

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

There are very few of our day-to-day activities that do not involve a computer these days. Technological advances are being made at an alarming rate and we are hard-pressed to keep up, let alone start out fresh. Many people feel that starting to learn at this advanced state of technology is too difficult, but that's just not true. Having a teacher by your side while you learn will give you the confidence you need to use your computer to its fullest potential.

At WindowWalk Computer Education, we offer our students a unique "one course, one price" policy that ensures no time pressures or extra charges. 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.



SAY WHAT!?

Sound like a computer wizard

DRIVERS Little pieces of software that your computer uses to talk to an added component, like a printer, modem, CD drive, and some monitors. If the driver is not present, the component won't work. Your computer may not even know the component is plugged in unless the driver is correctly installed.

NETWORK A network (as applied to computers) typically means a group of computers working together. It can also refer to the physical wire etc. connecting the computers.

COOKIE A cookie is a small file that a web page on another machine writes to your personal machine's disk to store various bits of information. Many people strongly detest cookies and the whole idea of them, and most browsers allow the reception of cookies to be disabled or at least selectively disabled.

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SURFIN' SAFARI

Some useful and interesting web sites

AudioGalaxy www.audiogalaxy.com
At AudioGalaxy, up-and-coming bands post their own MP3's for your listening pleasure. You can also use AudioGalaxy Satellite software to share tunes with other music lovers.

ZDNet www.zdnet.com
This site offers critiques of sleek laptops and digital cameras along with less glamorous stuff like CD burners and software utilities. Reviews include long lists of specifications covering every port, plug, jack, and socket in your computer.

How Stuff Works www.howstuffworks.com
If you want to keep the gang spellbound with fascinating stories of how nuclear radiation, kidneys, and web servers work, the hundreds of illustrated, easy-to-follow tutorials here are exactly what you need.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

Quick descriptions of popular software

WINZIP

Many files that you download from the internet will be zip files. Zip files are archives used for distributing and storing files. Zip files can contain one or more files. Usually the files archived in a Zip are compressed to save space. Winzip will open automatically when you double-click a zip file in Windows Explorer or on your Desktop. Follow the easy-to-understand instructions to unzip your file.



HARDWARE HELPER

TOP FIVE BUDGET HANDHELDS



Palm Vx

CNET Rating: 8 out of 10

For Palm OS fans, we heartily recommend the stylish and thin Palm Vx. It, too, is an older model that's been significantly discounted. But it'll still serve you well as an electronic organizer, and it will run all the latest Palm applications.

Handspring Visor Edge (Metallic Silver)

CNET Rating: 7 out of 10

Another appealing choice is the Visor Edge, which you'll find selling for roughly the same price as the Vx. It has a slightly larger screen that's a bit easier to view, a faster processor, and a Springboard adaptor to which you can attach all sorts of PDA accessories.

Handspring Visor Platinum (Silver)

CNET Rating: 7 out of 10

The Visor Platinum is a little thicker than the Edge but has a built-in Springboard slot, which is convenient if you plan to use Springboards every day. This model is a good choice if basic organizer functions are

the most important to you.

Palm m130

CNET Rating: 7 out of 10

The m130 almost doesn't qualify as a budget PDA, but we recommend it to those shopping for an affordable Palm with a color screen since text tends to be easier to read on color models. Plus, this model has a Secure Digital (SD) card slot for adding more memory.

Palm m105

CNET Rating: 7 out of 10

We've seen this model selling online for less than \$100, making it the least expensive PDA that we can still heartily endorse. Despite its low price, it has everything you need in a budget PDA, including 8MB of RAM to store contact, calendar, and other info.



www.cnet.com
for the full hardware
and software reviews

SOFTWARE SEARCH

ZONE ALARM PRO 3.0

Until recently, digital burglars didn't bother tinkering with home computers. But since many home PCs are now hooked up to always-on DSL and cable connections, the data they contain is a tempting target. That's why you need a firewall, software that protects your information. Fortunately, ZoneAlarm Pro 3.0 defends your machine from hackers, eradicates ads, and sniffs e-mail for possible Trojan horses. It's easy enough for anyone to set up and use, and it offers sufficient options and flexibility to keep power users content. For total protection against Internet maladies, we still recommend Norton AntiVirus 2002 as a worthy companion. But Windows users who need only a firewall can't go wrong with ZoneAlarm Pro 3.0.

