

ACPCUG Newsletter

November 2009

A K R O N - C A N T O N P C U S E R S G R O U P

Main Program:

Top 10 Tips for Wireless Home Network Security - Dave Bohm

Tips and Tricks in PowerPoint - Dave Bohm

Tips and Tricks in Excel - Dave Bohm

November Meeting

**November 5th, 2009,
6 pm**

**John Torok
Community Center
4224 Massillon Rd
Green, Ohio 44720**

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ACPCUG Yahoo group

To ease in distribution of the newsletter and other important club communications, a Yahoo group has been created for all paid members of the Akron-Canton PC Users Group.

Important points to remember about the group:

- 1) Do not Reply to the message welcoming you to the group as it will delete you from the list.
- 2) The list is meant only for newsletter distribution and other news from the officers, it is not for member discussions.
- 3) It may be used to send meeting reminders.
- 4) The address should be added to any white list so it is not interpreted as spam.
- 5) Use of the list does not permit anyone to see their address so their privacy is protected.
- 6) The list is private; it cannot be seen by non-members of ACP-

ACPCUG Web site

Acpcug.org was deleted by the web host. It has been restored from backups that are old. We are in the process of bringing it forward with updates.

From The DealsGuy For November 2009 by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click of Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

Most people have little interest in what you did on your vacation, but I'll give you a brief run-down on part of what my wife and I did while in Michigan in July. The timing of our family events coincided with a nationally famous event that has been celebrated in Port Huron, Michigan for many years. The Port Huron to Mackinac Island sailboat race attracts people from all over to participate and the town usually ends up with approximately 100,000 people there on the evening before the race starts. It is known as "Boat Night" and while the celebration is not as wild as it used to be, it is still a night of partying by all.

Port Huron is a medium sized city situated where Lake Huron flows into the St. Clair River. That border river (Sarnia, Ontario on one side, Port Huron, Michigan on the other) is about a half mile wide on average and has a very swift current flowing down the Great Lakes Waterway to empty into Lake St. Clair, which then empties into the Detroit River etc. Black River, a smaller stream, flows through Port Huron to empty into the St. Clair River and is the center of the celebration with many very expensive sailboats tied up during a few days prior to the race, not to mention all the large expensive pleasure boats and yachts also tied up there as part of the celebration. There are three bridges crossing major streets that can be raised to allow larger boats to move up to the various marina stalls, although in some places the smaller boats may be tied up four to a boat slip. There's easily many millions of dollars worth of sailboats, yachts and pleasure boats docked there.

Boat Night is always what attracts me, and not the start of the Port Huron to Mackinac Island sailboat race the next morning. However, if you are ever in the area during the middle of July, I heartily recommend taking it in. There are also other events that coincide with this event, such as the antique car show and cruise night. Just watching the bridges go up to allow boats to pass through is interesting. I took some pictures that will be on my Web site by the time you read this column. Of course, there are other items that I can't miss, such as the specially prepared Coney Island hot dogs there, that are not found anywhere else, and you don't have to visit the Coney Island to get them because other restaurants also feature their own style of those hot dogs containing sauce with 11 herbs and spices (their words). There is also a meat market that makes outstanding link sausages. We always try to bring some of them home to stash in our freezer. I assume many people remember foods like no other where they were born and raised.

Since time was scarce for us, we did miss the (some say world famous) Yale Bologna Festival in Yale, Michigan, which always hosts the "Outhouse races" (some say outrageous) and the "Cardboard Boat" races. It was our loss, but we could only spread ourselves so thin and still make our family events.

***Why Fix Me If I'm Going To Die Soon Anyway!**

Lately I get that impression from a couple of my doctors. I consider them excellent doctors in their specialties, but I'm surprised by the attitude I've gotten lately, although they still send me for tests, but I'm not sure how much they look at them. I don't know if I'll have a talk with them or simply find new doctors who care, but I hope I'm not ready to kick the bucket just yet, although there's times when I wonder. Other people my age tell me they have also had that experience. I have already dropped the cardiologist I was seeing because his answers to my questions were always "In your case, there is nothing we can do." I don't think a doctor should take that attitude.

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***Outlook Express Data Recovery**

DataNumen Inc., a developer of data recovery solutions, has released its new product, Advanced Outlook Express Data Recovery (Version 1.0). It enables the users to recover Outlook Express e-mails even if the Outlook Express data (.DBX) files no longer exist. AOEDR can perform recovery in all versions of Microsoft Outlook Express e-mails, and will recover data from any drives or disks (hard disks, flash drives, floppy disks, Zip disks, CD-ROMs, etc.); even in case they are corrupted. AOEDR can also recover a batch of disks. The upper disk size limit for AOEDR is 16777216 TB (i.e. 17179869184 GB).

