

THE GIFT OF LEARNING

The holiday season is upon us once more. We are all rushing to find the perfect gifts for the ones we love. At WindowWalk, we believe the best gift is the gift of learning. What could be better than giving our family and friends the opportunity to increase their knowledge through education. The current economic trend is "knowledge-based". Now, more than ever, it is important to stay up-to-date with current technology and software. Give a WindowWalk Computer Education gift certificate this year and give the gift that keeps on giving.

At WindowWalk Computer Education, we offer our students a unique "pay by the course, not by the hour" policy that ensures no time pressures or extra charges. Our students learn at their own pace and at their own convenience in relaxed and familiar surroundings. TAME THAT MONSTER with the help of our professional instructors. Call today for your Free Consultation and take an active part in your computer education. We hope you enjoy our newsletters and look forward to hearing from you soon. Happy Holidays!

SAY WHAT!?

Sound like a Computer Wizard

ETHERNET Ethernet is the most widely-installed local area network (LAN) technology. The most commonly installed Ethernet systems are called 10BASE-T and provide transmission speeds up to 10 Mbps.

FIREWALL Firewall software is used to protect an Internet-connected computer from virus damage. A firewall allows only certain messages from the Internet to flow in and out of a computer.

TEMPLATE A document that is pre-formatted in some way. For example, a letterhead template saves you from inserting the company logo and typing the address and phone number each time you create a letter.



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SURFIN' SAFARI

Some Useful and Interesting Web Sites

RootsWeb www.rootsweb.com
Rootsweb offers more genealogy tools that most fee-based sites, along with access to a vast community of fellow ancestry hunters.

Bartleby www.bartleby.com
This online library is one of the Net's true gems. Read literary masterpieces, historical documents, scientific papers, philosophical treatises, and

iExplore www.iexplore.com
iExplore has a range of adventure vacations from safari to food and wine excursions. iExplore provides experts to field your questions and it can hook you up with vacation packages.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

Quick Descriptions of Popular Software

AD-AWARE

Ad-aware fights back against programs called adware or spyware. These programs, often installed without your knowledge, send information about your surfing habits to ad companies, which, in turn, send you more pop-up ads. Ad-aware can help by checking for and deleting tiny spy programs from your computer. But that's all it does. If you want to clear all evidence of your Web surfing, such as your browser's history files and temp files, you'll have to get software like AdSubtract Pro or Guard-IE.



HARDWARE HELPER

TOP FIVE SCANNERS

Epson Perfection 2400 Photo

CNET Rating: 8 out of 10

With its high resolution and 48-bit color depth, the Perfection 2400 Photo should appeal to professionals, but slight imperfections in image quality make it more suited for hobbyists.

Epson Perfection 2450 Photo

CNET Rating: 8 out of 10

The Perfection 2450 Photo offers the kind of advanced features imaging professionals will love, including a 2,400x4,800dpi (dots per inch) resolution, a built-in 4x9-inch transparency unit, and an advanced image-capture driver with a multitude of fine-tuning controls. It also delivers impressive output and comes with a versatile

Canon CanoScan N1240U

CNET Rating: 8 out of 10

The CanoScan N1240U features an attractive thin and lightweight design, making it easy to carry with you on the road. It also offers solid image quality and a generous software package that includes an OCR program, two photo editors, and a photo album program that can write to a CD-R.

HP ScanJet 5400c

CNET Rating: 7 out of 10

The ScanJet 5470c cranked out the fastest scans we've seen to date in this price range. It also managed to produce good output quality, and with a max resolution of 2,400dpi (dots per inch), there's plenty of room to crank it up for more important scans. The company also includes an

Microtek ScanMaker 6700

CNET Rating: 7 out of 10

The ScanMaker 6700 offers an impressive package for the price. You can connect the scanner via your computer's USB or FireWire port. Don't have the latter? Microtek includes a PCI FireWire card in the box. It also features a nice collection of software, including includes Microtek's LAN Wizard, which lets you save money by sharing the scanner with



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and software reviews

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SOFTWARE SEARCH

PAINT SHOP PRO 7

Photoshop is still the best in the field, but if you need a user-friendly, powerful image editor, Paint Shop Pro is an affordable alternative.

You just gotta love software that plays David to Adobe Photoshop's Goliath, and Jasc Software's Paint Shop Pro does just that. In fact, for about \$500 less, you get a program that's almost as good as Photoshop. For example, Paint Shop Pro's vector drawing tools are so tightly integrated into the program--making them much easier to learn and use--that they beat Photoshop's hands down. This program is feature-packed and robust enough for professional-caliber image editing yet easy enough for artists of all skill levels.

Paint Shop Pro is a good choice for both novice and intermediate image editors. Graphics professionals will probably want to stick with Photoshop, but for pros on a budget who need a fast, friendly, powerful image editor, Paint Shop Pro is the way to go.

CNET Rating: 8 out of 10

The Good New special effects are easy to apply; automatic color adjustment simplifies color management for novice users.

The Bad Web tools are hard to find; no color-match (CMYK) preview; hard-to-find ICM support; still not available for Mac.



SURFERS BEWARE

Hoaxes and Scams on the Internet

THE NIGERIAN FEE SCAM



A new con game appearing in email inboxes circumvents the bulk mail blocks of most email programs by using a blind carbon copy (Bcc). The email is personalized and is usually from a political refugee in (or escaped from) various areas in Africa. You are asked to provide your bank account information in exchange for a percentage of many millions of US dollars that can't leave Africa without your help.

This is an oldie, and a real baddie. The basic line goes like this:

"I represent some high mucky muck who wants to get a lot of suspicious money out of my country, and we need help from you to do it. We'll pay you stupid amounts of cash to be a front person."

The system escalates until you've got money

sunk into the scam, and they want you to visit the country in question in person. There have been people who played along with this and never made it home alive. Originally this was focused through Nigeria, but with recent events, you may hear about Taliban leaders wanting help, or people from other war-torn countries. Don't respond to these people in any way. People die falling for this one.

FYI -- Hoaxes and Scams

- ScamWatch: www.scamwatch.com
- ScamBusters: www.scambusters.com
- Vmyths: www.vmyths.com
- HoaxKill: www.hoaxkill.com
- HoaxBusters: hoaxbusters.ciac.com
- Hoax Squad: www.hoaxsquad.com
- Urban Legends: www.snopes.com
- ScamWatch: www.scamwatch.com
- ScamBusters: www.scambusters.com

WindowWalk Computer Education

MAILBAG

How can I clean up the clutter left on my computer from surfing the Internet?

You can clean up your surfing clutter by clearing out several folders on your hard drive. First, in Internet Explorer, select Tools, then Internet Options. At the bottom of the General tab, click the Clear History button. Next, open Windows Explorer and navigate to the Windows folder. Open the Cookie folder and delete all of the cookie files. Finally, open the Temp Internet Files folder and delete all of the files.



TIPS AND TRICKS

Set Desktop Wallpaper Directly From Internet

You can change your desktop wallpaper easily while surfing the Internet. Surf to find a picture you like and right-click the picture. Select the Set as Wallpaper option. The picture will automatically appear on your desktop, replacing the current wallpaper. You can also copy or move any .BMP file into the Windows folder on your C: drive to add that picture to the list of available wallpapers in the Control

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Community Services

The Halifax Regional Library offers free computer access to the public. Online internet tutorials are also available free of charge.

490-5718 www.halifax.library.ns.ca

Access low cost computer training at the Dartmouth Seniors' Centre. Call or email for more information.

465-5578 dartmouthseniors@ns.sympatico.ca

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