



# Kokomo Computer Club



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

## Presidents Message

by: Mark Pendergast - Da Prez



I can't wait for Santa to come. I want all sorts of goodies and just can't wait. I really need a new computer chair. My old one just decided that it was tired of allowing me to adjust the height. I feel like I am sitting on the floor as I am writing my message.

The Christmas season is in the heart of prime computing season. I am looking forward to curling up in a nice warm blanket, with a mug of hot cocoa and surfing some tropical sites on the web. Wishing you a happy holiday season and a very happy new year.

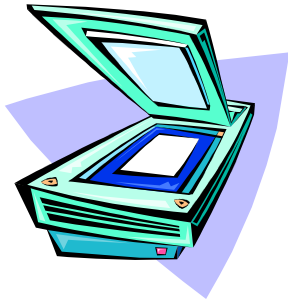
If you have any tips or tricks for improving our enjoyment of our PCs, please write them up in a short article for the newsletter. We would love to learn your secrets.

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.

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 people to participate in the leadership of the Group. Just contact one of the current officers.

We continue to offer warm hospitality and engaging meetings. Please take a moment to invite a friend 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. A good Users Group is the most important accessory you can have for your computer.





As Jay reported last issue, the new Internet Explorer 7 messes up the HP Director software that drives HP scanners. It turned out that I did not need to scan anything for quite some time after I loaded IE7, but when I did, the HP Director software would not load. (Or at least it did not look like it loaded - but more about that later.)

Now in either case I was able to use my scanner because the 'SCAN' button on the scanner still brought up the scan dialog. The problem I have is that the defaults and general operation of the scanner are better when started from HP Director. (So this is what I prefer.) So rather than try to learn to use the scanner from the 'SCAN' button, I did some research on the internet to see what was going on.

It turns out that HP is aware of the problem, but does not have a fix for it at this time. I suspect that they will have a patch for it soon. They said something about a date range of bad software - so I believe that if you have very new HP Director software it does not have the problem.

Although there is not a fix, there is a workaround to get past the problem. It is a little strange, but it seems to work reasonably well.

It turns out that the HP Director Software actually does load - it is just invisible on the screen. (The icon on the task bar is invisible as well.)

The workaround is to minimize the invisible software and then maximize it again. In doing so you get a repaint of the screen which makes it reappear again. Though it looks a little strange when it repaints - at least you can use it.

Now you may ask how do I minimize software which is invisible? Well the answer is with keyboard shortcuts. (Specifically Alt-Spacebar.) When HP Director loads its window has the focus. When you press the Alt key it selects the main menu for keyboard commands. The spacebar opens the window menu (Same as clicking on the icon in the upper left hand corner of the menu.) This menu actually appears on the screen - just floating space. Select 'minimize' from the drop down and the icon will show in the task bar. Right click the icon in the task bar and select 'maximize' to get the HP Director window to appear. (It is not actually maximized, but at least you can use it.)

This fix worked well enough for me. I hope it works for you too.



## My Christmas Wish List

by Mark Pendergast

This year I am in the mood for Computer stuff. I have been a good boy and expect to get more than visions of sugarplums - if you know what I mean. The following list is not meant to be exhaustive - Don't overload the sleigh on my account, but if you have a little extra room you might see how far down the list you can get. There is just so much cool stuff out there that I just can't decide what I want.



1. A new computer chair - I know this is pretty boring, but my old one has just given out. The last straw was when the screw lifter for the seat stripped out. I feel like I am sitting on the floor looking up at the screen.

2. A wireless network - I have convinced myself that these can be made secure. (And they are really cool.) I need a wireless broadband router with a built in firewall and several client stations.

3. A good headset - I would like one with a volume control and an extra long cable. I don't know that I would use the microphone much, but it looks cool anyway.



4. Speech Recognition Software - I am told that this stuff finally works pretty well. I would like to get one with a USB voice recorder that I could take on trips, record my thoughts, and then dump into the computer to be transcribed by the software. This would be great. I could write my first novel while driving back and forth to Detroit.

5. A large Flat Panel monitor - One of those huge ones that act like a home theater. Maybe with built in speakers. (My current monitor is good for ensuring that my computer desk does not float away, but it is nowhere near as cool as a flat panel.

6. A new computer desk. I am not sure if the computer desk I need even exists, but if it does - I want one. I want a desk that has a place for my mini-tower case to sit, but that will allow me access when I want to open it up and tinker around inside. It should also give me good access to the cables in the back. It should have a shelf that holds my printer and monitor so I have plenty of desk space to order my papers.



7. A new laptop computer - A good one with a DVD burner and a wide screen display. Lots of memory (at least a gig) and a huge hard drive.

8. And a partridge in a pear tree.



Last month, Mark told you how much he liked the IE7 update.

I really had to bite my tongue on this one .. but I sometimes tend to think differently, so I endured the pain.

So far, I've found out that IE7 disables HP Scanners and McAfee Internet Security updates and it has a long list of other incompatibility problems.

I was also unable to upload to my personal web pages using IE7, and my Microangelo Icon manager strangely started working again .. after I removed the IE7 "critical" upgrade patch.

I don't like the IE7 Tabbed tool bar and was able to remove it.

I see no reason why I can't have several explorer windows open and use my task bar as my tabs .. or just slide the Window(s) out of the way like I've been doing for years. With the speeds of computers nowadays, I see no reason to limit myself to only one Browser task running.



In IE 7, even with the Tabbed browser turned off, you're forced to have two more tool bars. You're not allowed to customize, move tools and combine them like you could in IE 6. Personally, I'd rather have more screen space to see what I browsed for .. than a bunch of largely empty or unused/unneeded tool bars.

