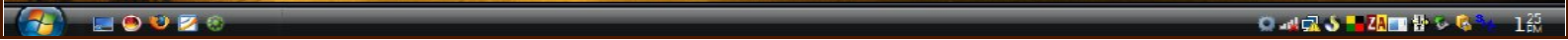


# Keyboard & Mouse

Newsletter of the Hobart Computer Users Group Inc.

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**Our cover:** Not Vista but XP transformed – See *Poor Man's Vista*

# Wireless networking is limited

## Connecting two computers

If you have a laptop and a desktop computer, you will find it an advantage, at times, to connect the two. Depending on the connection you may be able to access broadband from both computers, use the hard drive on the other computer as though it was part of the one you are using, print files to a printer on the other computer, or simply move files from one to the other. It can be done with physical cables or by wireless.

## Laplink

One way it can be done is with a laplink cable – the USB version is probably the best choice. Laplink connection is best suited for moving files from one computer to the other, such as transferring a document you have written on your laptop to your main computer. You just run the laplink software on both computers after plugging in the cable and transfer the files using the interface provided by the software. You can also use a laplink to print documents on a printer connected to the other computer, but you cannot access the Internet.

Older laplink systems used the serial or parallel ports on your

computers. You can still use the serial ports, if your laptop has them, but the results are slow. Windows XP does not support laplinking parallel ports, but earlier versions do and the results are better than can be obtained with serial ports.

## Ethernet

Connection can also be done with an Ethernet cable if your laptop is suitably equipped, either with a built-in port or by using an adapter in either a USB or PCMCIA port. If your desktop doesn't have an inbuilt Ethernet port, the cheapest option is to add a network card in a spare PCI slot. Once the network is setup, you should be able to access a modem connected to the other computer, print via that other computer and access its hard drives as if they were part of the computer you are using.

## Wireless

However, most new laptops have some form of wireless connection built-in, or can have it added again via the USB or PCMCIA ports. You can then add a wireless card to a PCI slot on your desktop computer, or plug a wireless access point into a USB port. This will enable the laptop to link to your desktop computer and share its Internet link, provided the desktop computer is running.

To access the Internet from the laptop without having the

desktop on, assuming that you don't have an expensive wireless Internet service, you need a wireless router. Some of these also include the ADSL modem and that is the neatest solution. However, you can connect a wireless router to your ADSL modem and this is the cheaper way to go, if you already have the modem.

### Pro and cons

A wireless connection gives you freedom to use the laptop elsewhere in the house, instead of be tethered to the desktop. With Windows XP, or Linux, it can be fairly easy to set up.

On the other hand, wireless has a limited range. A new standard IEEE 802.11n is proposed that will both increase the range and the speed. However, the final standard appears to be at least a year away. In the meantime we have N1, which is based on the draft standard, but is subject to the interpretations of the various manufacturers. This limits interoperability of hardware and you need to get the same make of hardware for both machines, or, at least, hardware that uses the same make of chipset.

N2, which is now starting to appear, has been subjected to some interoperability testing and is a better choice if you need to mix and match (e.g. you have a Broadcom wireless link in the laptop, but your router is a different make). I have a TP-Link router and it works quite successfully with the inbuilt Broadcom link in my laptop (at 54Mbps). However,

I get better results using a TP-Link USB or TP-Link PCMCIA wireless link in the laptop.

Most IEEE 802.11n equipment currently on the market will work with other brand equipment but only as 802.11b/g compatible, which means maximum speed is 54Mbps instead of 100+ and with reduced range. Many factors affect range, not the least being the construction of intervening walls. You may therefore need to do some testing to see whether you can get a reliable connection between your two computers.

You may get better results next year when N2 gets here.

### Connecting one computer

There is a use for a wireless link without your owning two computers and that is broadband Internet delivered by wireless. The main provider is Telstra with its Next-G™ network. However, there are others, including Onewire (which offers coverage in some country areas in Tasmania and on the mainland) and Tasmanet (which also offers coverage in Tasmanian country areas).

This kind of wireless allows you to connect from your laptop in any area where the company provides coverage, but it tends to be expensive if you want more than a minimal quota. Check the various companies' websites for more details.

