



# MBTS TEKJOURNAL

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## Contact Us

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## From the desk of MBTS

Welcome to the latest edition of the MBTS TekJournal. I apologize for this issue being late but we have been proofing and updating the website, setting up services to better help you, our clients, and basically working 24/7. Even though we missed the usually warm Winnipeg summer weather, business has been brisk. Welcome to all new readers of the MBTS TekJournal.

MicroByte TekSolutions is currently closed so that we can have a little holiday and also allow us to catch up on outstanding paperwork.

One of the changes that will be in place by our reopening on Tuesday September 28th will be our ability to accept Visa and MasterCard as payment for services rendered. Formal copies of invoices will still be emailed out, but the payment cycle will be improved.

At 12:00 PM today, Monday September 20th, 2004, our newest website went live! We are still at <http://www.mbts.mb.ca> but we have a new look and offer more on line help than before.

## Updates

Windows XP Service Pack 2 is a reality and should be downloaded and installed by all users. While nothing is ever perfect, especially in the computer world, this upgrade to the XP operating system comes close.

There is a popup blocker now built into Internet Explorer.

The Windows Firewall has been redesigned and tested and works especially well with routers and also independently to keep unwanted intruders from accessing your system.

One glitch I have found is that even though you may have a valid Anti Virus program installed like Norton Anti Virus, the Security Centre Monitor may not be able to recognize it. To fix this problem, open Control Panel and Select Security Centre, and then click on the Recommendations button. In the dialog box which pops up, make sure there is a check mark in the square marked "I have an anti virus program that I will monitor myself" and click OK.

The Windows Firewall will generally block all programs, except the de facto standard few, from accessing the Internet. If you have a program that requires Internet access, you can manually add it to the list, or simply wait until the first time the program is run and if Windows objects, click the button that tells the system to allow this operation.

In original installations of XP and XP SP1(a) there were some security flaws like Messenger which opened a port to the Internet and allowed access to anyone. While

MicroByte TekSolutions made sure these security flaws were always closed, not everyone else did. XP Service Pack 2 now closes them all during installation.

## How Do I...

*We have been getting quite a few questions lately about users not being able to see pictures in the email they receive. Here is how to make sure you receive attachment and get the pictures in Outlook Express.*

1. Open Outlook Express
2. Click on the Tools menu option
3. At the bottom of the resulting menu select Options
4. When the dialog box appears, click on the Security Tab
5. In the Virus section make sure the check mark has been removed from the box marked "Do not allow attachments..."
6. In the Download Images section make sure the check mark has been removed from the box marked "Block images and..."
7. Click Apply and then Click OK
8. Close and reopen Outlook Express and your changes will be set and attachments will be accessible and pictures will appear in HTML documents you receive.

*Many users are still unsure how to create their own music CD's. While we would never condone pirating (or stealing) of music, and we don't recommend the use of Peep to Peer sharing programs due to the spyware and invasion practices of this type of software, there is still a legal way you can make your own music CD's of you favourite songs from your own CD's.*

Many music programs now come with a ripper of some sort built in, and some even come with the ability to "burn" your own audio CD's. If you choose to use Windows Media Player 10 which was released with XP SP2 the first time you wish to copy music you will be presented with a Copy Option box asking if you want the music you copy to be protected or unprotected. We chose unprotected. You also have to put a check mark in the box identifying that copying copyrighted material is wrong and you take responsibility. Once this is done, press Next. On the last dialog box you will probably choose to change the current settings, because you never really know what the Windows Defaults are. One Major Note: WMP will only rip to Windows Media Audio format by default. If you want to rip to an MP3 format, you must purchase an add-in at \$ 10US before proceeding.

One alternative to ripping with WMP is to use a free ripping utility like [FreeRip](#). This program allows the extracting of audio files to MP3 format extremely quickly will lots of options. Click on the [FreeRip link](#) to download the program if it isn't already on your system.