When will AOEDR prove useful?

- If the Outlook Express .DBX files have been deleted and the Recycle Bin has been accidentally emptied;
- If the Outlook Express .DBX files have been permanently deleted by mistake.
- If the drive containing the Outlook Express .DBX files has been formatted by mistake.
- If the partition containing the Outlook Express .DBX files has been deleted by mistake.
- If the disk has been re-partitioned by mistake, and the drive containing the .DBX files has been lost;
- If drive or disk containing the .DBX files cannot be read due to hardware failure;
- If the drive or disk containing the .DBX files cannot be started/recognized due to corruption in Master Boot Record or other reasons;
- In any case, when the Outlook Express data stored in the local drives or disks cannot be accessed.

Advanced Outlook Express Data Recovery runs under Windows 95/98/Me/NT/2000/XP/2003 Server/Vista/2008 Server. A single-user personal license costs \$249.95 US. A 20% discount is offered by using the coupon code DATA-E2OI-TWEN when the user purchases products from our website at <<http://www.datanumen.com/aoedr/order.htm>>. Discount will only be good during Nov. and Dec. Both ShareIt.com and RegNow.com will accept this coupon code and apply the 20% discount to the purchaser. Multi-user discounts are available. Further information on the product, as well as its free trial edition, is available at <<http://www.datanumen.com/aoedr/>>.

Direct download link: <<http://www.datanumen.com/aoedr/aoedr.exe>> (1.3 MB)

Company web-site: <<http://www.datanumen.com>>

Contact information can also be found at <<http://www.datanumen.com/contact.htm>>

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***Need A New 3D Address Book?**

Studio V5 Corp. has released 3D AddressBook 2.0, the software that enables users to manage their contacts in an innovative, fun, and easy to use environment combining 2D and 3D views. The software includes plenty of

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visual and sound effects, such as an explosion on deleting records, record zooming in selection, as well as 4 hours of ambient music. You can choose from 30+ ready to use address templates or easily create a customized address book to fit your needs. You can add or edit fields, sort the data by any field, create filters and reports, or search data quickly and easily. The Notes field will help you track record history and while using the import option, you can directly import the data from well-known applications such as Windows Address Book, MS Outlook, MS Excel, etc.

Main features include:

- Innovative and easy-to-use user interface which gives both 2D and 3D data view;
- Built-in ambient music;
- Easy address book creation from a scratch or using one of 30+ templates;
- Customize or add new fields: text, numeric, image, formula, attachments, etc;
- Easy data find using quick or full search;
- Sort data by any field;
- Create, save, and apply customized filters;
- Create customized reports for printing;
- Use notes field for record history and to-do items;
- Easy data import directly from MS Excel, MS Outlook, Windows Address Book, MS Access, Comma-Separated text files and more.

System Requirements: Windows XP/Vista, Pentium 1.4Ghz, 256 MB RAM, 32 MB, OpenGL compatible video card, DirectX 8.1 compatible sound card and 500 MB free space.

The price of software registration is \$29.95, but a 33% discount is available by using the coupon code "2AEJ-55PC-VVR3," valid only during November and December.

Product page: <<http://www.studio-v5.com/3d/db/>>

Contact: Ana Jovanovic

E-Mail: <ana@studio-v5.com>

Title: Partner Manager

<<http://www.studio-v5.com/>>

That's it for this month. I'll have some more new product announcements on my Web site that didn't offer discounts. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click <bobclick at bellsouth dot net>. Visit my Web site at <<http://www.dealsguy.com>>.

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Glary Utilities

By Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:

<http://www.glaryutilities.com>

One of the common themes in this column is improving computer performance. I still hear on a regular basis about slow performance and other PC problems that may have an easy and possibly free solution. I emphasize free not just because of today's trying economic times, but also because an acquaintance of mine recently paid a big box store \$300 to clean up his hard drive in order to improve his PC's performance. There are many utilities available at varying prices from free to many dollars, and like anything else in society, they vary in quality from mediocre or worse, to excellent. The trite cliché 'You get what you pay for' does not always apply when it comes to computer software, as there is some excellent quality free software available.

I have worked on several decrepit computers in recent weeks, and had the opportunity to try software utilities from several publishers, and found some that I really liked. Some of the titles that I found that worked very well were freeware utilities from Glarysoft, www.glarysoft.com.

