

Mother Board

Volume 30, Issue 2

February 2012

This Month

Alternatives to Pay Television

Greg Wilde and Ray Paternostro

Wed., February 1st
6:30 pm
Harahan Senior Center
[100 Elodie St.](#)

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The Tip Corner

By Bill Sheff, Novice SIG Coordinator, Lehigh Valley Computer Group, PA
November 2011 issue, The LVCG Journal
nsheff@aol.com

Fixing USB hard drives

Regardless of what kind of repair work you do, a good idea is start with the easiest and cheapest. So if you run into trouble with devices plugged into your computer via a USB cable... let's start with the cable.

Make sure there is a good connection. Remove and reinsert the cable into a different USB slot on the computer. Swap the cable for

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This Month at the NOPC

6:30pm Answers With Ray

7:00pm **Alternatives to Pay Television**
Greg Wilde and Ray Paternostro

They will review free and subscription offerings from established and upstart purveyors of digital content that is beginning to rival that from traditional television carriers.



More info at www.meetup.com/nopc-club

Wed November 2nd, 6:30 pm
Harahan Senior Center
[100 Elodie St., Harahan, LA](#)

Websites You May Like

Cesweb.org - Consumer Electronics Show

Ted.com - Ideas worth speading

Computerhistory.org—look at the gadets from the computers beginnings.

Www.phonearena.com—has a great tool for comparing cell phones.

Youtube.com videos you might like.

A new feature for the Motherboard.

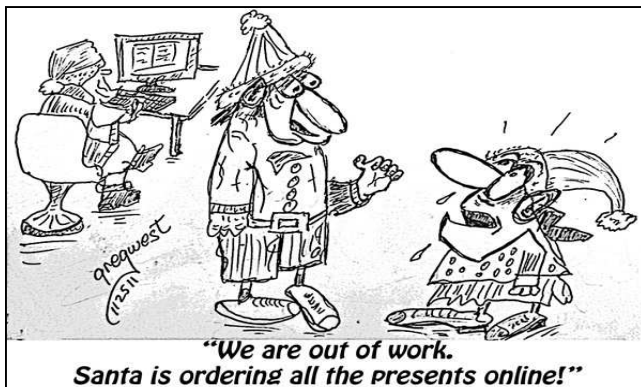
Youtube.com Videos.

Please submit Youtube video links and topics suggestions by email to editor@nopc.org to share with our members.

Here are a few topics you may enjoy:

- 1.Circus acts—see the circus
- 2.Excel Formulas—learn Excel
- 3.Animal cruelty— beware—not for children
- 4.Slaughter houses— “ “ “

Topics 3 and 4 are listed to en- courage everyone to take action against these abuses.



NOPC Information

General Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Harahan Senior Center.

Time: 6:30 PM

100 Elodie St.

Harahan, LA 70123

Programmer’s/Advanced User Special Interest Group (SIG)

Next Meeting scheduled for 6:00pm-8:00pm

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at New Horizons 3rd floor.

Please park in rear parking garage (free).

Mike York vp@nopc.org 738-5997

New/Intermediate User Special Interest Group (SIG)

Email your computer problems to Ray before the meeting @

newuser@nopc.org

Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month, Harahan Senior Center

Look for NOPC

Twitter.com



Yahoo Groups -nopc_help



www.meetup.com/nopc-club



Website NOPC.org



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another USB cable.

Still not working? Double click My Computer in Windows XP or Computer in Windows Vista. The plugged USB hard drive is the removable disk on the list. Right click Properties and see if there is something wrong. If the drive is not listed turn the computer off. If the USB device is not recognized a message appears and unplug all DVD player and click Next. Then simply browse to the digital photo folder you want to backup/burn and drag it into the empty disc folder. When ready to burn click the Burn to Disc box and you are good to go.

Burn a DVD From an Image File

If you come across an image file such as .iso you can watch it using Magic ISO or burn that image to a CD or DVD to see the contents in the file. Since .iso is a container for a file structure you need to extract it and by burnin

other USB devices on the PC. These may not be compatible with the USB hard drive. Reboot the computer once all the other USB devices are disconnected.

Finally, if you are utilizing a USB hub, unplug the device and connect it directly to the USB port. If still not recognized or working the device unfortunately is that the hard drive is very likely defective.

Burning DVD discs in Windows 7

First let's review the two different DVD formats there are. They are DVD- and DVD+. DVD- (dash) was developed by Pioneer in the late 1990's, while DVD+ was developed by the DVD+RW alliance which includes Sony, HP, Ricoh, Yamaha, and others. Just

note that all DVD burners now produced support both formats, which makes it easy for the consumer.

However, it should be noted that all things being equal the DVD dash burns slightly faster.

Whenever I mention a CD or DVD below it means either a dash or plus format. DVD-R formats are for a one time burn, while DVD-RW discs are used for both reading and writing data and can be formatted over and over again.

Today there are many types of multi-media files, including data, audio, and video, and each could require different ways to burn it to a DVD disc correctly.