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## Word processing email

Both *Thunderbird* and *Outlook Express* allow you to save emails as **.eml** files but neither *Word 2002* nor *OpenOffice.org 2.1* will open them – they are designed to be opened in your email client. However, there is an easy way to save email so that you can open it in a word processor. This is especially useful for printing *Outlook Express* emails, as it gives much greater control over the printout.

Instead of choosing the default **.eml** when you use *Save As*, drop down the file type menu and choose to save the email as *Text*. Give it a **.txt** ending instead of **.eml** and click *OK*.

When you open the saved **.txt** file in *Word* or *OpenOffice.org*, you will be asked to choose what type of text file it is. Just click *OK* for the default type.

As a final step, you may want to merge the truncated lines. In *Word* just select all the text and click *Format/Autoformat*. In *OpenOffice.org* an additional step may be necessary. Select the text and then change the style (e.g. *Preformatted text*) to *Default*. Now *File/Autoformat* should merge the short lines, unless you have changed the formatting options (under *Tools/Options*). If you, or someone else has, consult *Help* for the correct settings for line mergers.

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## A clarification

Last month we ran an item on how to use Gmail space as a (*strictly unofficial*) file storage system for non-vital files. What the item perhaps didn't make clear is where to get the two applications mentioned. So here's the info:

### **Gmail Drive:**

GMail Drive creates a virtual filesystem on top of your Google Gmail account and enables you to save and retrieve files stored on your Gmail account directly from inside Windows Explorer. GMail Drive adds a new (virtual) drive to your computer under the *My Computer* folder, to which you can drag'n'drop files, and on which you can create new folders. Further information and application download from <http://www.viksoe.dk/gmail>.

### **Gmail Space (Gspace):**

Gspace is a Firefox *extension*. Firefox extensions are added from the Tools menu (*Tools/Extensions* in Firefox 1.x and *Tools/Add-Ons* in Firefox 2.x). Open the *Extensions/Add-Ons* dialogue box and click on *Get Extensions*. When the Extensions site opens enter *Gspace* in the *Find More Add-Ons* search box and you will be taken straight to it. Or try entering <https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/1593> in your browser's address window.

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## Read those newsletters

I had a query from one of our members concerning an error he was getting with Windows XP. Now it just so happens that that very error was covered on page 9 (A5 version) of our December 2006 newsletter.

If the Windows XP *boot.ini* file gets corrupted or is missing, you may get an error message stating that *hal.dll is missing or corrupted*. In our December newsletter we described how to rebuild *boot.ini* to correct that problem and to correct other problems involving *boot.ini*.

Sometimes the only cure for Windows XP problems is to do a reinstall. When you do you will finish up with a little boot menu giving you a choice of the two installations. Of course, only one will work and rebuilding *boot.ini* will enable you to eliminate the unwanted entry.

For a detailed explanation of how to go about the rebuild, go to the *Windows Secrets* (incorporating *Langalist*) website (<http://windowssecrets.com/links/n8pp7t45iwmgd/3719cfh>) and read Fred Langa's *InformationWeek* article. The repair is carried out using the *Recovery Console* and there are articles on Microsoft's support site giving more information about the console and how to use it.

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## Poor man's Vista

The latest incarnation of Windows goes on general sale this month. It is called *Vista* and comes in various versions to suit different users and hardware. You'll need the purchase price and, perhaps, a hardware upgrade to take full advantage of it.

However, if the budget is limited but you would still like to freshen up the look of *Windows XP*, turning it into a pseudo-Vista, it won't cost you anything more than a 31MB download and some precautions in case something goes wrong.

The file you want is called *vtp6.zip* and can be obtained from *MajorGeeks*, source of almost anything for Windows ([http://www.majorgeeks.com/Vista\\_Transformation\\_Pack\\_d4924.html](http://www.majorgeeks.com/Vista_Transformation_Pack_d4924.html)). If you are an Internode customer, be sure to choose the Internode mirror for the download. That way it won't count as part of your monthly total.

Don't do anything with the file just yet. Go instead to Microsoft's support site (<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/304449>) and print out how to use System Restore from a command prompt. Then make sure that System Restore is on and make it set a Restore Point.

