



MBTS TEKJOURNAL

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Free software from Microsoft to combine your photos with other media to "Tell a Story"

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Software to clean up the junk files from your hard drive

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From the desk of MBTS

It's almost Christmas time and we would like to thank all our clients for another wonderful year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. We will sort of be closed over the holiday season but will try to return emails and phone calls as quickly as possible. If there is an emergency we will do our best to get to you as soon as possible.

To give you a little advance warning, MicroByte TekSolutions will be closed from January 29, 2005 through February 5, 2005 due to a minor surgical procedure. Hopefully I will be up and around before the 5th, but it is better to err on the side of caution.

Updates

Many people wrote or called about last months issue with the tweaks available within service pack 2, most to ask if they were necessary. The settings were provided for each individual user to make their own choice about what to turn on, off, or leave alone. Some users however, like the hands on approach and last months guide was an insight into the different settings available.

I have found another great program to help you keep your systems clean from the temporary junk files which get downloaded via the internet or created as a backup procedure when you use different program on your system. Check out Surf's Up for the link.

Also in Surf's Up is a "free" utility from Microsoft once you have XP SP2 Called Photo Story 3.

How Do I...

Create my own e-cards?

Surf's Up...

[Microsoft Photo Story 3](#) promises to make Show and Tell cool again. This page tells you how and links to the download of the software.

Surfing the 'Net and just using your computer in general, junks it up. There are Cookies, Temporary Internet Files, temporary files created when software is installed and sometimes uninstalled, backup copies made automatically while you use programs, etc. All of these files must be accounted for and maintained in the FAT table which can slow your system down. But they are sometimes too hard to clean out manually. Enter Butt Ugly Software's [Clean Cache](#) which can be set up to clean all the junk for you and help your system run efficiently. If it doesn't run properly check out the authors FAQ to make sure you have all the proper downloads from Microsoft.

Do you ever have too much spare time on your hands and want to play a game to waste some of it? Or maybe you want to keep the kids amused while you are busy with something else? Use the games at [Addicting Games](#) to whittle away

your spare minutes, be beware – minutes can turn into days... The games available cover Action, Puzzle, Arcade, Cards, Sports, and Everything Else and include Battleship, Space Invaders, Mah-jong, Fowl Words 2, Blackjack, etc.

Virus Updates...

It seems that every holiday or special event the loonies come out of the woodwork to try and sabotage your computer. Christmas cheer gets sent on the currents of e-cards, but all e-cards are not equal. Without knowing, you can download a virus or spyware installer while you're reading a cute card wishing you a Merry Christmas. You may even send a nasty gift if you select your card from a non mainstream site. So how do you avoid this problem?

Follow the general rules we should have all adopted thanks to the troublesome few who have decided it is more fun to wreak havoc than use their skills constructively. (1) NEVER open an email from someone you don't know unless they have telephoned you or in some way identified to you that their email is okay. (2) DELETE all emails with attachments from people you don't know. (3) Make sure you have the latest anti virus software installed and that the virus definitions are up to date. (4) PREVIEW the web sites of any addresses listed in the email before you click on the link. (5) NEVER agree to any agreement in an email without reading it very carefully and completely. (6) INSTALL and update one of the many programs available to keep spyware and other harmful infections off your system.