The chatter on the internet suggests that M\$ included tabbed browsing to stop everyone from switching to Firefox.

I'm not sure if they were switching to get the tabbed browsing or the additional security touted by Firefox.

Firefox lets me customize my tool bars and even turn off the tabbed browser feature and tool bar. This lets me return to one tool bar which increases my available viewing space.



If I have the picture right .. M\$ hasn't prevented me from trying Firefox ... They forced me to try it, and I like it.

The problem is - I still need IE6 to do some things, but apparently IE6 won't be updated anymore and IE 7 has caused several problems.

Right now, Firefox is my default browser for it's simplicity and security, and IE 6 is still available for tasks such as M\$ updates and uploading to my Web pages.

If you're having similar problems, You can go to Add/Remove

### Continued ...

programs, click in the Show updates box, find the IE 7 update and remove it. Then reboot, and your system will revert back to IE6. Maybe one of these days M\$ will patch these new problems caused by their patches.

I'm going to wait a few months before I try IE7 again.

I just had to say something .. Hoping the pain will subside .. and maybe help someone else.

## Insight Upgrades

by Jay Eitelman

InsightBroadband.

If you're an Insight Internet customer, you've probably heard about the free upgrades. These include, faster upload and download speeds and a bigger Email box.

The Email storage has increased from 10MB to 1GB, so you can store many more Emails.

I'm not yet sure if this allows receiving Email with attachments larger than 10MB. As far as sending Emails with large attachments, You're limited to the recipients Email box capacity and available space.

What they don't say, and will have to check with a supervisor to verify, is also good news. With each Email account you have, you can have a personal web page. The size of this personal web page has also increased from 10 MB to 1 GB.

I occasionally do some Image restoration for people on the TSG forum. To do a descent job, I need high resolution scans to work with (large file sizes) and to return a High quality printable Image also requires a large file size.

This forum is limited to 3KB file size attachments, But I like to work with files many times larger... in the several MB region.

Sometimes, I will request that a high resolution scan be privately Emailed to me. Then I will place this large file on one of my Insight personal web pages so that others can get to them. This is called file Hosting, where my personal page becomes the public source (host) for

Continued ...

InsightBroadband

the large file. This avoids sending many large Emails which may be too big for most people to be able to receive.

This also keeps my Email Address out of sight so the Spammers can't find them.

In return, I will host the repaired Image on my personal page for the user needing the file and the others wanting to see, critique or possibly improve the end result. All I have to do is publish the link to these files. How others return their work is usually their problem, but there are other free Hosting sites that are paid for by advertising. And require registration and logging in

The uploading and downloading of these hosted files is usually quicker than using the Email route.

Also, Emails with strange attachments will bounce because they will be tagged as dangerous ... such as sending a \*.exe program.

If this might be a problem, I can just Email the link to these files in my web page and not include it as an attachment in the Email.

Thanks to DSL, Insight is having to compete.

Maybe one of these days, It'll be worth the high cost .... You think ??

## Bad LCD Monitor Pixels

by Jay Eitelman



A couple years ago, when I got my first LCD monitor, It had a bad pixel that showed up as a bright white spot. I Decided to continue using it to see if I liked the monitor, before returning it.

A couple of days later, the white spot disappeared and the monitor was working great.

Since then, I've read that a bad pixel on a new monitor, or a monitor that's been stored awhile, can sometimes be fixed with exercise.

Watching a couple of videos is a good way to exercise a pixel. A couple of months ago, one of my monitors developed a bad pixel that showed up as a very bright red spot. This monitor was out of warranty,

### Continued ...



and my second dual screen monitor, so I decided to live with it and save some money.

A couple of days ago. I was dusting my LCD screens and I decided to push on the red spot. It immediately went away and started working again.

I posted this “push on it“ experience on a support forum and got several replies.

This seems to have also worked on many other LCD monitors and Laptops with bad pixels.

Beside being or Deceased or Atrophied, I think I’ve discovered a third mode of pixel malfunction ... A Priority malfunction, like my Cat gets occasionally.

When my cat doesn’t want to move ... an assertive “Goose” usually resets its Priorities.

Usually, there’s Rubber and Canvas between my cat and I.

If you perform this Priority Reset on a LCD monitor, I suggest using a soft cloth.

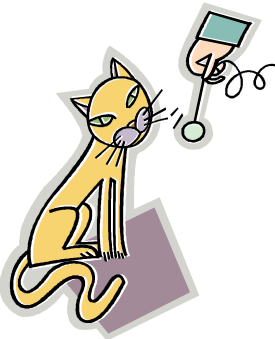
If you have a bad pixel you might want to give it an exercise therapy routine.

There are several software pixel exercise routines, but a video works just as good.

If exercise doesn’t work, Goose it .. Using a soft cloth.

If that doesn’t work, Burry it, return it ... or live with it.

I wonder if this is an indication of which end of the pixel we’re looking at ?



## Have a Happy Holiday Season And a Happy New Year



This Month’s User Bucks M. .Pendergast \$2, Jay Eitelman \$4

**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](mailto: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
Vice-President	Jay Eitelman, 455-2916
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	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/roood/pcusers">http://www.geocities.com/roood/pcusers</a>

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:** Articles may be submitted to [kpcc@insightbb.com](mailto:kpcc@insightbb.com) two weeks before the meeting.

**December 14th**

## **Firefox 2.0**

**Our own Jay Eitelman will talk to us about the new Firefox 2.0 Browser.**

**It is a worthy alternative to the new IE7 browser, with perhaps a few less bugs.**

**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](http://www.geocities.com/roood/pcusers)