

BYTES & PIECES.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE HOBART COMPUTER USERS GROUP INC.

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NEWSLETTER GOES FORTNIGHTLY

Starting from this issue, the newsletter will be issued approximately fortnightly until at least the end of June. This will allow my wife and I to take a short break in the north of the state and then do the inevitable catch-up when we get back.

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FREE SOFTWARE FROM MOOCHERS

There are a number of sites that list free software, including, in most cases, advertising supported software. At least one charges for its services, which seems a bit of a contradiction. One that doesn't charge, doesn't require registration and has a good selection of software for both Windows and Linux is <http://www.moochers.com>

The software is divided into logical groupings and there is a brief review of each application. Sometimes these reviews are a little out-of-date, but this is not particularly important as the link provided will take you to the application's website where you can download the latest version.

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ISP VIRUS PROTECTION

Appearances, they say, can be deceptive. From the email reproduced on the next page it would seem that iPrimus' antivirus isn't as good as ye old AVG. The message taken from my computer, appears to have been checked by iPrimus and passed despite Sober.G being contained in *article.DOC.scr*. But I know that it wasn't checked by iPrimus' antivirus, as I am not a subscriber to that service.

AVG removed the attachment and added the notation in bold. My email software filter then junked the accompanying message, because of the AVG notation.

Note how the message tries to get me to open the attached file by assuring me it is virus free and that it has a clean-up file attached, when, as AVG showed the attachment was just the reverse. Add in the fact that some people suffer from compulsive behaviour and could not resist opening the attachment no matter what the

message said, or what they have been told, and you can see how these things spread. Note also that aliva@iprimus.com.au may not be infected. This worm fakes the return address. Thus all we can say is that it would have come from someone who had the address aliva@iprimus.com.au on their computer and my email address also.

*From: aliva@iprimus.com.au
To: BCC-Checked@iprimus.com.au
Date: Tue, 18 May 2004 08:55:42 GMT
Subject: damn!*

hey dude!#

*ive found a shitty virus on my pc. yo must check your pc!
follow the steps in this article.*

bye

+--+ Mail-Attachment: No Virus found
+--+ IPRIMUS.COM- AntiVirus Service
+--+ <http://www.iprimus.com.au>

Viruses found in the attached files.

The attached file article.DOC.scr is infected by I-Worm/Sober.G. The attachment was removed from the mail.

Make sure you keep your antivirus up-to-date, override the Windows default suppression of file extensions (to show the .scr or whatever on the end), install a firewall and antispam software, and you may stay as free of these things as I try to do. If you don't know how to override the Windows default, go to Hints/Windows/Ways of working/Show extensions on our website and follow the instructions given therein. To get AVG go to Grisoft's website and download and install the free version.

http://hobartpcgroup.org.au/files/hints/Windows/show_endings.htm
<http://www.grisoft.com>

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YOU READ IT ON OUR WEBSITE FIRST

Well you would have if you had checked our Feature Article on broadband. APC's latest issue says "Avoid Bigpond's \$29.95 plan. It only includes 200 MB, any more will cost \$150/GB!" By contrast, APC suggests Bizmail Broadband – 250 MB for \$29.95 and only \$9.00/GB for extra downloads. The best starter plan, in their opinion, is Ozemail OZE256 at \$29.95 per month – 300 MB, plus unlimited usage thereafter at dialup speed.

For a lot of other good broadband information, trot along to your local newsagent, wave a \$10.00 note and ask for APC June 2004. Also check out our article for information on how to evaluate the various broadband plans to choose the one most suitable for you.

Note: The Debian Linux distribution on the APC cover disk is a DVD so you might have to find another \$55 or so for an upgrade, if you don't have a DVD drive in your computer and you want to use the software supplied thereon. There is also a CD with all you need for your new DVD drive!

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QUALITY WEBSITES

There are a billion or so websites out there, but not all of them are worth visiting. Which is just as well because you could never visit them all in a single lifetime (or a married one, even if your spouse helped!).

So how do you find the ones worth visiting. Firstly you can use a search engine or two. Google is the most popular and some browsers now have a Google search bar built in. Turbo10 allows you to use multiple

search engines of your choice, so that's worth a look, too.

Another way is for someone else to do the searching for you, and set up a website listing of the ones that they think are worth visiting. While you may not entirely agree with their selection, at least, they will have eliminated a lot of rubbish, neglected sites and others that just aren't worth your precious time.

One such site is Lynna Perry's <http://www.highindex.com> Lynna has listed many quality websites divided into categories. You'll find a link to our Publishing hints at:

http://www.highindex.com/Computers/Desktop_Publishing/Greeting_Cards

For a short time, she is also featuring us on the home page of her site.