- Programs/Accessories/System Tools from the Start

## Menu

- Choose System Restore
- Click on Create a restore point
- Click Next
- Give it a name and click Create

Having made sure you are prepared should something go wrong, you may now unzip the file and run it. Read all dialog boxes very carefully and obey all instructions with regard to running programs, waiting before clicking Cancel, or whatever you happen to strike with the version of the transformation pack that you are using.

While there are some earlier and smaller transformation packs about, this version allows you to pick and choose what you install. If in doubt, leave it out – you can always run the transformation pack again and add additional effects. If you choose to use all of the effects included in the transformation pack, you should end up with something that closely resembles Windows Vista, even to the extent of calling itself Vista.

The transformation pack alters system files. Windows XP will respond by saying that unrecognised files have been installed and demand that you insert your Windows XP disc. Wait for a minute and then click Cancel. Windows will again query you, but ignore the query and proceed with the transformation. Once the transformation is installed, you can

temporarily switch back to the XP look by going to Display/Themes and choosing the Windows XP theme. If you don't really like the Vista look, or the alterations make your computer unstable, run the transformation pack again and remove the whole thing, or just those effects that you dislike, or that are causing problems.

The genuine Windows Vista went on general sale from the end of January and an upgrade to Vista Premium cost about \$180. Upgrading to Basic (oddly) and Ultimate cost more, as do the full retail packs. Most sales in 2007, however, are expected to be with new machines and pundits are advising those not in a hurry to wait for SP1, expected late this year.

To be eligible for the upgrade packages, you must have a genuine copy of Windows XP, which the installation process will verify. Otherwise Vista cannot be installed.

Windows Vista Basic does not include the 3D desktop effects and is designed to run on older hardware. Among the specifications that computer manufacturers must meet before they can use the Vista-capable logo, is 512 MB of RAM. They must also use a modern processor of at least 800 MHz and a DirectX 9 compatible graphics processor. Specs for Premium include 1GB of RAM, and 128 MB of video memory. If your machine can't handle it, and you would like the new look, the transformation pack may be the way to go.

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## Download whole websites

Sometimes you come across a website packed with information, just like our own (<http://hobartpcgroup.org.au>) and would like to study it. Maybe you use dialup and the website has a lot of large PDF files, which you would like to download overnight and read at your leisure without tying up your phone line during the day. Why not download the website on to your computer and run it from there?

There are a number of programs, especially for Windows, that can do this, but none better than WebHTTrack Website Copier.

The Copier is available for most operating systems – Windows 9x/NT/2000/XP; Linux/Unix/BSD; and Mac OS X. You answer a few simple questions, such as what the URL of the website is and where you want to store the files, and the Copier copies the entire site on to your hard drive adding a web browser interface so that you can create groups of related websites. Once you have download a site, you can share it with friends and study it at your leisure.

HTTrack's website says:

*It allows you to download a World Wide Web site from the Internet to a local directory, building recursively all*

*directories, getting HTML, images, and other files from the server to your computer. HTTrack arranges the original site's relative link-structure. Simply open a page of the "mirrored" website in your browser, and you can browse the site from link to link, as if you were viewing it online. HTTrack can also update an existing mirrored site, and resume interrupted downloads. HTTrack is fully configurable, and has an integrated help system.*

The HTTrack site also has screen shots explaining how to install and use the Website Copier, all versions available for

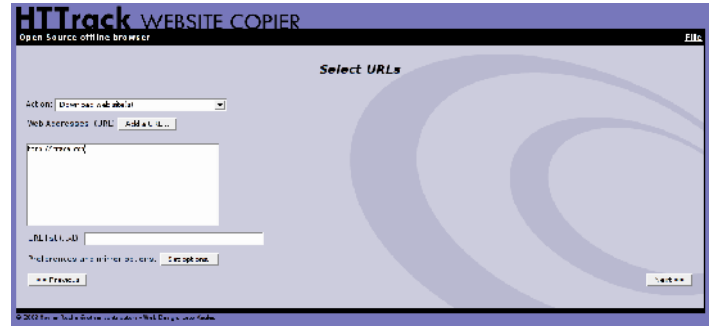


Fig. 1: HTTrack Website Copier's easy to use interface

download, documentation, FAQs, and a forum where you can seek help from other users.

