



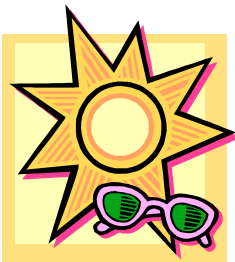
Kokomo PC Users Group



A great Users Group is the most important accessory you can have for your computer !

Presidents Message

by: Mark Pendergast - Da Prez



Welcome to another HOT issue of the newsletter. Just a reminder that we are moving to an email format for the newsletter. You need to send your email address to kpcc@insightbb.com to get signed up. We will continue to send out snail mail for a couple more months, but we need to move to the new format to avoid deficit spending.

If you have any tips or tricks for improving our enjoyment of our PCs, please write them up in a short article for the newsletter. We would love to hear how clever you are and would like to learn your secrets. This is a great way to provide a service to the Group. You can also earn User Bux for each full page of original text.

If you have a computer passion you would like to share with the Group, we would love to have you present it at one of our regular meetings. Some of our best presentations come from our own Group members talking about the programs and hardware they love. Just let one of the officers know that you would like to present and what topic you will be presenting. This is a great way to provide a service to the Group. You can also earn User Bux for providing a presentation.

If you feel that you would like to become involved in the leadership of the Group, please volunteer to be an officer. We are looking for warm bodies ... I mean visionary leaders to participate in the leadership of the Group. Just contact one of the current officers and we will put you to work changing the destiny of the Group.

We continue to offer warm hospitality and engaging meetings. Please take a moment to invite a friend (or enemy for that matter) to one of our regular meetings. We offer first class presentations, good fellowship and an informative question and answer period. If they join our group they will also receive our wonderful newsletter, mailed directly to their home or office. A good Users Group is the most important accessory you can get for your computer.



Many people are confused about the difference between MS Publisher and MS Word. By far more people use MS Word. So what is the big deal . They both allow you to make documents - right?

The difference between these two programs is more philosophical than practical. It is more about how you approach creation of a document and what is easier to do using one approach as opposed to the other. It is more like the difference between a Trans Am and a pickup truck. The same general idea, but much different priorities.



MS Word is probably the most used program on the planet. It allows us to write text and format it into a pretty document. You fire it up and just start typing. When you are done, you add some page breaks, clip art, and maybe a header and footer. Pretty simple stuff.

MS Publisher is available to many people as part of Works or MS Office bundles, but most people never even fire it up. The first difference most people notice is that when you fire it up you cant just start typing text - it has nowhere to go. With Publisher you do the process backward. You format a pretty document, then you add the text. A subtle point, but one that makes all the difference in the world. So the equivalent steps to get started are: You fire it up and design a document layout. When you are done, you add some text and clip art into the format. This requires a little more thought up front.

So now we know how these tools approach document creation - what does that mean?

The first thing to understand is that both tools, for the most part, can create any document that you can think of. From the simplest letter to the most complex newsletter or product catalog. The big difference is in the amount of effort to get the job done. I could deliver a ton of sand in my Trans Am, but it would be more work than it would be if I used my pickup truck.

When you want to capture a bunch of text with some simple formatting you can't beat MS Word. For letters to the editor, the Great American Novel or anything in between it is very easy to use. Just start typing and add a little formatting when you are done.

This page to page flow model is the classic 'Word Processor' model. It is the type of work that was done on typewriters in the past. Most people understand this mode of operation and it is very easy to learn. It is basically what you do when you sit down with a blank sheet of paper and start writing. The word process or really adds the convenience of going

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back and editing the text after you have written it. Cut and paste paragraphs around. Add table of contents, index, headers, footers, and special paragraph styles.

The way you use MS Publisher is a mystery to most people. The fact that you can't just open it up and start typing is probably the reason most people don't use it. But, when you want something to look just the way you want it to look and you have a complex mix of text, pictures and other elements it is hard to beat.

This layout first model is the classic 'Desktop Publishing' model. It is the type of work that was done by cutting and pasting bit of paper onto layout boards in the past. This is not the kind of work most people do naturally. (Unless you made up a poster for an event by cutting and pasting together individual pictures and text to make a flyer for some event.

The Desktop publisher adds the convenience of being able to move the elements around electronically and flowing text from frame to frame.

I am sure most of you are well aware if the benefits of using a word processor, so I will focus on how to make the most of a desktop publisher like MA Publisher. (Also be aware that although MS Word is a high end word processor, MS Publisher is a very low end desktop publisher. There are desktop publishers that cost thousands of dollars and have ten times the features of MS Publisher - Yikes!)

To begin using a desktop publisher, you need to know what your document will look like when it is done. (Not what the content will be , but how it will be laid out.)

Now most of you will say - I have no idea how I want it to look. An that is usually a sticking point with anew publication. The answer is templates and wizards. When you start up MS Publisher it provides you with a selection of templates and wizards to create anything from newsletters to forms to catalogs to greeting cards. Just select one that looks interesting and fill in your content. It is just that easy. (Just kidding.) In reality there is usually not a template that you can use one hundred percent, but you can usually find one that is close - or two or three that have elements that you want.

