

# WINDSOR Seniors' Computer Users' Group

5/11/09 Agenda for Today

1. **Questions/Answers????** - General Discussion. Computer dialog - what's new, what's different, what works or doesn't work? Computer Tips. Upcoming events:

Computer classes: SRJC, SR Cm Center, Windsor HS, Healdsburg HS, SSU Ext

Computer Consultants: Ross Guistino [rossg@sonic.net](mailto:rossg@sonic.net); Chris Bethards [Chbethards@comcast.net](mailto:Chbethards@comcast.net)



•Security Software – a free 'suite' matches the best pay products – “Failing to keep your computer safe from online threats can shorten its life and lead to the theft or corruption of data, including sensitive personal information. If you've been avoiding security software because of its cost, our latest tests bring good news: There are fine, free programs to protect against viruses, badware, and unwanted email spam. Of the seven free software programs we tested this year, the best (from Avira, Microsoft Windows Defender and Spamfighter) are the same no cost programs we recommended last year, though all three performed notably better than their 2008 versions did. They were on par with the best pay suites we tested. Even the less effective among them (Alwil Avast and AVG antivirus, and Lavasoft Ad Aware and Safer Networking Spybot antibadware) proved no worse than the lowest scoring pay suites. The pay suites offer more types of tech support.” See article for details on several other suites. Consumer Reports, 6/09, p. 22-24



•Solving a DVD-burning problem - I remember the early days of DVD burning. The kind of disc mattered. For example, some machines only accepted DVD-Rs. Others required DVD+Rs. These days, disc type matters much less. Most computers accept a variety of disc types. And the discs should be compatible with most modern standalone players. Instead, we have a new complication: Vista introduced the Live File System. This is a new format for writing CDs and DVDs. It isn't compatible with all burners. And it can cause problems with standalone players. In comparison, Windows XP uses the Mastered format. All machines should read these discs. They also have fewer problems with standalone players. Should you downgrade to XP? Nope! You can use the Mastered format in Vista. You just need to specify



it. Live File System is the default format. Changing the format isn't difficult. Insert a blank disc in your computer. In the box that opens, click “Burn files to disc.” Name your disc and click “Show formatting options.” Select Mastered and click Next. Windows will format your disc. Other ways – post online.” KKomando DailyTip – 4/30/09

<http://www.komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=6601>

•Should I get a dual core or a quad core processor? “Summary: Processors are generally available with single, dual and quad cores. We'll look at what that means and how you might select which is right for you.

A core is simply another way of saying CPU (Central Processing Unit) or, in a sense, computer. It's the thing that executes instructions, one at a time, very quickly to make the system 'do stuff'. A single core can do exactly and only one thing at a time. It does them very quickly, so it can switch between different things to make it look like it's doing several things at once. A dual core machine can do two things at a time; a quad core machine can do four things at a time. The most obvious reason why you would need more than one core is when you are doing things that are CPU intensive. File compression or audio and video encoding are good examples of processes that are very computationally intense. Software must be written to take advantage of multiple processors, and most software is not. If a quad core processor were the same price as a dual core, I'd certainly say go for it, but usually a quad will be more expensive, often by a significant amount.” Ask-leo.com, 5/5/09

**TIP** - “**Browsers** protect, too. Security software isn't your only line of defense online. Web browsers are increasingly adding worthwhile protection against phishing, and their updates offer protection against Web sites that might have been corrupted..” Consumer Reports, June, 2009, p. 24

Happy Memorial Day and Happy Armed Forces Day

**4. Internet -Web sites:** (If these don't work, let me know - Editor Donna)

Cut standby electric power - <http://standby.lbl.gov>

Edit your photos online - <http://pixlr.com> See <http://www.komando.com/cool/sites/index.aspx?id=6553>

How much RAM – <http://www.komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=6606> Thanks to K Komando Tips 5/3/

An expert's guide to YouTube - [http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939\\_109-10233785-2.html?tag=nl.e404](http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939_109-10233785-2.html?tag=nl.e404)

Used and refurbished laptops - <http://komando.com/buyguide/index.aspx?id=2283>

Find Coupon codes for shopping - <http://retailMeNot>

Get information on your site's traffic - <http://www.google.com> then check on Google Analytics

Solving a DVD-burning problem – <http://www.komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=6601>

Your one-stop nutrition source - <http://www.nutrition.gov>

Amazon's big screen Kindle DX makes its debut - [http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939\\_109-10234355-2.html?tag=nl.e776](http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939_109-10234355-2.html?tag=nl.e776)

\*\*\*\*\* Favorite Web Sites: What is yours? Let me know and I'll include it\*\*\*\*\*

**5. Badware** - This is a term used in Consumer Reports article, and has a definition: "Badware is software that fundamentally disregards a user's choice regarding how his or her computer will be used. You may have heard of some types of badware, such as spyware, malware, or deceptive adware. Common examples of badware include free screensavers that surreptitiously generate advertisements, malicious web browser toolbars that take your browser to different pages than the ones you expect, or keylogger programs that can transmit your personal data to malicious parties." <http://www.stopbadware.org>

**6. Today's Program** –Mr. Lockie Gillies, Owner, Wine Country Computers, Healdsburg, will discuss/demonstrate "What do you need in a new/used computer? And why do you need to upgrade?" Thanks to Lockie for sharing his expertise.



**7. Kindle DX** - Amazon's new wireless reading device – large screen 9.7 inch display - \$489 – Vision to have all books on wireless and available for instant download. Large selection – over 260,000 books plus U.S. and international newspapers, magazines and blogs; Low book prices - \$9.99. Capacity to hold up to 3,500 books, periodicals and documents. See <http://www.amazon.com> and search for 'Kindle DX'

**8. Computer Help – Drop in** - People can drop by the Senior Center, first come/first serve, and will receive one/one opportunity to get their problems, questions projects addressed: *No preregistration – Donation*

May 18, 2009, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

June 29, 2009, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

**10. Next meeting of User's Group**

All senior computer enthusiasts are invited to join us. This informal gathering shares ideas, resources and networks:

**June 8, 2009** *No preregistration*

1:00 – 2:00 pm General questions/answers

2:00 -4:00 pm - Program – Mr. Seth Maybee, Agent

Anthony O'Connor and Agent Kevin Lipe, Technical support from Santa Rosa Best Buys will discuss/demonstrate "Interactive Media Innovations for your Summer." We are very fortunate to have such knowledgeable persons for our program.

**11. Upcoming Workshops –**

**There will be no further workshops until the Fall, 2009. Please send email to Donna on what you would like to see in the way of workshops then. Thanks.**

**If you have questions**, please call me (home 838-4737), (e-mail: [wscugrdonna@gmail.com](mailto:wscugrdonna@gmail.com) or [donna@sonic.net](mailto:donna@sonic.net)) or you can call the Senior Center 838-1250 for dates/times of computer events. See <http://www.sonic.net/donna/windsor.html> for Computer Info Windsor Sr. Computer User Group



**This is your User's Group - What are your goals? Help to make this group what you want it to be.**

"Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get use to the idea." Heinlein

*Have Fun Computing & Take Time to Smell the Roses*