<http://www.httrack.com>

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## OpenOffice.org for dummies

One of the strengths of Microsoft's – and other dominant software products – is the plethora of books telling you how to use them. While open source software will never be as strongly supported with such books, useful titles have already been published. One such is *OpenOffice.org for Dummies*.

I borrowed a copy from the State Library. It features OpenOffice.org 1.1 and comes complete with a CD-ROM disc with OpenOffice.org 1.1 on it.

While there have been changes and improvements to OpenOffice.org, most of what is in the book is still applicable, except that from version 2.0 onwards, OpenOffice.org **does** have a database (called *Base*).

*OpenOffice.org for Dummies*, like all the Dummies books, assumes that you know little, or nothing, about the subject and is careful to explain everything with that in mind. The result is a book which is easy to follow and will firstly show you how to use the basic features of the OpenOffice.org suite.

It will then guide you into the more advanced features, making the book an excellent way to get up to speed with this alternative to the better known, but pricey, Microsoft Office.

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## Snapfish

A while back, in a strange move, Hewlett Packard purchased Snapfish, a company that takes online orders for prints from your digital photos and delivers them (except in Tasmania) through Fujifilm-owned Rabbit Photo. It also offers mail delivery at prices which make small quantities uneconomic – you would be better off printing them at your local photo store.



With Snapfish you can store, organise and share your digital pictures indefinitely, provided you make a purchase from Snapfish at least once a year. There is no limit to the quantity that you may upload and share. You can order prints of any photos in your Snapfish account, whether from digital pictures you have uploaded, or friends' albums shared with you. Sizes available are 6x4, 5x7, 8x10 and 8x12 and prices start at 19c (plus \$2.95 minimum postage).

The website is easy to use and, if you want large quantities of prints, very competitively priced. Even if you don't want to order prints, you could find its storage and sharing facilities useful.

<http://www.snapfish.com.au>

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## Cheap phone calls

Most of you would have heard of Skype and, perhaps, have made free Skype-to-Skype calls using a headset at your computer. Some of you may have considered installing Engin or some other hardware device so that you can make calls over the Internet at much cheaper prices. But what if you could make free phone calls using your phone handset? And is Skype the only player in its particular market?

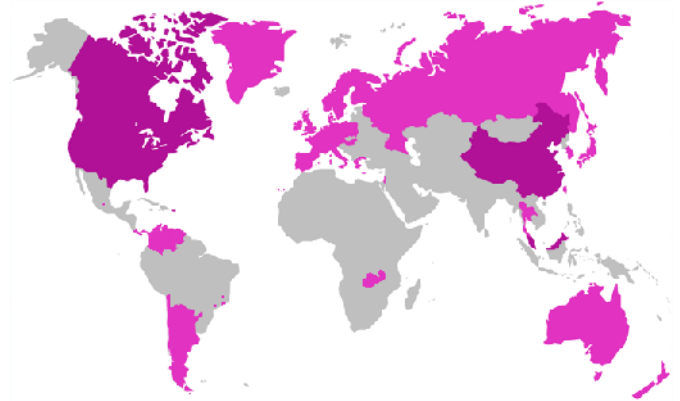
### Jajah

With Jajah, you go to your computer, enter your phone number and the number you want to call, click OK, your phone rings, the phone number you have called rings, both parties pick up their phones and, if both are 'active' Jajah members, the call is FREE! (The catch, if there is one, is in the definition of 'active'.)

What if the other party is not an active Jajah member? Then you will pay 3.5 US cents per minute no matter how far away they are located. You don't need to establish a credit prior to making calls, but you can if you wish; calls are billed periodically; and, of course, if you don't pay the bill, you can no longer access Jajah.

As you can see from the map of the world, Jajah operates in

many countries. In a few, the service extends to mobile phone numbers (at 17.9 US cents per minute). These are shown in a darker colour.



Under the Jajah philosophy, the aim is to bring together Internet telephony and the regular Plain Old Telephone System (POTS) service.

