

BYTES & PIECES.

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HIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ON YOUR WEBSITE

If you are planning your own website and want to include your email address so people can contact you, be warned that you could be inviting a heap of spam. A recent study has shown that response email addresses on websites are harvested by spammers, even though this is now illegal in the US under the CAN-SPAM Act. However, there are actions you can take to block this harvesting. For full details see:

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1759,1607176,00.asp>

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ARE YOU THE ONE OF THREE?

A survey of 650,000 computer users recently found 18,000,000 instances of spyware and trojans with one computer in three infected. Of course, you wouldn't be that one, would you? You've read this newsletter and taken its advice to install Ad-aware, Spybot S & D, and/or other anti-spyware products and cleaned your computer up, haven't you? If you haven't, you risk a severe slowdown of your internet connection, invasion of you privacy and more. In the worst case scenario, spyware can actually so clog your dialup connection that you won't be able to browse the Internet.

For more information on this interesting survey and on managing and eliminating spyware, please see:

<http://www.pcw.co.uk/News/1155923>

<http://www.lavasoftusa.com>

<http://safer-networking.org>

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DIGITAL DELAY

When you take a photo with a digital camera there can be a delay of about a second before the photo is taken and then a further delay while the photo is processed and saved. Whilst there is little you can do about the latter, other than buy a camera capable of taking a sequence of photos in rapid succession, there are techniques that will help you get that action shot, despite the camera's "shutter lag" (which isn't just delay in activating the shutter).

Here where you can find more information:

<http://reviews.cnet.com/5208-6130-0.html?forumID=7&threadID=26280&messageID=294892>

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SAFE SURF

1. Use a good antivirus program like Norton or McAfee or AVG and update your virus definitions at least once a week.
2. Run Windows Update at least once a week to make sure you've patched the latest security holes in your operating system.
3. Never double-click on files attached to email messages, regardless of who the message is from, without first checking that file with your antivirus program.
4. Always delete suspicious attachments, or confirm that they are genuine by contacting the sender.
5. View this presentation from NetSquirrel on surfing safely: [Viruses, Cookies, and Spam ... Oh, My! How to Protect Your Computer from the Internet Nasties and How to Fix What's Bugging You on Your PC or Mac](#). In this fun-filled, one-hour presentation you'll learn the field-tested tricks to batten down your home computer's hatches from outside attack, protect your data from virus infestation, and keep your computer running in tip-top shape. You'll also learn how to use tools like MSCONFIG, Apple Software Update, and Internet Explorer's hidden repair tool to fix some common computer problems—including how to stop those annoying pop-up ads once and for all!

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BEST WEBSITES

Tourbus, which is a great source of Internet information, has "completely updated for 2004, ... [its] free, Adobe Acrobat-based PDF file [that] introduces you to some of the greatest websites in the world. If you are looking for information you can start using TODAY—and, more importantly, if you are looking for information you can easily steal and share with your friends and colleagues—DON'T MISS THIS!"

http://www.netsquirrel.com/classroom/2004_tourbus_guide.pdf

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IF CARS WERE SOLD LIKE SOFTWARE ...

John Dvorak tries his hand at humour and makes a valid point or three about software licences:

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1759,1612102,00.asp>

The licence restrictions are bad enough, but have you read the Disclaimer? Imagine if car manufacturers could get away with that. Recalls would be a thing of the past, wouldn't they? But then, who would buy a car if it didn't come with a warranty that it would work as advertised? And why isn't software required to conform to Australia's consumer protection and fair trading laws? Maybe, in this election year, it is a question we should ask the sitting members and their challengers.

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GOT A WINDOWS XP PROBLEM?

If you have, one place you might not think to look is a website called "The Elder Geek". However, it turns out to be a very comprehensive source of help with everything from bare bones troubleshooting to a discussion on the forthcoming version of Windows XP, which Microsoft has chosen to describe as a "service pack" – SP2. This is one site that deserves a place in your bookmarks, or you might even care to order the CD and a year's updates. Sales of the CD and donations are what keep this valuable site on the 'Net. And, of course, don't forget Microsoft's own support site for Windows XP.