We will discuss common file types, the disc format they should be created in, and the type of blank disc to use for best results.

For Home Videos (from a camcorder or downloaded video) they should be created with an Authoring software such as Windows DVD Maker in a DVD-Video project and it's recommended to use DVD-R media.

Digital Photo files can either be backed up using a standard DVD burning software as a data project or be created as a digital photo slideshow by using a compatible software using DVD-R media.

Most Recorded TV shows from Windows Media Center should be Authored with windows DVD Maker in a DVD-Video project and burned to DVD-R media.

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Music or audio files can be burned to blank CD-R discs using Windows Media Player. However there are two ways to go about this: First you can create a standard Audio CD which usually holds 74 minutes of music by creating an audio project or you can burn mp3 files as a data project to get more music on a disc. (Just make sure you have a mp3 disc player for proper playback).

A recent burn I did holds 182 music files on one CD+ disc, and it plays in my car.

Disc Image Files or ISO files require Windows, Roxio or Nero Disc Image Burner to burn the format correctly on either a blank CD-R or DVD-R disc (it just depends on the file size).

Recording Home Videos to DVD

By utilizing the free Windows DVD Maker already included in Windows 7 installs you can simply and easily create home movie discs from your videos. The software will not make a Hollywood type film but will get you creating a DVD movie that you and your family can enjoy on your TV sets in the living room.

You simply start the software, load in some video that you captured off of your camcorder, create a custom DVD menu and burn away. You now have a DVD movie disc that you can watch on any standard DVD player.

Recording TV Shows to DVD Disc

In the old days, if your Windows PC came with a TV capture card you can hook up your cable line or satellite TV box and watch TV on your computer screen, but today with digital signals being encrypted you

now need at least a separate cable box or DVR. If you use Windows Media Center you also have a built in DVR where you can record the shows you want. The best part is that you can also now burn them to a DVD disc and watch them on your TV set just like it was intended. To do this in Media Center all you do is insert a blank DVD, then click Burn CD/DVD and choose the Video DVD option. Then select a title name for the project and select the video clips or TV shows you want to burn from your media library and click the burn button. Media Center will handle the rest and give you a DVD disc that is properly formatted.

Sharing Digital Photos the Easy Way

One of the easiest ways to preserve, backup, and share your digital photos is to back them up to a blank CD-R or DVD. You can easily accomplish this by using Windows Explorer and choosing the Mastered format. All you do is insert a blank CD or DVD and on the AutoPlay box choose the "Burn files to disc using Windows Explorer" option. When the burn a disc dialog box opens choose a Disc Title and tick the With a CD/g it to a disc will accomplish this. In Windows 7 you can use Windows Disc Image Burner. This is as easy as right clicking on the .iso file and choosing Burn Disc Image...yes it's that easy now in Windows 7.

(For some additional data take a look at BurnWorld.com and the article about burning music starting on page 9 in this issue of the newsletter.)

One Column Excel Tip

If you ever prepared a spreadsheet that con-

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sisted of hundreds of lines and only one or two columns and then decided to print it out, can you do it without running through a ream of paper for just the one or two columns? Well, yeah! But don't look for a simple solution.

Actually, the simplest way is to copy your entire data table (all 100s of rows) to the Clipboard and paste it into Word. You can then format the information in Word to use columns and print as desired. (You can also place headers and footers on your data easier within Word than you can in Excel.)

But if you are a purest and want to do it in Excel here are a couple of ways to print the data in columns on a single sheet of paper.

Let's assume you have data that is only one column wide by 100 rows deep.)

1. In cell B2, enter the formula "=A26".
2. In cell C2, enter the formula "=A51".
3. In cell D2, enter the formula "=A76".
4. Copy cells B2:D2 down to row 25.

Your data is now in four columns, without the original data being disturbed. Format your columns to the necessary width, place a page break just before row 26, and print just the first page of your data. You can also save the file as a template for future single column files.

Another approach is to copy the row and column(s) to a different worksheet. This is quick and easy to do using the keyboard (Ctrl+C to copy and Ctrl+V to paste), but there is a drawback. If the row or column you are copying contains formulas that rely on other areas of the worksheet, the copied

data may not show the proper results. Thus, the best "cut and paste" approach would be to use the Paste Values command rather than just Paste. ■

THIS AND THAT

By Elizabeth B. Wright, Member, Computer Club of Oklahoma City [wright599new\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:wright599new(at)sbcglobal.net)

As the birds gather to plan their trip South for the winter, so do some of us. But what to take with us? Lighter weight clothing for that hoped for sunny climate, although experience tells us we can't really get far enough South in the continental USA to guarantee that. Maybe the mountains for skiing. But along with our necessities, some of us now take along our link to the world, our laptop computers.

Are you driving or flying? Either way, I have found that the smaller Netbook type computers are easier to carry. Even with accessories, they usually weigh less than laptops. And with the right add-ons, they can be every bit as useful as their larger cousins.