There is no headset, no software to download and install, and no new contract

For further details, check out the website:

<http://www.jajah.com>

## Gizmo Project

Skype has made Internet telephony a completely proprietary service. The Gizmo Project is described in Wikipedia in the following terms:

*Unlike its competitor network Skype, the Gizmo Project network uses open standards for call management, the Session Initiation Protocol and Jabber. But it uses several proprietary codecs, and the Gizmo Project client is closed source like Skype. The Gizmo Project is run by the company SIPphone.*

*Since the Gizmo Project is based on the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), it can interoperate with other SIP-based networks directly. ... This includes the popular PBX program Asterisk, the Earthlink service, and Ekiga. This avoids the phone system and is thus free of charge. Gizmo also will use encryption (SRTP) for Gizmo to Gizmo calls and works well with Phil Zimmermann's new Zfone secure add on.*

*The Gizmo Project software also has features that Skype lacks, or offers at an additional fee. Interoperability with other systems and services via the SIP standard, built-in recording and free voicemail are the main advantages that Gizmo has over Skype. Gizmo also allows paid members of*

*LiveJournal to make 'voiceposts' if they are unable to use the voicepost telephone lines provided by the website.*

*The text chat function of Gizmo Project utilizes the Jabber protocol. Users using Gizmo can be reached through the Jabber protocol at `username@chat.gizmo-project.com`*

### **Free calls to landline/mobile phones**

*The Gizmo project offers free calls from a computer to the landline/mobile phones of other Gizmo users. However, there are strings attached ... This service is available for landlines in 60 countries and mobile phones in 17 of them.*

## Gizmo Call

In news just to hand (31 January 2007), the Gizmo Project has expanded its offerings to include a similar service to Jajah. There are, however, a number of differences. Notably, where Jajah uses your phone handset, Gizmo Call is computer-based. The Gizmo Project is, run by the company SIPphone. Michael Robertson of MP3.com and Lindows/Linspire fame is the founder of SIPphone and here's the announcement from his newsletter *Michael's Minute* ([http://www.michaelrobertson.com/archive.php?minute\\_id=230](http://www.michaelrobertson.com/archive.php?minute_id=230)):

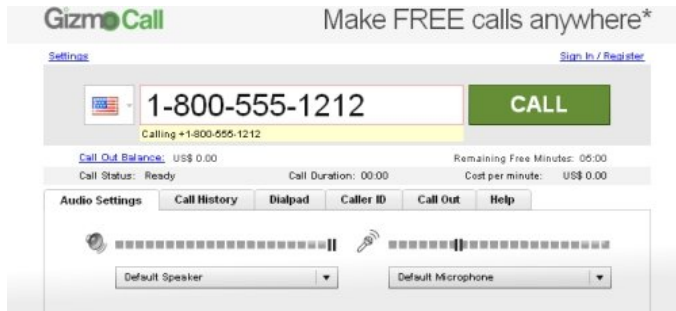


Fig. 2: Gizmo Call interface

*Making phone calls from a computer should be as easy as typing a URL, and with the release of [GizmoCall.com](http://gizmocall.com) - a new service from [SIPphone](http://sipphone.com) - it is. Typing <http://gizmocall.com/18005551212> is all it takes. And it's not just easy, but free. You can get 10 minutes of free calling per day to call just about any phone number in the world (sorry Antarctica). Before Gizmo Call, you had to download a big program, install it, register for an account and buy calling minutes. With Gizmo Call, you just install a Flash plug-in into your web browser and begin talking.*

*With Gizmo Call, people can call a wide range of numbers and devices, but there's a more clandestine*

*strategy at work. Gizmo Call lets you dial numbers for almost any country - even mobile phones - by typing them into the number field at [gizmocall.com](http://gizmocall.com) or simply typing a [gizmocall.com](http://gizmocall.com) URL into a browser. This will take you to the [GizmoCall.com](http://GizmoCall.com) web site and load the flash plugin (if you don't have it), and you're ready to talk. It's the easiest way to initiate a call. Talking for 10 minutes per day is free to registered users with unregistered users getting 5 minutes per day.*

*Longer calls require the purchase of Call Out minutes which provides a low cost way to do calling. There are many calls you can make with no per minute charge whatsoever: Gizmo Project users, GoogleTalk, Windows Live, enum numbers, [GUPS](http://GUPS.com) or any SIP number.*

*You can also use [GizmoCall.com](http://GizmoCall.com) to call WiFi devices like the Nokia n80ie and n800. International users now even have access to previously blocked US 800/888 numbers with no per minute charge. We do charge \$4 for custom CallerID which you can set so that Gizmo calls will look like they are coming from your mobile or office phone.*

*Now, it might seem like a small development to have a calling system which uses a web browser, but it's*

significant because it makes it **much** easier for anyone to use. Let me give you an illustration.

