

WINDSOR Seniors' Computer Users' Group

10/12/09 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; Chris Bethards Chbethards@comcast.net

2. News • *Welcome to the Blogosphere – Why Blogs are so popular & How to start your own*

Blog

“Blog, Blogger, Blogroll, Blogospere. Roughly a decade ago these words didn't exist. Today, you likely not only have heard these terms, but you also might actually be a blogger. Even if you're not, you've seen or read something that stemmed from a blog – not surprising considering it's believed there are well over 100 million blogs globally. Now firmly entrenched in mainstream online culture and increasingly shaping how we communicate, share areas of expertise, acquire news, and even earn money, blogs are thriving. Blog simply stands for Web log. During blogging's early days in the late 1990s, most blogs took the form of diaries, but rather than logging insights, opinions and reactions on paper for storing in a dresser drawer, bloggers posted digital entries in chronological order to a central online location where others could read them and leave comments. Blogs are now dedicated to practically every imaginable topic. Smart Computing, maintains a tech-rated blog at SmartComputing.com that's updated daily. The traditional text-based approach to blogging has evolved into blogs featuring mostly photographs or videos. A recent and very popular blogging incarnation is microblogging which involves using much shorter bursts of communication. Twitter (www.twitter.com) is the most obvious example of microblogging. Google's Blogger (www.blogger.com) is an example for creating a blog which is free.” Smart Computing, 10/09, pages 46-49



• *Can you Trust Free Antivirus Protection?* - “Lots of companies offer software that's supposed to stop worms, viruses and other malware for free. We tested nine such security programs to find the ones you can really depend on. Free antivirus programs vary just as much as their paid counterparts do in the quality of their protection. And frugal PC users on the hunt for

no-cost antivirus software – already faced with tons of options – will have even more to choose from when new free offerings from Microsoft and Panda join the programs currently available from Alwil (Avast), AVG, Avira, Comodo, and PC tools. To help you figure out which free antivirus app is right for you, we put packages from all of those companies through their paces. “Despite Avira's number one finish, some of the other programs still merit consideration. From top to bottom, the order is Avira AntiVir Personal (rated as superior), Alwit Avast Antivirus Home Edition, AVG 8.5 Free, Microsoft Security Essentials, PC Tools Antivirus Free Edition, Comodo Internet Security rated as fair.” PCWorld.com, October 2009, pg. 80-87 *Editor's Note: See article for more details.*

• *Sponsored search results lead to malware*
“The ads served by Bing and Google along with your search results are linking more and more often to sites trying to infect your machine.

Neither Bing nor Google effectively prescreens these bogus advertisers, so it's up to us to detect and avoid them. You may recently have used either Google or Microsoft's new Bing search engine to find the popular Malwarebytes Anti-Malware utility. If so, chances are good that the sponsored ads alongside your search results contained links to the very malware that the security tool is designed to remove. The three largest search sites – Google, Yahoo, and Bing – regularly sell security-related keywords to criminals looking to trick you into downloading and installing fake anti-malware products. So be prepared and vigilant.”

<http://www.windowsecrets.com/2009/10/08/01-Sponsored-search-results-lead-to-malware>, 10/8/09

3. TIP – All-in-one computer - A desktop computer that houses every component except the keyboard and mouse inside the same case as the monitor.; however, there is generally limited or no internal expansion available

In 1492 Columbus sailed the Ocean Blue - October 12

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

IE8 problems and fixes - <http://carbonize.co.uk/wp/2009/03/23/ie8-problems-fixes/>

Say 'no' to unwanted mail - <http://www.dmachoice.org>

What's new in Windows 7? - <http://www.komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=7385>

Learn about crime in your neighborhood - <http://www.SpotCrime.com>

Manually remove programs that lack uninstallers - <http://www.windowssecrets.com> search 10/01

Search for songs with your voice - <http://www.midomi.com>

Photo stitching into panoramic photos -

<http://freerisefoftware.com/software/panoramaplus/panoramaplus-se.asp> **Thanks to Ed Naslund**

Free printable 12010 Calendars - <http://www.printable2010calendar.net>

Security Software - <http://www.sonic.net/donna/Security Software10-09.pdf>



Consumer tips and resources – links from speaker Detective Dave Smith:

Better Business Bureau Articles for Consumers: <http://www.bbb.org/us/FTC-Consumer-Articles>

Articles on Computers and the Internet: <http://www.bbb.org/us/FTC-Consumer-Articles/Computers/>

FTC Website: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/tech/privacy.shtm>

Another site: <http://www.ncinet.org/technology/essentials/>

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

5. Free MS Security Essentials are worth trying:

“First of October Microsoft released the final version of Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE). The initial reports are remarkably upbeat, particularly for a Microsoft product labeled ‘Ver. 1.0’. MSSE takes over antivirus and antispyware duties while tossing in antirootkit features for good measure. If you have Windows Defender installed, MSE zaps it. Program is free for personal use. Press likes to say that it is a stripped down version of the late, unlamented Microsoft OneCare, a payola product I've deplored for years.” <http://www.windowssecrets.com> and search for title. *Do not confuse this with Windows Security Suite which is a bogus anti-virus program.*

6. Today's Program –Detective David Smith will discuss/demonstrate “Update on Computer Crime and Identity Theft, Including How to Keep your Computer Safe”. Thank you David for sharing your expertise.



7. 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 and projects addressed: *No preregistration – Donation.* October 26, 2009, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
November 23, 2009, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

8. Next meeting of User's Group

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

November 9, 2009 *No preregistration*

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

2:00 -4:00 pm - Program – Mr. Tony Haskins,

Head Librarian Genealogy Santa Rosa, will discuss/demonstrate "Online Genealogical Research: The latest". Come, enjoy, learn and network. Bring your questions. We are very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable speaker.

10. Upcoming Workshops –

Hands-on Computer Classes:

Introduction to Computers-Part 2, 10/19/09, 1:00 – 4:00

Discussion/Demonstrate Workshop:

Introduction to Computers, 11/16/09, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Shamrock Mobile Home Park.

If you have questions, please call me (home 838-4737), (e-mail: wscugrdonna@gmail.com or 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.



“Life is 10 percent what you make it, and 90 percent how you take it..” *Irvine Berlin*

Have Fun Computing & Take Time to Smell the Roses