The first Glarysoft utility that I tried on an older XP machine that was in desperate need of some software maintenance was its flagship product Glary Utilities. Available in 23 languages from www.glaryutilities.com, Glarysoft claims that this product is, "... the #1 free, powerful and all-in-one utility in the world market! It offers numerous powerful and easy-to-use system tools and utilities to fix, speed up, maintain and protect your PC." I cannot vouch for the #1 status, but I did find it a capable utility that does all that it claims, and it does it very well. Available in two flavors, the free version, and a \$40 commercial version, Glary Utilities PRO, either will have enough features to likely improve the performance of any dragging PC. Obviously the PRO version offers more features than the free version, such as automatic care in background; enhanced system fixing, optimizing and more; free 24x7 technical support, and may be used commercially. Both versions will run well on most modern PCs, and is compatible with Windows 2000, XP 32/64bit and Vista 32/64bit. I ran Glary utilities on the old XP, as well as a new Vista 64 machine, and it ran flawlessly on both.

Glary Utilities has a clean and intuitive front end, and is easy to use. The opening window gives the version and status, and a link to download any updates. The "1-Click Maintenance", which can be scheduled or run on demand, offers six automated clean-up functions which can be run together or individually. The "Registry Cleaner", which can fix invalid or incorrect registry entries, is one of the best in the business, and may reduce the number of conflicts and "blue screens of death" that antagonize many of us. The "Shortcuts Fixer" identifies and cleans any invalid shortcuts that may have been left over when deleting old programs. The "Startup Manager" may be one of the keys to improved PC performance by stopping useless and unnecessary programs from automatically loading when the computer is booted. These unnecessary programs often get inserted in the startup when their software is installed, and may be a terrible resource hog, degrade performance, cause slow boots and shutdowns, and create software conflicts. By easily managing the startup process, the user has better control of the computer as well as better performance. Massive amounts of hard drive capacity are often wasted by having thousands of temporary files from various sources eating up the capacity of the drive; a "Temporary Files Cleaner" cleans up these temporary files, and recovers the wasted hard drive space; one computer I recently cleaned had over 4 gigs of useless temporary files, which this program detected and deleted. Our personal privacy may be jeopardized by leaving internet tracks and traces on our hard drive, and the integral "Tracks Eraser" detects and removes these items, helping to maintain the users' privacy. The final "1-Click" utility is a "Spyware Remover", which can detect and remove much of the spyware which may infest the computer. These six tasks, all of which can be run with a single mouse click, can do much to improve PC performance.

For those users who want even more power and control coupled with additional performance improve-

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ments should choose the “Modules” tab. Five modules, each consisting of several system tools, provide an excellent selection of resources designed to provide the maximum improvement of performance, short of hardware upgrades. The “Clean Up & Repair” button connects to the disk cleaner, the registry cleaner, shortcuts fixer, and an uninstall manager. While two of these utilities are automatically invoked when selecting the 1-Click option, the disk cleaner detects and removes far more clutter on the hard drive than the simple temp files remover. The uninstall manager allows the user to completely remove any unwanted programs more thoroughly than Microsoft’s “Add/Remove” feature.

The second module contains four utilities to optimize and improve performance, including the startup manager, a memory optimizer, a context menu manager (a tool for techies and geeks), and a registry defragmentation utility. Besides the already described benefits of the startup manager, the registry defrag feature would probably be the most beneficial utility in this group. Since the registry is constantly being written to and modified, gaps appear in its structure which can slow its reading, waste processing power, as well as take up extra space on the hard drive; the registry defrag function resolves this problem.

Next is a privacy and security selection which includes the already mentioned tracks eraser, as well as three other utilities. Sometimes it is necessary to permanently delete files and data, such that they are unrecoverable; the integral file shredder erases files such that they are gone forever. Unless a file has been shredded or overwritten on the hard drive, it may very likely be recoverable. We all have accidentally deleted files, or changed our minds after deleting files, and wished that we could get them back; the file undelete utility can quickly and effectively recover files that had been accidentally deleted. Some other files that we have may also be personally sensitive, and made safe from prying eyes. The “File Encrypter and Decrypter” protects files from unauthorized access and use.

The “Files & Folders” group includes utilities to analyze and the hard disk structure, detect and delete duplicate files, find and remove empty file folders, and a neat utility that can split large files into smaller ones and then rejoin them when needed.

The final module is the “System Tools” selection where the running processes on the computer can be monitored and stopped as desired, freeing up computing power. Another system tool manages Internet Explorer add-ons, tool bars, and other functions, and can recover from a high jacked browser. The final utility opens Window’s own secretive tools utility, providing user access to dozens of Window’s settings, allowing the user to tweak the operating system as desired.