In 2002, my former company [MP3.com](http://MP3.com) launched [MP4.com](http://MP4.com). Our artist publishing engine let musicians from around the world sign-up for free and publish their music. This pioneering user generated content technology helped create the world's largest digital music company. So it seemed natural to extend this strategy to video and that's what we did with a domain I registered [MP4.com](http://MP4.com), only it didn't work out. There weren't loads of videos on the net at the time. More problematic was that to play any of the videos required a software download. We did our best to offer all the common formats (quicktime, windows media, real, mp4), but it was just too complicated for people to have to do a software download.

A few years later YouTube sprung onto the scene and became an overnight sensation with the same strategy, but there were two big differences. The first was YouTube published obviously unauthorized music videos, clips from major movies and tv shows and sports highlights. Back at [MP3.com](http://MP3.com) we previewed every piece of content before publishing it and rejected any piece containing even a few seconds of commercial material unless we were

provided [with] written authorization.

The other major difference was YouTube used Flash to play the videos. Adobe added video support to Flash in 2002 and by the time YouTube launched just about everyone had this newer version. This meant that videos just started playing with no issues with video formats or media players and a consumer wave was born. Gizmo Call can do for VOIP, what YouTube did for video – create a consumer wave by making anyone with a browser able to play.

My plan with Gizmo Call is to offer phone calls that will feel free because they are paid for with advertising. The popularity of free email services, news services and community sites demonstrates that people will often choose ad sponsored services over paid ones.

Because Gizmo Call is written in flash we can insert advertisements into the experience in a helpful manner. If you call 1-800-FLOWERS we can tell you about the great San Diego-based company [ProFlowers](http://ProFlowers) which is running Valentine's Day specials starting at [US] \$29.95 and offer to connect you to them at: [1-800-580-2913](tel:1-800-580-2913). If you need a plumber or a pizza just dial those words and we'll pop up a list of vendors you can talk to for those

*services. Not everyone will want advertising in and around their calls, but Google has proved that targeted advertising is actually useful and that's what we will strive for.*

*There's no advertising yet on Gizmo Call which is why free calls are limited to just 10 minutes. Eventually we'll have text, audio and video advertising - let your mind run with that one! Until then, use [Gizmo Call](#) to make some free calls and let me know how it works for you!*

-- MR

I've quoted the full text of *Michael's Minute*, because it makes clear the direction that Gizmo Call is taking and shows what Michael has learned from a previous experience. If this service is as successful as MP3.com or even Linspire, many of us will be making Gizmo Calls quite soon.

## VoXaLot's WebCallback

Like Jajah, Web Callback allows you to make calls using your normal phone, but sending the calls over VoIP services instead of Telstra's network. ("VoIP" stands for "Voice over Internet Protocol" - voice calls via the Internet).

Unlike Jajah, Web Callback requires both parties to subscribe to VoIP providers of their choice, which must be capable of

handling SIP calls. You can then connect those two services. No special equipment is required, other than an Internet-capable computer to set up the calls. During the current trials, the interconnection is free.

Web Callback works like this: You have a VoIP service that allows you to make untimed calls within Australia for 10c. Your US friend has a similar service that allows untimed calls with USA for 8c. By combining these two, you can make untimed calls to your friend for just 18c.

VoXaLot, who provide the Web Callback service, also offer other VoIP options, including the use of more than one VoIP service so that you can take advantage of the cheapest rates on offer. Check out their Dial Plans, SIP-phone Dialing, Voicemail and Enum Routing (which can give free calls) on their website for more details.