If you are an Adobe application user, you'll appreciate her other site:

<http://www.adobettrainingauthority.com>

Another good source of websites checked and listed by real human beings, not computer robots, is

<http://www.dmoz.org>

This directory/search engine started life as NewHoo. Suggested URLs are evaluated by editors before being added to the appropriate category. Only a small selection of the world's websites are listed on Dmoz, but their credentials have been checked, making the Open Directory Project, as it is known, a good place to start your search for information.

If you want to help build the largest human-edited directory of the web, they are always looking for editors for the various categories. Visit the site for more details.

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WHAT IS THAT FILE?

The subject of downloaded files came up at the last meeting. Members present agreed that usually the filename is quite obscure and, when you come across it in a few months' time, tells you little about the file. Of course, you can start the installation process to find out what the file is, but there is a better way. The technique I explained at the meeting is to have a Download directory divided into sub-directories.

- Click on the Desktop and choose to make a new folder. Name it Downloads. Placing it on the desktop makes it easy to find when you want to install the file you just downloaded.
- When you are asked where to save the file, choose the Downloads folder. When the dialogue box opens, click on the New Folder symbol (a folder with an asterisk) and create a sub-folder, giving it an informative name. The name should tell you what the file is. For example, the downloaded file might be called **imf_fw.zip**, but you would name the folder **Image Forge**.
- If you do a lot of downloading, you may want to divide your Downloads folder into category sub-folders - graphics, office applications, music etc. In that case, you would choose the category sub-folder before creating the application's sub-folder.
- You can record even more information about the download, if you think you may need it. For example, if you need a serial number to install or activate the program, that could be stored with the download file. Here's how:
 - Create an icon for Notepad (or whatever you use for quick notes) on your desktop. Drag the icon down to the Quick Launch area on your Taskbar. Delete the desktop icon, if you wish. Now you can launch Notepad with a single click on the Taskbar.
 - Open Notepad. If you are using the Windows XP version, press F5. This will record the time and date. Then jot down the name of the file and application. Also record what you expect of it. You may be able to copy the information from the website where you obtained the file, as I have done in the example below. If you have been emailed a serial number, copy it into the Notepad files, as well.
- By categorising and documenting your downloads in this manner, you will know what the file is and whether you need to download a later version before installing it. Your entry should read something

like this:

- 10:23 AM 6/05/2004 *imf_fw.zip Image - Forge Standard Freeware Edition - No serial number needed.*

ImageForge provides you with a set of powerful tools for painting and editing images, photos or other graphics. Create and edit images, acquire pictures from your scanner, digital camera or other Twain-compliant device, apply special effect filters, produce your own photo albums and simple slide shows, and much more.

Now when you come across the file long after you have forgotten when it was downloaded, what the application was called and what it was supposed to do, you have something to remind you.

Note: The above hint is just one of the many that you will find on our website.

<http://hobartpcgroup.org.au/files/hints/hint-index.htm>

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PRINTING WEBPAGES

And here's another hint from our website:

Many of the Web sites that you visit in the course of your travels, use frames as a way to divide your browser window into separate panes, each displaying content from different HTML documents.

Using Internet Explorer, when you print a Web page that uses frames, the Print dialogue box (accessed by choosing File, Print or pressing Ctrl+P) gives you Options for printing frames. Explore these options to find the one you need.

Mozilla's Firefox does not give you a direct option of printing a single frame. However, if you check the File menu, you will find an option called This Frame. That will let you open the selected frame in a New Tab or Windows and you can print it from there.

Some browsers don't even give you that option. Instead you will need to shrink the webpage to fit the printer page so that it all fits. In some cases you may get better results by switching to Landscape printing.

Many websites use tables and/or cascading style sheets to control their layout. For them you will need to use the shrinking technique. Try changing the font size using the View menu. Another technique that may be useful is to select the text you want to print and use Print Selection (if available) from your printer options.

<http://hobartpcgroup.org.au/files/hints/hint-index.htm>

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GOOD BUY

As we get closer to the end of the financial year, look out for stocktaking bargains as stores clear out overstocked items. Wholesale prices of some computer components have started to rise due to the fall in the Australian dollar, although some others have fallen very slightly, leaving stocktaking specials as your best chance to get a bargain at the moment. For example, at Harvey Norman I noticed CD-R blanks at 50 for \$20 and they had a few other items at what looked like good prices.

Have a look around and, when you see a bargain, let us all know by sending an email to the HCUG-List. That way we can all benefit.

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