When you open FreeRip you will see a dialog showing some ads and the columns for number, track, frame, etc. When you pop in a CD, Windows should try and provide some choices of what you can do, but just click cancel. Free Rip however will go out to the Internet (if available) and download the possible album names and track titles. Choose the best (or exact) one and click Select. The names of the individual tracks will be displayed in the box.

Next check off the songs that you want to make MP3 copies of, and then click the icon at the top of the dialog that looks like a CD with 2 musical notes on it. Repeat this process for all the CD's in your collection that have really good songs on them.

### *Creating a Music CD*

Since Windows Media Player comes with Windows and it can be used to "burn" a CD, why not use it. Open Windows Media Player from the Quick Launch bar or by clicking start, All Programs, Accessories, Entertainment, and finally Windows Media Player. If you have never run this program before, you must first fill your Library. Click on the Library Tab, and then the Search button and follow the on screen prompts.

When your library is full, click on the Burn tab. If there is a check mark in all the songs listed, click on the check mark at the top of the page to deselect all the songs so you can pick just the ones you want. Select the songs for your CD by putting a check mark in the song selection box to the left of the title. As you select songs there is a counter at the bottom of the screen under the song list that identifies how many songs you have selected and the total playing time. You are trying to fit as much on a CD as you can while staying under 80 minutes.

When you have selected all the songs for your CD, pop a blank CD into the CDRW or DVDRW drive and click the Start Burn button on the top left of the screen. The estimated length of time to create your music masterpiece will be displayed at the bottom of the screen where it was counting your selections. Like most estimates, this one is also higher than it has to be, but will vary depending on your system.

For those of you who don't want to use Windows Media Player, or who want a little more creativity like being able to order the songs in your own order, you might try looking into other products like Roxio EZ CD Creator 7 or Ahead Nero.

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## Surf's Up...

We haven't been out to the Internet in a while but here are a few sites you may find interesting.

The US, like Canada, is taking steps to help prevent counterfeiting it's currency. To preview the latest \$ 20 and \$ 50 dollar bills you can go to the [Bureau of Engraving and Printing](#).

For those of you interested in Science Fiction Microsoft co-founder Paul G Allen has helped fund the new [Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame](#). The exhibits are online as well as biographies of all 36 charter members including Isaac Asimov and Jules Verne. There are also great sci-fi artifacts including Buck Rogers' Ray Gun and Captain Kirk's chair from the USS Enterprise.

I had a need the other day to get a stain out of something and wasn't sure how to proceed. Then I thought, On the Internet of course. I came across the [Chemistry of Cleaning](#) and all my problems were solved. If you click on their cleaning FAQ you can find out how to remove just about any stain from just about any surface.

Although we are not a real fan of toolbars, Yahoo! Has upgraded theirs to include Spy Hunting right from the IE toolbar using Yahoo! Anti Spy. It works in real time and uncovers infections to be deleted immediately (spyware) and things to consider deleting (adware) – We say delete them all but you be the judge. This product even goes after Claria (formerly known as Gator) even though Claria is a partner of

Yahoo!

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## Virus Updates

We can never seem to get away from viruses and other things that are malicious to our computer systems. But as long as you have taken precautions, current Anti Virus software, Windows Firewall, a spyware checker/remover, and possibly a hardware firewall (router) you will be as protected as you can get. But remember to never open email attachments unless you know who they are coming from and you are expecting them.

According to Symantec the MyDoom mass mailing worm is still poking around and causing problems via ICQ and the KaZaA network, and a new one called **W32.Mexer.E@mm** is a mass-mailing worm that also spreads through several file-sharing networks should be avoided.

That's it for another issue of the TekJournal. Drop us a line via email and let us know what you think of our publication. We will be geared up soon to put all the back issues on line as well as this new format.

Thanks for reading...

Ric Jackson  
Owner  
MicroByte TekSolutions