<http://theeldergeek.com>
[http://support.microsoft.com/?scid=fh;\[In\];kbhowto](http://support.microsoft.com/?scid=fh;[In];kbhowto)

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VIRTUAL DESKTOP

One feature that Linux offers that Windows doesn't is Virtual Desktops. These enable you to have several applications running on total separate desktops. For example, you want to check your email while some software is installing. If you try to do that on the same desktop, you may find the installation window remains on top, blocking your view of the email. By opening the email program on another desktop you avoid the problem. One up for Linux until now. By installing this free software, you can now have virtual desktops in Windows.

Virtual Desktop will create new desktops for you and let you to switch between desks and windows quickly and easily. Service requires 2MB ram and is open source. 247Kb. Freeware. Found at:

<http://www.tudogs.com/windows9.php>

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WILD TANGENT

AOL caused a stir among users when it introduced AOL Instant Messenger's most recent update, version 5.5. This version installed WildTangent, which most security programs identify as spyware, yet companies such as Hewlett-Packard and Gateway deliver it preinstalled on many of their machines. The WildTangent site (<http://www.wildtangent.com>) says that its Web Driver platform is merely an enabling device for high-quality online games.

Is WildTangent spyware? The company claims that it isn't, but admits that it collects information and I do know that Neil Hutton had some difficulty removing it from his machine. For details of what information WildTangent collects and what it does with it, see:

<http://www.wildtangent.com/default.asp?pageID=privacy>

What upset AOL users was that they were not informed that the update was installing WildTangent and that, in my opinion, was a breach of trust on the part of AOL. When third party applications are installed with an update, we have a right to know. Keep running Ad-aware and similar applications, if you want to know what is being installed on your computer. Otherwise you may find your Internet connection mysteriously slowing down.

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TAMING STYLES

Have you ever altered a paragraph in a Word document only to have the entire document change? "What's going on?" you probably asked. The answer lies in the way Word updates styles.

Styles are a very useful tool when creating large documents. Each time you want to insert a heading, for example, you simply apply the Heading style and your chosen font, point size, colour etc. will be instantly applied.

If you find the entire document updating, it is based on a template that has one or more styles defined to

update automatically when you change the format in your text. In Word 2002 and later, choose Format/Styles/Formatting to open the Styles and Formatting dialogue box. Right-click on a paragraph style and choose Modify to open the Modify Style dialogue box. In the lower-right-hand corner of the dialogue box, just above the OK and Cancel buttons, you'll see the Automatically Update check box.

If the option is checked, every time you apply manual formatting to a paragraph in that style, you redefine the style. Redefining the style, in turn, will change all the paragraphs using that style in your document to match the new definition.

While this may save work in some cases, the automatic updating can cause problems. For example, if you want to change only one paragraph to, say, italics, you do not want the all other paragraphs to change as well. The Undo command (Ctrl-Z) is a useful workaround if that does happen, because the change happens in two steps. First you format the paragraph, and then Word changes the style. Press Ctrl-Z and you undo the second step.

To turn off this behaviour, you need only remove the check from the Automatically Update check box for each style that you don't want to update automatically. You should open the template itself to make the change or changes for all future documents. For already existing documents, you'll have to make the changes in each document individually.

Star- and Open- Office don't have this automatic update option, instead opting to give you total control over the style changes.

To make a change to all instances of a style in the document, pop open the Stylist. Right click on the style you want to change and choose Modify. Make whatever modifications you want and click OK. They will be applied throughout your document.

If you want to change one paragraph, go ahead and do it. The result will not be applied to the rest of the document. If you want it to be applied, highlight the paragraph, pop open the Stylist and click the Update Style button. Simple. And no annoying unwanted updates.

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WINDOWS XP IN YOUR POCKET

A new computer with a 1 Ghz processor and an 800 x 480 pixel screen, which is due to be released in the United States next month, will compete with the conventional slimline notebook, but will fit in your pocket. Once you are back in your office, you dock it in the included docking station and it can then be used as your desktop computer. Packed with features, including 3 hour battery life, check it out at <http://news.com.com/1606-2-5222650.html>. Now who's going to buy me one for Christmas?

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ONE LOOK INTO 970 DICTIONARIES

Imagine being able to search 970 dictionaries at once for that illusive meaning. <http://www.onelook.com> not only lets you do that, but can do a reverse search as well, finding a word that is related to the definition you enter. Definitely one for your Bookmarks/Favorites.

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