My accessory kit contains a USB connected 750G hard drive, very compact and light, a reduced size USB keyboard (easier to use than the netbook keyboard) and a small mouse. Of course you can tailor your kit to suit yourself.

When flying, in addition to the USB hard drive, I pack several USB flash drives, the higher capacity the better. Because part of traveling is the opportunity to take pictures, with digital cameras it is possible to download them to the external hard drive or

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to the flash drives in order to have backup copies of them. Many netbooks have rather smallish internal hard drives, so having extra storage capability is great.

Another advantage to the Netbook computers is the small size makes it easier to put them in a hotel room lockbox along with the USB flash drives and/or the USB external drive. The mouse will also fit, but the smaller size keyboard may not. But since the external keyboard is not essential to using your computer, you can better risk leaving it in your suitcase when out of the room. Nothing left in a hotel room is 100% safe, so keep that in mind.

The other great advantage to traveling with your computer is access to the internet. However there are some security risks involved with connecting to free Wi-Fi networks like those available in many restaurants, airports, hotels, etc. Take time to search the internet (from home) for information on how to best insulate your laptop from the bad guys.

Each computer is different and you will have to determine what will work best for you. Most netbooks and laptops now are built with Wi-Fi capability. This can be programmed to only connect when you tell it to. The default is usually to connect whenever it detects an open network. This can be risky.

Some networks are secured and require a password to connect, but others are open to the world. Before leaving home, check with whomever you know to be knowledgeable about securing your netbook/laptop while surfing the internet from free Wi-Fi loca-

tions.

Most of what I keep on my netbook is not particularly valuable to anyone but me, but there are some passwords which I would prefer to keep private. One bit of advice is to avoid transacting banking business or other financial business online from public Wi-Fi sites. The same source for this information, which was quoting the FBI, also said not to go onto the internet.

But mostly that is what we want to do when using our computers away from home. It does leave us in a bit of a pickle. Thousands of people at any given time are using these networks. Just go into any national bookstore chain that boasts a coffee shop and most of the tables will be filled with people working diligently on their computers.

As for passwords, the old advice to change them often is as valid today as in the past. Especially those used for accessing your email and other personal websites. A paper list of the email addresses you plan to contact while away from home or office is preferable to keeping the same list on your computer. I keep mine in the safest place I can manage, either the hotel room lockbox or as close to my body as possible. Keeping it in a purse or billfold is risky, but if all else fails it beats leaving it lying around the hotel room. The main reason for making sure it is safeguarded is to keep it from prying eyes (including anyone who might just photograph your list and leave it where they found it). This step is a courtesy to your friends, relatives and business contacts that are on your list.

Happy Traveling.... 

CLUB SUPPORTERS

The Coins & Collectibles Shop

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A reminder for the New/Intermediate user special interest group.

Please email your questions to Ray prior to the meeting.

newuser@nopc.org

Quote

Doing things well is a big step towards doing big things better.

Chinese fortune cookie

February 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 NOPC General Meeting 6:30pm | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 New/ Intermediate User Sig 6:30 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |

The New Orleans Personal Computer Club (NOPCC) is a private non-profit organization chartered under the State of Louisiana. Its purpose is to provide an open forum for discussion and education of the membership in the use and application of PCs, peripheral equipment and software. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the NOPCC, its members or its officers. The club does not verify for accuracy the articles in this newsletter and leaves verification of accuracy to its readers. Articles in this newsletter may be duplicated as long as credit is given to the author (s) and the NOPCC. Annual Dues Schedule: Regular Member, \$40/yr.; Family Membership, \$60/yr.; and Students (under 21), \$20/yr. Meetings are held at 6:30 on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Harahan Senior Center, 100 Elodie, Harahan, Louisiana.

NOPC Directory

Elected Officers

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| President | Walt Christensen | president@nopc.org | 982-3705 |
| Vice President | Mike York | vp@nopc.org | 738-5997 |
| Secretary | Ray Paternostro | secretary@nopc.org | 287-4780 |
| Treasurer | Bill Howard | treasurer@nopc.org | 831-1279 |
| Director At Large | Tom Gaffney | director1@nopc.org | |
| Director At Large | Kevin Kratzberg | director2@nopc.org | 275-8961 |
| Director At Large | Greg Wilde | director3@nopc.org | |

Standing Committees

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Newsletter Editor | Kevin Kratzberg | editor@nopc.org | 275-8961 |
| Program Chair | A J Levy | programs@nopc.org | 586-9707 |
| Web Master | Mike York | webmaster@nopc.org | 738-5997 |
| Publicity Chair | Tom Gaffney | pr@nopc.org | |

Special Interest Groups (sigs)

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Computer Programming | Mike York | vp@nopc.org | 738-5997 |
| New/Intermediate Users | Ray Paternostro | newuser@nopc.org | 287-4780 |

Other Important Numbers / Addresses

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Club Hotline | Recorded messages. Meeting Information. Open 9:00am-9:00pm | 454-6050 |
| NOPC Web Site | On the World Wide Web. Our own home page and club information. | www.nopc.org |