I found Glary Utilities, both the free version and the more comprehensive PRO version to be useful and effective in improving PC performance, and maintaining that enhanced functionality. I would recommend that users download the PRO version, as it offers a fully functional 30 day free trial, and see how well it performs. If satisfied, then the \$40 purchase price may be well worth it. For those who prefer free software, the free version would be very satisfactory, as it also is a very capable product. For those who want the functionality of the individual modules as free standing products, many of them are available for free download from www.glarysoft.com. Glary Soft has some fine products, and would be a worthwhile addition to the stable of utilities that we all should have and utilize.

My PayPal Account's Been Hacked

Written by Steve Bass, a former Contributing Editor with PC World, a 23 year veteran of PIBMUG, and a founding member of APCUG. He's also the author of PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things about Your Personal Computer, O'Reilly Press. It's available on Amazon at dirt cheap prices. <http://snipurl.com/annoy2>

This column originally appeared in Bass's TechBite newsletter. Subscribe to Bass's free weekly newsletter and read Bass's blog at www.snurl.com/techbiteblog. Contents copyright 2009, TechBite, LLC.

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The e-mail from PayPal said I'd sent \$400 to a gaming firm in Germany. It's a dopey phishing expedition, I thought, and authentic-looking, for sure, but nothing to worry about.

The trouble was that when I logged on to PayPal, I really did have a \$400 withdrawal. It was clear that someone had my password.

Quick Password Tips

Here are the three essential things you need to know about password security:

- Use a password generator, a program that will create a long, complicated password.
- Don't ever use dictionary words, even if you stick in symbols, like bill\$gate\$. They're very easy to break using simple hacker programs. (LOL -- Thanks, Rod.)
- Use a different password for every important site. Using the same password on every site, especially critical ones, such as banking, is risky. Imagine using your one password on an unsavory, and possibly unscrupulous site. With that golden password, and a few guesses on your login name -- stevebass, steve_bass, sbass -- and they're in like Flynn.

Who's Got My Password?

I contacted PayPal (888/221-1161), supplied the details, and they opened up a case. My account is frozen and I don't doubt PayPal will credit me for the loss. (As I started editing this newsletter, PayPal reversed the charges.) PayPal is investigating, but I don't think they'll ever find out how someone got into my account, though it was clear the person had my password. The rep said I probably fell for a well-crafted e-mail spoof.

That's a blow to my ego. I see myself as suspicious -- verging on paranoid -- when it comes to phishing e-mails. What better prize than bragging rights to hacking a PC World guy, right? So I'm as vigilant as my dog is when I try to get her to take a pill wrapped in peanut butter. (Hey, you can't fool me, pal, she probably thinks...)

If an e-mail -- suspicious or not -- refers to any of my important accounts and provides a link to click, I ignore the offer. It's safer to manually type the URL into my browser's address field. And yes, I'll cover phishing hassles -- and ways to guard against it -- in a future newsletter.

Password: z24x680uBS4!44

I'm also careful with my passwords and, at least until now, thought they were super stealthy. For example, on PayPal I used four numbers, a symbol, and three letters. According to Microsoft's Password Checker, my stan-

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ard password pattern -- 1600%wtf -- is strong. But it could be better.



Microsoft says that the most effective passwords are 14 characters and have a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and a symbol or two. For example, z24x680uBS4!44 is strong enough for them to call it "best."

Test your passwords on Microsoft's site and see how well they stand up. Then browse Microsoft's excellent Strong passwords: How to create and use them. I promise you'll learn something. <http://tinyurl.com/2e7tmw>

Use Microsoft's Password checker to test your password's strength. You might be surprised.

<http://tinyurl.com/ypc3dc>

Generating Strong Passwords

Creating a strong password is easy, provided you don't try to think one up on your own. There are dozens of Web sites that'll create passwords, but I don't use any of them. The last thing I'll do is trust someone online watching me create new passwords. Instead, download Password Generator, a freebie, and crank out all sorts of 14-character passwords.



<http://tinyurl.com/4j8e8>

Keeping Track of Your Passwords

I just looked and counted roughly 220 sites I use that require a password.

Some site passwords, however, are immaterial. For instance, I use a simple-to-remember word for spots I rarely visit, places such as newspapers that force you to register and log in just to read articles, or tech sites

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with forum messages.

However, ever since the PayPal fiasco, I've changed every significant password on my system to a 14-digit gorilla.

Remembering all those passwords is a PITA, so you ought to consider using a password management tool. There are lots available. Many people like KeePass, a freebie; others swear by LargeSoft's \$30 Password Manager. I anticipate easily 100 e-mails -- no make that 200 -- kvetching that I haven't mentioned your favorite. But as far as I'm concerned, RoboForm is the best one around, and I've used it since it was

first introduced.

