



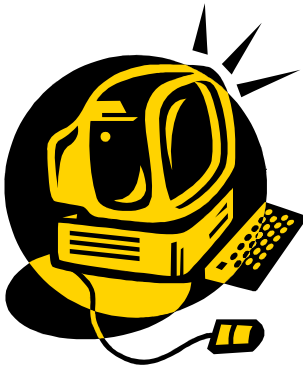
Kokomo Computer Club



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

Presidents Message

by: Mark Pendergast - Da Prez



March is about the last month of prime computing season. I can almost hear those April showers already. Next thing you know it will be crabgrass everywhere. Take advantage of the cold to snuggle with your computer a few more times and build up some memories to last the long hot season before fall.

We will now send out an email if the meeting is canceled due to bad weather. If it is bad out, please check your email before you come.

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.

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.





Windows Vista™

Curiosity got the best of me and I had a few Best Buys coupons .. So I got the upgrade version of Vista Home Premium. Then I got a spare Hard Drive to try it on, because I didn't want to mess up a perfectly good W-XP operating system.

They've moved and renamed all the system tools, so good luck trying to find anything where you'd expect to find it by location or name.

If Best Buys hadn't told me where to find Add/Remove, I'd still be looking for it.

After playing with Vista for awhile .. I tried to start installing some programs.

Of course, the first program was Irfanview. The Vista Windows Photo Gallery isn't much of an improvement over XP's Image and Fax Viewer, But it's prettier.

Thanks to Vista's "apparent" security features that kept popping up and asking me if I really wanted to do this .. I had to say yes about a dozen times. I don't understand this, If I didn't want to do it .. I wouldn't have done it.

I installed a couple more programs, taking the "security" yes/no nag test, Then I ran into a problem.

About the third program I installed, I answered all the questions with a "yes", then it said I have to be logged in as an administrator and was canceling the install.

But I am the administrator ???

I went to the TechGuy forums and asked How ? They said I have to be logged in as an administrator.

I asked .. but I am the Administrator, How do I log in as Me if I'm not Me ?

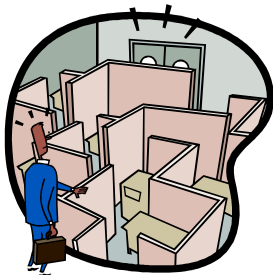
They gave me a right click procedure to change my login from Me to Me as an administrator ... Say What ??

One informative reply told me to disable my UAC "User Account Control" and forget it.

So much for M\$'s new security features added to make us think Vista's more secure.

All my desktop icons are huge. I looked for the normal way to change them, the old way doesn't work on the desktop Icons.

So I asked TechGuy (again), They told me to hold down the Control key and use my scroll wheel ... Isn't that cheating ?



Continued ...



Windows Vista™

I thought I'd do a defrag. I punched the defrag button and nothing was happening, but the HD was working a little hard. After about an hour, I cancelled the apparent defrag attempt, it should have done something a long time ago, since this was only a small fresh install.

That evening, it was TV time, so I looked at the clock and punched Defrag button again.

About 2 hours later, a popup appeared, and said this operation must be scheduled... So what happened ??

As near as I can tell, Defrag does work, but it's extremely slow and you have no indication of its progress or successful completion.

The free AVG antivirus looks like it's working and there have been a lot of updates lately.

The free Zone Alarm Firewall hasn't caught up with Vista yet.

After messing with, and being infuriated, with UAC, I think WinPatrol is a much better security feature. It's now been upgraded for Vista and has been installed.

All-in-All, I can't find that Vista has added anymore functionality, just more operator trouble/confusion, but it is skin deep Prettier.

The latest question I have on the TechGuy forum ..

Why is the install of Vista about 4 times larger (~12gig) than a fresh Install of XP ??? No one seems to know why.

I was curious, so I went to Best Buys and started tinkering with their Vista. Then I asked a couple of Sales people ...

"How may computers have been returned because of Vista" ??

I was obvious they didn't want to answer this question, or have been instructed to give a politician's answer.

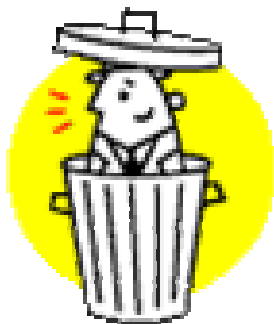
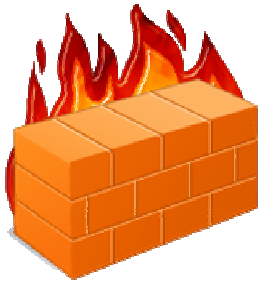
I have a few more problems/complaints with Vista, but this is enough for now, and I think you're getting the idea.