<http://www.voxalot.com/action/static?itemOID=15>

## It's your choice

The computer world is full of choices. While Skype has been the most successful of the computer/telephone services, Jajah doesn't require a headset, Gizmo Call gives free 10 minute calls to phone numbers almost anywhere, and VoXaLot offers perhaps the cheapest calls. Choose one, or all of them, according to your needs.

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## Check, don't send

Periodically, you may receive an email that urges you to send some vital warning to everyone on your mailing list. Don't! Check out what the email claims instead. Consider this:

*Subject: PLEASE FORWARD THIS WARNING AMONG ALL YOUR CONTACTS*

*Be alert during the next few days: Don't open any message with an attached file called "Invitation", regardless of who sent it. It's a virus that opens an Olympic Torch that "burns" the whole hard disk of your computer. This virus will come from someone who has your e-mail address; that's why you should send this e-mail to all your contacts. It's better to receive this message 25 times than to receive the virus DON'T open it and shut down your computer immediately ... This is the worst virus announced by CNN, it's been classified by Microsoft as the most destructive virus ever. The virus was discovered by McAfee yesterday, and there's no repair yet for this particular virus. It simply destroys the Zero Sector of the Hard Disk, where vital information is kept.*

*Also:- Emails with pictures of Osama Bin-Laden hanged are being sent and the moment you open these emails your computer will crash and you will not be able to fix it! This e-mail is being distributed through countries around the globe. Don't be inconsiderate; send this warning to*

*whomever you know. If you get an email along the lines of "Osama Bin Laden Captured" or "Osama Hanged" don't open the attachment.*

*SEND THIS E-MAIL TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW*

Alarming, isn't it!? But checking it out is very simple. It claims that CNN, Microsoft and McAfee have all made pronouncements about the virus. Therefore, a search for "Invitation" "Olympic Torch" and "virus" should yield further information. Try it. The results are most interesting:

Of the first ten Google results, eight of the abstracts used the word "hoax", one used "fiction" and the tenth took me to a McAfee website, which deal with hoaxes! And their advice on what to do about the email: "Delete it".

Why, then do people start these hoaxes? Usually because they are too stupid to write a "real" virus, but sufficiently anti-social to want to crash the email system. When you send such messages on, you are doing their work for them. (Do you **really** want to be branded "stupid" and "anti-social"?)

The extra volume of data that such hoaxes generate may crash servers and has to be paid for by someone. And ultimately it is all email users who bear the cost. So don't send it on. Check it out and then delete it. Whatever you do, don't send it to me, p-l-e-a-s-e!!!

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## Clean Vista upgrade

Unlike earlier versions of Windows, the Vista installation DVD will not accept an uninstalled copy of an earlier version of Windows as qualification to use the upgrade version. It is intended only to be installed over an operational version of the earlier product.

However, *Windows Secrets* recently detailed a method whereby a clean install of Vista can be done from the upgrade DVD. This method is not approved by Microsoft and may even constitute a violation of the End User Licence Agreement (EULA). While it is highly unlikely that clean installs will be detected by Microsoft and disabled by some future update, *Window Secrets* does not recommend that businesses use this method. Another circumstance where you might prefer not to use this method is where you have three machines. The full retail pack can be installed on up to three home computers and this would be cheaper than buying an upgrade pack for each.

With those warnings out of the way, here's where you can find the detailed instructions, which, if followed carefully, will allow you to do a clean install from an upgrade DVD:

<http://windowssecrets.com/comp/070201/#story1>

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## The latest threats

Where can you find details of the latest virus threats? And details of specific removal tools from several different specialists? Where can you get a tool to check whether you have the latest Microsoft updates installed? Or news of Solaris operating system vulnerabilities?

There is one website which can give you all this information and more. It is called Secunia. According to their website:

*Secunia believe that vulnerability information should be freely available, allowing IT-professionals to stay informed about vulnerabilities and security issues in the products they use. Secunia issues vulnerability intelligence free of vendor ties and our aim is to be the best in the world in providing highly credible vulnerability intelligence to as many people as possible.*

While you may not be an IT-professional, having one website to go to for information on the latest viruses and from which to get tools for dealing with them, is something most computer users should appreciate. Secunia is located at:

<http://www.secunia.com>

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