing the calendar is to reinforce the fact that even though you may think your system is secure, there may be problems lurking in the background waiting for a particular day to wake up and be executed. The only way to be protected is to make sure your Anti Virus software and virus definition database is up to date.

As you will see below, previous viruses are spawning newer and possibly more damaging viruses constantly. If you or someone you know needs their system updated to the latest Norton Anti Virus software, call us at (204) 771 8930.

Latest Threats, all level 2, as per Symantec:

[W32.HLLW.Lovgate.N@mm](#), discovered March 17, is a variant of [W32.HLLW.Lovgate@mm](#). This variant is also a mass-mailing worm that attempts to email itself to all the email addresses it finds in the system. The "sender" of the email is spoofed, and its subject line and message body of the email vary.

This worm also attempts to copy itself to all the computers on a local network and the KaZaA shared folder.

[W32.Beagle.O@mm](#), discovered March 18, is a polymorphic mass-mailing worm that uses its own SMTP engine to spread through email. The worm opens a backdoor on TCP port 2556 and attempts to spread through file-sharing networks by copying itself to the folders that contain "shar" in their names. W32.Beagle.O@mm also infects files with the .exe file extension. The email From: address is spoofed and the Subject varies.

[W32.Beagle.R@mm](#), discovered March 18, is a variant of [W32.Beagle.O@mm](#). This worm attempts to send an HTML email to the addresses found in the files on an infected computer. The email does not contain an attachment of the worm. Instead, the HTML email uses the [Microsoft Internet Explorer Object Tag Vulnerability](#) that allows for the automatic download and execution of a file hosted on a remote Web site. This file is a copy of the worm, but may change in the future. The worm also opens a backdoor, starts a Web server on port 81 to serve the worm, and attempts to spread through file-sharing networks by copying itself to the folders with "shar" in their names. The worm is also a file infector that appends itself to the .exe files found in the c:\emails folder on the computer.

[W32.Beagle.S@mm](#), discovered March 18, is a variant of [W32.Beagle.O@mm](#). This worm attempts to send an HTML email to addresses found in files on an infected computer. The email does not contain an attachment of the worm. Instead, the HTML email uses the [Microsoft Internet Explorer Object Tag Vulnerability](#) that allows for the automatic download and execution of a file hosted on a remote Web site. This file is a copy of the worm, but may change in the future. The worm also opens a backdoor, starts a Web server on TCP port 81 to serve the worm, and attempts to spread through file-sharing networks by copying itself to the folders with "shar" in their names. The worm is also a file infector that appends itself to the .exe files found in the c:\emails folder on the computer.

[W32.Beagle.T@mm](#), discovered March 18, is a variant of [W32.Beagle.R@mm](#). This worm attempts to send an HTML email to the addresses found in the files on an infected computer. The email does not contain an attachment of the worm. Instead, the HTML email uses the [Microsoft Internet Explorer Object Tag Vulnerability](#) that allows for the automatic download and execution of a file hosted on a remote Web site. This file is a copy of the worm, but may change in the future. The worm also opens a backdoor, starts a Web server on port 81 to serve the worm, and attempts to spread through file-sharing networks by copying itself to folders with "shar" in their names. The worm is also a file infector that appends itself to the .exe files found on the computer.

## TEKSPECIALS

**Pro-Note Notebook computer:** Intel Celeron 2.4GHz processor, 15 inch XGA TFT display, 256MB DDR, 30GB Hard Drive, DVD/CD RW Combo Drive, and Windows XP Home. **TekJournal Price \$ 1,550.00** plus PST & GST delivered and setup.

**LGE L1910** 19 inch Flat Panel TFT Display. 1280 x 1024 auto-synchronous display @75Hz, 400:1 contrast ratio, and 176 degree viewing angle. **TekJournal Price \$ 995.00** plus PST & GST delivered and setup.

**Xerox Phaser 3450 Laser Printer:** 25 pages per minute, 266MHz processor and 32 MB RAM, 1200 dpi image quality, duplex printing, Parallel or USB connection. **TekJournal Price \$ 949.00 plus GST & PST** delivered and setup.

**Exclusive to MBTS TekJournal** reader's in Winnipeg. Computer Spring Tune-up special: Remove old files, Clean and Tune System Registry, Internal cleaning of computer and components, Check and Remove Spyware, Supply and Install Norton Anti Virus 2004. **TekJournal Price \$ 99.00** per system plus PST & GST.

Thank you for reading.

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