RoboForm, The Master at Passwords



RoboForm is a \$30 program with more features for password management, privacy, and password identification than any other program I know. You provide RoboForm with all the vitals you might need to complete a site's form--name, address, phone numbers, and even credit card numbers. When you click the Fill Forms button, the program does just that. I've created multiple identities, each with different info. For instance, I have one with MasterCard info, another with VISA accounts. I have another identify I call "anonymous" that I use to fill in forms on sites that I'll never visit again.

Enter data into RoboForm's Identity card and fill in online forms.

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Click a Web site from the RoboForm Passcard screen, and RoboForm transports your Web browser to the site, logging you in if necessary. Need an industrial-strength password? RoboForm will generate one for you. And don't worry about security: RoboForm is itself password-protected. The program will also safely send an encrypted password through e-mail to another RoboForm user. (I was recently discussing with my wife the fact that neither of us can function without it.)

BTW, RoboForm foils keyloggers (programs that watch keystrokes) because instead of typing, RoboForm inserts characters into form fields.

Here's a summary of RoboForm's features (<http://www.roboform.com/features.html>), a comprehensive FAQ (<http://www.roboform.com/faq.html>) with answers to your most technical RoboForm questions and a way to compare the free and Pro versions (<http://www.roboform.com/why-pro.html>).

If you need portability, RoboForm2Go gives you the same protection when you carry your passwords on a flash drive and use it outside the office. Both the RoboForm program and your password files reside on a USB key, so you can take them from one computer to another. The tool costs \$40, but if you buy it at the same time you get RoboForm, the price drops to \$20. If you dig around, you'll occasionally find discounts. (Google RoboForm discount.)

Siber Systems offers a 30-day trial of both products. They work in all versions of Windows and support IE and Firefox, but not Google Chrome, Opera, or a few other browsers. Take a look at the compatibility list. <http://www.roboform.com/browsers.html>

There's lots more to say about password management, but I'm almost out of space. So while you're hot on the topic, read Bitmill's smart series of Password Security 101 articles. They're less basic than you might imagine. <http://www.thebitmill.com/articles/>



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Driver Backup Programs

Backup -- The Ware Essential to Your Computer

Written by Larry Cohen, Member at Large, ICON PCUG, NY

From The ICON Graphic, Newsletter of ICON PC User Group, Inc., January 2009 Edition

www.iconpcug.org

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Last month I wrote about traditional backup programs. I will continue the discussion with free driver backup programs.

As you are aware, drivers are small programs that associate your hardware with your operating system. It is particularly useful to have these programs if you have to re-install windows either from the manufacturer's restore disk or a new install of windows. It avoids the hassle of having to go to each manufacturer's website and download one-by-one drivers.

Driverback.bat

This is a batch file from PCWorld magazine to backup all device drivers. Here are the directions from PCWorld:

Once it's on your system double click the file to create your backup.

The batch file copies the drivers (and a lot of extra files) to a folder called 'driverback inside My Documents. Use your CD authoring software to copy the contents of this folder to a CD.

To reinstall the drivers, use either Device Manager or Control Panel's Add Hardware applet to open Update Wizard. If the Wizard doesn't automatically look for drivers on the CD, point to the CD drive when asked for a location.

It can be downloaded at: <http://www.pcworld.com/49366>

Figures 1, 2, and 3 show the program 'doing its thing'.

DriverMax

This is a wonderful easy to use sophisticated backup tool that allows you to either set up a login account to retrieve drivers or export them to a zip file that you would copy to a CD for later installation. Here is a description from the DriverMax website:

“DriverMax is a new tool that allows you to download the latest driver updates for your computer. No more searching for rare drivers on discs or on the web or inserting one installation CD after the other. Just create a free account, log in, and start downloading the updates that you need.

You can also export all your current drivers (or just the ones that work ok) to a folder or a compressed file. After reinstalling Windows you will have everything in one place! [Underlining added] Most of the situations when Windows is running slower are caused by faulty driver installations. Windows stores all versions of

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older drivers just in case

you want to go back; sometimes it messes up older versions with more recent ones. The Export Wizard will only export the drivers you select by copying the needed files to a folder or a compressed ZIP file. After re-installing Windows all drivers will be back in place in less than 5 minutes - sparing you of searching, inserting disc after disc and losing precious time. The Import Drivers wizard allows you to install all the drivers that you exported earlier. The entire operation might take up to 5-10 minutes.

Just one single computer restart will be required after all drivers are reinstalled!

Note: DriverMax only works on Windows Vista, Windows XP and Windows 2003 (all service packs). Driver downloads are **only** available for Windows Vista and Windows XP users.”