The best way to learn to use a desktop publisher is to use one of the templates and tear it apart. The best part about modern computer tools is that you can right click on anything and get the properties. Just right click on all the cool stuff in the template you chose and see how it was made. (For the most part this is how I learned to use MS Publisher. I took newsletter and flyer templates and slowly took them apart. I right clicked on elements I thought

MS Publisher versus MS Word

by Mark Pendergast

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were interesting and looked at their properties. Then I would delete them and try to reconstruct them back the way they were.

After tearing down and rebuilding several template newsletters I was ready to do my own. I selected a template that was close to what I wanted and began to alter it to my needs. I removed elements that I didn't want added in things I had seen in other templates. I moved things around and reshaped them to meet my desires. When I was all done with the formatting I added my text. My first efforts were pretty simple and I wasn't always happy with them, but they were much cooler that what I could have done with MS Word.

That has really been the reason I have stuck with MS publisher. I can get really cool looking layouts with much less effort than I can in MS Word.

(Anyone who has tried to get a picture to stay where they want it in an MS Word document will know what I mean.)

Hope this gives you the courage and encouragement you need to try MS Publisher. It is a good tool for a variety of jobs.

AOL is free - sort of

by: Mark Pendergast



AOL has announced that it will start providing AOL services to Broadband users for free. If you are using dialup access, you will still need to keep paying your service fee every month.

As a free user you will get the same AOL email and content as the dialup subscribers do. In fact if you have left AOL in the past year or so you can even get your old AOL email address back. If you leave AOL now - to go to broadband - you can keep your email address.

This is all part of AOL's attempt to reinvent itself after losing out to the broadband internet service providers, and Google and Yahoo. They have lost 3 million subscribers in the past year.

They believe that their content will bring in more revenue from online advertising than they will lose from lost subscriptions. AOL also plans to cut \$1 billion in expenses in the next year to stay competitive.

Microsoft Windows Vista

by: Mark Pendergast



Well it looks like Windows Vista will be delayed again. The June Beta release was supposed to be the last one before the final code was ready to test. Unfortunately for Microsoft it is buggy and unstable. The reviews from the beta testers are calling it one of the worst beta releases from Microsoft since Windows 95.

At the rate it is going Windows Vista may need yet another round of beta testing to get the bugs out. If that is the case, the production release could be delayed till late next year. This is not a disaster - that already happened when they missed the 2006 Christmas season - they will still be in time for Christmas 2007.

Microsoft has also been working on improved security for Windows Vista. They actually attended a hackers convention called 'Black Hat' and gave out free samples - asking the hackers to try and hack it. Probably a good idea, but is it too little too late?

MS IE7 Browser

by: Mark Pendergast



You will be getting Internet Explorer 7 because Microsoft says so! (Well, that's good enough for me.)

IE7 will be release late this fall. It will be set up as a high priority security update in Windows update. You will probably get it without knowing it.

The good news is that the security is much better than IE6. It also has some feature that will allow it to catch up with Firefox like tabbed browsing.

You will also see better printing support . (I have always had printing issues with IE6 - so I am looking forward to any improvement.)

There will be a new look to the user interface - not quite Vista, but better than IE6. It will also allow you to pick your default search engine and not force you into MSN every time it gets confused.

This Month's User Bucks M. .Pendergast \$3

MEETINGS: Second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at IVY Tech, 1815 East Morgan Street. Look for a notice of the room assignment as you come in the main East entrance. If the meeting location is changed, it will be announced on Page 1 of the newsletter. If a meeting is canceled due to inclement weather, radio stations WIOU and WWKI will be notified by 5:00 PM on the day of the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: Annual membership fee is \$10. Checks should be made payable to the Kokomo -PC Users Group and mailed to: Rodney Malkoff, 3209 Janice Dr., Kokomo, IN 46902 (or pay at the meeting). Persons interested in joining the Group may receive two free issues of the newsletter. Contact the editor at kpcc@insightbb.com.

BENEFITS:

1. A one year subscription to the Group e-Newsletter.
2. Great presentations on interesting topics at each meeting.
3. Question and Answer session at each meeting.
4. HELP from other Group members who have been down the road before, and with whom you can share your experiences.

President	Mark Pendergast, 455-2229	m.pendergast@insightbb.com
Vice-President	Jay Eitelman, 455-2916	jeitelman@insightbb.com
Vice-President	Jerry Henry 453-4144	
Treasurer	Rodney Malkoff - acting	
Membership Services	Rodney Malkoff, 453-1159	
Newsletter Editor	Mark Pendergast, 455-2229	
Newsletter Distribution	Jane Ober, 455-1583	
Group WWW site	http://www.geocities.com/roood/pcusers	

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: Articles may be submitted to kpcc@insightbb.com two weeks before the meeting.

August 10th

News feeds and flash

Our own Rodney Malkoff will provide an exciting double-header for us this month.

He will talk about grabbing news feeds from the internet so you can keep up with everything that is going on.

Then he will show how to take your programs with you on your flash drive.

Hope to see you there.

Join us on the 2nd
Thursday of each month
at Ivy Tech at 7:00 pm

Computer News & Reviews
Questions and Answers
Great Presentations
Fun and Fellowship
Monthly Newsletter

More details about the users group are published inside the back cover of this newsletter.

Or on the web at www.geocities.com/roood/pcusers