I hear Vista SP1 is scheduled for June. Maybe I'll take another look at Vista then.

The more I play with Vista, The more I really appreciate XP.

I doubt that this'll change in June, or whenever SP1 arrives.

They didn't say June of which year.





I have been using IE 7 as my browser for some time now. I had been using Firefox, but when it had the release with the stability problems and IE 7 came out I switched. IE 7 is not perfect, but it works pretty good most of the time.

I did run into an issue that I would like to share with you that did affect my performance and to some extent my privacy.

One night I was having terrible performance surfing the web. I happened to notice that the status bar had a little icon that popped up every time I pulled up a new page. I right clicked on it and it had all kinds of options for the Phishing Filter. I selected the “turn off the phishing filter” option and all of a sudden my performance was much better. I have not turned it back on since.

OK so what is a Phishing, why would I filter it and so what if it does?

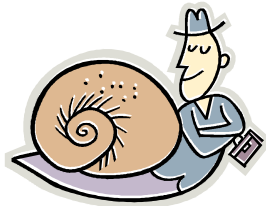


Phishing is the latest internet scam. Criminals use web sites that look a lot like real websites to get personal information from you under false pretenses.

For example some crooks set up a web site called www.irs.org. They make it look like www.irs.gov (the real site). Then they send you an email that says your tax refund is being held up because you had a typo on your tax return - just click on this link to our web site to verify your information. You click on the link, you go to the wrong site, you type in all your information. The next day they steal your identity and buy a Cadillac Sedan with your name on the bill. Yikes!

The ‘bad’ link can be sent via email. It might be posted in a blog or chat room. It might be on another ‘index-type’ site. In some cases the bad sites are one letter off from a good site so if you typo the site name you end up on the bad site. (like [google](http://google.com) or [gogle goggle](http://gogle.com) or [googgle](http://googgle.com))

The filter has a big list of sites that are known to be run by bad guys. When you click on a link the filter checks its list and if the site is a bad one it pops up a warning telling you this is not the right site.



This sounds great but there is a down side. First of all, it takes some time to look through the list of bad sites. This must have been the case when I had my performance problems. The server that held the list of bad sites was sloooooow. So every time I loaded a page I had to go to the slow site and wait for a response. Even worse than that, the browser does not really differentiate between pages and parts of pages, so for all I know I end up waiting for the phishing filter for every image on the page

IE 7 Phishing Filter

by Mark Pendergast

Continued ...

as well as all the advertising links and java appetites on the page. Some pages have dozens of component parts that might need to be checked by the filter. Yikes again!



The other troubling aspect of this phishing filter is that every check is going to Big Brother Bill in the sky. (Not that I don't love and trust Bill Gates - if you are reading my keystrokes though some back door in Windows, Bill, I really mean this with profound love of you and your products.) I could imagine some sort of database of every click ever made by anyone using IE7 being stored - just for troubleshooting and product improvement purposes - in a Microsoft server in the sky somewhere.

I just hope Bill continues to make his billions and is never down on his luck to the point that he would be tempted to sell any of that information to the highest bidder. (Good thing I run the family finances - I would hate to have my wife bid on my information and see how many Anna Nicole Smith pictures I've looked at in the past month. Triple Yikes!)



You might want to evaluate your use of the phishing filter. You can find it on the main menu of IE7 under Tools > Phishing Filter.

I am told Firefox has a phishing filter as well. (Good thing those open source guys would never be tempted to track your every click by watching your phishing filter checks on their server. ;-)

USPS does E-Bay

by Mark Pendergast

I got a post card in the email the other day. It said that if I wanted to sell stuff on E-bay I should stop by the Post Office for a special E-Bay Day on March 8th from 10am to 2pm.



They say that they support buying, selling and shipping on E-Bay. I know some of our members have been interested in finding out more about E-Bay. I am not sure if this is a good value or not, but it might be worth checking out.

This Month's User Bucks M. Pendergast \$2, J. Eitelman \$2

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, we will send email 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
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	http://www.geocities.com/roood/pcusers

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

March 8th

Open Office

Our own Rodney Malkoff will introduce us to the freeware Open Office.

A great value at the price and very comparable with MS Office for the average user.

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 computer club are published on the web at www.geocities.com/roood/pcusers

Also, see some inks to cool information and free software on the web on kpcc.home.insightbb.com