Figure 4 illustrates the opening screen that is the gateway to every available subprogram.

It can be found at: <http://www.innovative-sol.com/drivermax/> Note: After starting the program, it does require free registration which is acquired from the above web site.

Larry Cohen is a Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Nassau Community College and is a Member-At-Large of the ICON Executive Board.

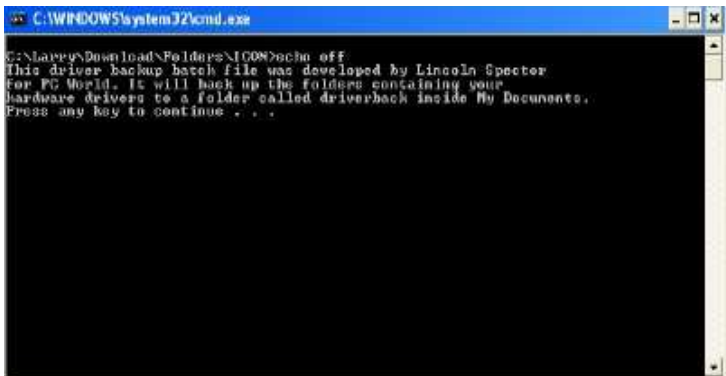


Figure 1 – The Opening Screen

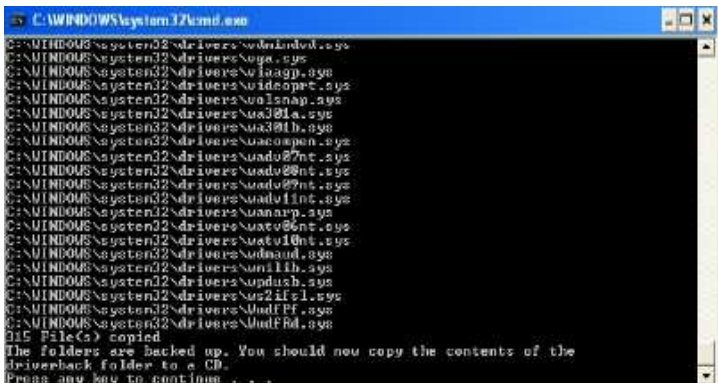


Figure 2 – Scanning

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Figure 4 – The DriverMax Main Window

New Free Security Utilities – Do You Speak Klingon?

Written by Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX; Radio Show Hot Iwilsker (at) apcug.net

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WEBSITES:

<http://www.sophos.com/beta/threatdetection/index.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klingon>

<http://www.sophos.com/products/free-tools/sophos-threat-detection-test.html>

<http://www.bitdefender.com/site/Products/showSolutions/6/>

Do you speak Klingon, the language of the intergalactic warriors of Star Trek fame? If so, the newly released

(beta) product of Sophos’ new on-demand malware scanner may be just for you. If you are among the Earthlings who have some command of

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Sophos Threat Detection Test

Is your anti-virus catching everything it should?

- ✓ Free virus, spyware, and adware scan
- ✓ Test your existing anti-virus protection
- ✓ Find threats your anti-virus missed



Scan once to find viruses, spyware, adware and zero-day threats

Use the Sophos Threat Detection Test to quickly perform a scan and find any viruses, spyware, adware or zero-day threats that might have by-passed your existing protection. The test can be run without uninstalling or deactivating your current anti-virus software.

The test utilizes award-winning [Sophos Anti-Virus](#) detection, certified by ICSA Labs, West Coast Labs, and Virus Bulletin.

Test your existing anti-virus protection

- Scans without the need to uninstall or disable your existing protection
- Runs on Windows 2000/XP/2003/Vista
- Checks performance of Symantec, McAfee, Trend, CA, Kaspersky and F-Secure
- Uses a single scan to detect viruses, spyware and adware
- Detects [zero-day threats](#) using unique [Behavioral Genotype® Protection](#)
- Updates automatically for 30 days
- Powered by [SophosLabs™](#) security expertise

Sophos, “The software can be run without deactivating your current anti-virus software.” This software is expressly intended to detect any malware that may have slipped through the protection provided by any installed security software on the computer. It should not interfere with any other security software already installed on the computer, and is not memory resident (loaded) except when explicitly loaded by the user.