If the \$50 ZoneAlarm Pro 3.0 is outside your budget, there's always the free ZoneAlarm 2.6.362. The freebie doesn't include many of Pro's better features, including ad blocking, cookie management, and the extra info that Alert Advisor provides, but its firewall heart beats just as strongly.

From its interface overhaul to its superb graphical information about hack attacks, ZoneAlarm Pro 3.0 gets a big thumbs-up.

CNET Rating: 8 out of 10

The Good

Includes an ad-blocking tool and cookie management; hides PC ports from hackers; new interface is easier to use.

The Bad

Doesn't include antivirus defense; no phone support; no Mac version.

The Bottom Line

ZoneAlarm Pro 3.0 is as good as personal firewalls get. Although you'll still need an antivirus product to completely protect your PC, we think that the extras in ZoneAlarm Pro are worth the cash--free alternative or not.

SURFERS BEWARE

Hoaxes and Scams on the Internet

FIVE COMMON INTERNET SCAMS



Business Opportunities Scams

These offers make it sound like it is very easy to start a business that will earn piles of money without much work, selling or cash. Many of these "opportunities" are actually illegal pyramid schemes or frauds that are masquerading as legitimate opportunities to earn money.

Work-At-Home-Schemes

The most common work-at-home scam promises that you'll earn money for stuffing envelopes. For example, you're promised you'll earn \$2.00 for every envelope you stuff. In fact, there never is any real envelope stuffing employment available. Instead, you pay to register and then you're instructed to send the same envelope-stuffing ad via bulk e mail to others. The only money you can earn would come from others who fall for the scam and pay to register. Finally, if you did actually do work for one of these outfits (for example, some promise to pay you for craft work), they'd refuse to pay you and say your work didn't measure up to their "quality standards."

Free Goods

These offers promise expensive items such as computers... for free. They ask you to pay a fee to join, and then you have to bring in a certain number of other members. Many of these scams are just disguised pyramid schemes.

Guaranteed Loans or Credit Scams

There are lots of variants of this scam: home equity loans that don't require any equity in your home, loans regardless of your credit history, offshore bank loans, credit cards regardless of your credit history, etc. Sometimes these offers are combined with pyramid schemes that offer to pay you for attracting other participants to the scheme. However, they are scams - the loans don't come through, you are turned down unless you meet stringent requirements, or the credit cards simply don't arrive.

Credit Repair Scams

These scams promise to erase accurate negative information from your credit file so that you can now qualify for loans, mortgages, or credit cards. The promoters of these scams cannot deliver. Further, if you follow their advice and lie on a loan or credit application, misrepresent your Social Security number, or get an Employer Identification number from the Internal Revenue Service under false pretenses, you will be committing fraud and violating federal laws. Don't fall for this scam.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Further, don't buy anything via bulk e-mail (spam). Your chances of being scammed are astronomical.

See www.scamwatch.com for full article.

FYI -- Hoaxes and Scams

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

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Contest ends
December 31, 2002

MAILBAG

I put some files in the Recycle Bin and now realize that I need them again. Can I restore my deleted files?

Yes, you can restore your deleted files! Provided, of course, that you haven't emptied your Recycle Bin recently. When you send a file to the Recycle Bin it remains there until emptied. You can restore a file to its original location by double-clicking the Recycle Bin icon on your desktop, finding and clicking the file in question in the list of files, then clicking File and Restore. When you are quite sure that you no longer need any of the files in the Recycle Bin you can click Empty Recycle Bin and permanently remove the files. Some utility cleaner programs empty the Recycle Bin automatically, so be careful when you are throwing away files.

SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS!
mailbag@windowwalk.com



HELP! HELP!

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SALES & SERVICE 420-1212
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Notebook Toshiba Cel 1.3 256 Mb DVD/CDRW \$2,080
 Notebook Toshiba P4 1.6 256 Mb DVD/CDRW \$2,478
 Desktop Aopen Duron 1.0 128 Mb 40 GB \$649

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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

Relax your Mind


Alo'Toole Travel

Tel: 44-FUN-33
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 Email: alotoole@hfx.eastlink.ca
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Whatever the Venue - We'll really send You!

TIPS AND TRICKS
Add Addresses Automatically in Outlook 2000

Select Tools from the menu and then Options. Go to the Preferences tab and click on E-mail Options. Make sure Automatically put people I reply to in is selected and chose the folder you want newly added addresses to appear in. When you select this option every email address that you reply to will be inserted in your Outlook Address Book.



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Robert Carr 3rd Dan ITF
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Get your Kicks out of Life!

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