Klingon AV is really an incarnation Sophos Threat Detection Test, which is the product name displayed when the English version of Klingon AV is installed. If the Threat Detection Kit is downloaded directly (not the Klingon AV), the user must register online (free) prior to the download. The Threat Detection Test uses the same scan engine as the commercial Sophos Anti-Virus product, and has been tested and certified as effective by the major antivirus testing organizations, including the ICSA Labs, West Coast Labs, and Virus Bulletin. Sophos’ Klingon Anti-Virus and Threat Detection Test are effective and useful tools to periodically check to verify the integrity of the installed security software, and to determine if any malware has penetrated the existing mode of protection. The Threat Detection Test directly checks performance of Symantec, McAfee, Trend-Micro, CA, Kaspersky and F-Secure security products, without interfering with them.

If the user can read Klingon, then that version may be the better one to download, but if English is more appropriate, then download the English language version of Klingon Anti-Virus. Confirming that the installed anti-virus software is functioning properly can provide some peace of mind.

Three other free security utilities have been made available by BitDefender, a European purveyor of excellent quality cyber protection products. One utility that I use regularly is the browser (Internet Explorer) based Bit-Defender Online Scanner, which runs a very fast but thorough scan of the computer for malware. BitDefender Online Scanner runs on demand from the browser, separate from the installed antivirus software, and scans for viruses and spyware that may have penetrated the existing security software. The online scan does not interfere or interact with the existing security products. The Online Scanner will scan the system memory, files and

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the English language, then the English version of Sophos Klingon Anti-Virus may be more practical than the Klingon language version. Those of us so ethnocentric that we choose to speak English may be at a slight disadvantage, as Wikipedia states, “According to Guinness World Records, Klingon is the most popular fictional language by number of speakers.”

Klingon Anti-Virus (beta) is one of the latest anti-malware products released by the UK’s Sophos, a successful security company with over 100 million registered users. Klingon Anti-Virus is not a stand alone security product that provides continuous protection, but instead is an on-demand scanner that detects and removes viruses, spyware, adware, zero-day threats, and other varieties of malware. According to

Free Tools



BitDefender Online Scanner



Free and effective malware cleanup directly from your browser. Incorporating the BitDefender award-winning scanning engines, BitDefender Online Scanner is an on-demand antivirus and antispyware tool that shows how safe your PC is. Accessible from your browser, it will scan and automatically clean the system memory, all files and drives' boot sectors.

[» more info](#)



BitDefender Chat Encryption



BitDefender Chat Encryption allows you to communicate securely via Yahoo! Messenger or Windows Live Messenger by encrypting the instant messages exchanged with another PC on which BitDefender Chat Encryption or a BitDefender 2009 product is installed.

[» more info](#) [» download now](#)



BitDefender Anti-Phishing Free Edition



BitDefender Anti-Phishing Free Edition provides browser-based protection from phishing attempts by blocking the malicious web pages used to steal credit card data and other personal identification information. The toolbar works with Microsoft Internet Explorer and with Mozilla Firefox.

[» more info](#) [» download now](#)

hard drive boot sectors, and then automatically clean any malware that is found. I have used this product several times on several computers, and found it to be the fastest scan that I have ever used, and was capable of detecting what the installed security software missed. My only issue with the product is that it only runs only on Internet Explorer, and not on Firefox or other browsers. BitDefender Online Scanner is a very worthwhile product to have available on all PCs as a check and verification that

the system is clean of malware.

Many of us routinely chat online. While most of our online chats are of a personal and casual nature, there is sometimes a need to discuss sensitive or proprietary information in a chat session. Because we never know if some unauthorized person is listening in on our chats, it may be necessary to encrypt our online chats, such that interception of the content is nearly impossible. BitDefender has released its free BitDefender Chat Encryption utility that allows users to communicate securely if Yahoo! Messenger 8 (or later) or Windows Live Messenger 8.5 (or later) is utilized. With these instant messaging clients, BitDefender Chat Encryption offers effective privacy by integrating a simple but automatic encryption and decryption process. In order to function, both parties must have BitDefender Chat Encryption installed. This software runs on XP with SP2 installed (32 bit), and 32 bit versions of Vista. If secure online chats and instant messages (IM) are desired, then this product may be for you.

One of the common methods of identity theft is phishing, where the user is tricked into entering personal and financial information on a spoofed website. While the latest versions of Internet Explorer (IE) and Firefox offer some protection against phishing and spoofed websites, another layer of protection may be desirable. BitDefender Anti-Phishing Free Edition is a toolbar that works well on both IE and Firefox. According to BitDefender, "BitDefender Anti-Phishing Free Edition provides browser-based protection from phishing attempts by blocking the malicious web pages used to steal credit card data and other personal identification information." This toolbar incorporates real-time filtering of web pages, and detects attempted fraud. If a suspicious site is detected, the user is notified of the potential threat, and given the choice to continue to the questionable web-

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site or to block it. The toolbar will also detect links that may be sent through Yahoo! Messenger or Windows Live (MSN) Messenger. If the user does not already have a layered anti-phishing defense, this toolbar from BitDefender will provide substantial protection from phishing websites.

Whether in Klingon, or from BitDefender, it may be a good idea to have another verification of cyber defenses using the appropriate products mentioned above. You can never be too safe.

PC PitStop OverDrive – Free Online Testing and Analysis

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WEBSITE:

<http://pcpitstop.com/betapit>

Often, it seems that our computers just do not seem to run well. There can be many reasons for poor performance related to hardware and software issues. While there are many utilities which can be purchased or downloaded and installed that can run a battery of diagnostic tests on a computer, one of the most popular and comprehensive testing services is free and online. This service is PC PitStop OverDrive, available online at pcpitstop.com/betapit.

PC PitStop is very popular, with over 100 million tests run. Tests can be run anonymously (no registration required), or the user can register for free, and track computer performance over time. The diagnostic exams are safe, and performed through the Internet Explorer browser. Since many of the tests are performed using Active-X, PC PitStop will not work on Firefox or other browsers, and requires that Internet Explorer be used. The tests are performed on various components in the computer, including the video card, CPU chip (processor), memory, and disk drives. No settings on the computer are changed by PC PitStop, and no content on the hard drive is accessed, meaning that private data is safe and not being read by PC PitStop. Once the diagnostic process is completed, a report card is produced designating the conditions of what is found. Only with the users' express consent will the automated repair utilities attempt to fix many of the problems that are found. The entire diagnostic process is fairly fast, just taking a few minutes.

The first step in running PC PitStop OverDrive is to download and install an Active-X utility, which takes only a few seconds on a broadband connection. All of the diagnostics are performed on web pages that use Javascript or Active-X, which display in real time the tests being performed. The first test collects information about the PC itself, such as the CPU type and speed, capacity of disk drive, video resolution, BIOS, memory, Windows version, browser version, and a listing of what is currently running on the computer. After the basic data is collected (no personally identifiable information is collected), the computer hardware is tested. These tests will determine the speed of the system and the health of the CPU chip, as well as the condition of the memory, disk drives, video, and internet connection. One warning is in line here, and that is that users with epilepsy or other ailments that may be affected by rapidly changing colors and patterns should not view the graphics card component of the tests. Once the diagnosis is completed, PC PitStop will analyze the data collected, and make recommendations about performance improvements. A full graphical report is provided to the user.

On my computer the entire process was completed in about four minutes. In that time, several dozen tests

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were performed, and the results of each were displayed. The reports are tabbed into the categories of Summary, Performance, Security, Software, and Drivers. Clicking on a tab may open another level of information. Under the Summary tab is a tab for Fixes, which displays any problems found on the computer. Moving the mouse cursor over a displayed problem will give the user a brief description of the problem. Clicking on any item will open another window with very detailed information giving instructions on resolving the problem. The Summary – Rankings selection displays how the computer tested compared to the millions of other computers tested. In my case on this old computer, I have a very fast processor (top 7% of those tested), but I am sorely lacking memory (bottom 43%) and hard drive space (bottom 23%). My video card performed well, being in the top third that have been tested.

Performance is what matters to most of us when it comes to our computers. The tab “Performance Results” lists 32 performance categories, and the results of each performance test. Items that pass the diagnosis are displayed with a check mark, and those that fail are noted with a bold red “X”. By correcting whatever deficiencies are found may lead to an improvement in performance may result.

Security is another category that should be of high concern, and PC PitStop checks for 37 security breaches, including a very quick scan for viruses and spyware. Included in the security diagnosis are browser tests, desktop security, file download and pop-up ad security, cookie analysis, and other security issues. Each item is clearly displayed and rated, with additional information and fixes being only a click away.

The Software diagnostics displays the name and version of all software installed on the computer, as well as Microsoft hotfixes and updates. The Software – Processes displays the software that is currently running on the computer along with the CPU usage and memory used for each. Clicking on the title of any software listed will display detailed information about that software, as well as any recommendations.

Our computers are heavily dependent on the drivers installed for our components and peripherals for proper performance and security. PC PitStop identifies the drivers installed on the computer, and shows those that are in need of updating. If an updated driver is recommended, a link to the download may be displayed.

I have run PC PitStop OverDrive on several computers and found it to be a very fast and reliable tool to identify the hardware and software problems on the computer. I have registered as a user so I can track performance degradation over time. PC PitStop Overdrive is free, very fast, and comprehensive. It is an outstanding tool to checkout the condition of any computer, and possibly resolves any hardware and software issues that may degrade security and performance.

