



VERMONT COMPUTING INC



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WHAT IS SPYWARE?



According to internet statistics more than two-thirds of all personal computers are infected with some kind of spy ware.

Spyware is a kind of computer program that invites itself into your computer, and feeds on its resources. Typically it is installed on to your computer through a pop-up ad you may have click accidentally, or unknowingly. Unlike a virus that typically wants to replicate itself and hurt your computer, spy ware wants your information.

KNOW YOUR FOES

Malware - a general term for any program that makes changes (does malicious or "bad" things) without your express permission

Adware - programs designed specifically to deliver unwanted advertising

Stealware - specific spy ware designed to capture clicks or Web-site referral credits

Browser hijacker - a malicious program that becomes deeply embedded in your browser's code and core functionality

More: <http://computer.howstuffworks.com>

DEFENSIVE MEASURES

One of the most effective measures to protect yourself from spy ware is to have a pop-up blocker. You can download one for free packaged with the *Google* toolbar at www.google.com.

Many Pop-ups, like the one below, prey on users that don't know their own system. Get familiar with your computer, that way you will know when a window is not yours. When you see one that isn't, find it at the bottom of your screen on the start bar, right click on it, open the menu and close the window.

Be suspicious of "free" software, and new installations. The safest way to go is to reject the new installation, if you need the software component, you can always go back and get it later.



Caution: If you didn't apply for any contest, odds are, you didn't win.

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What is a megabyte?



A mega byte is form of measurement to describe the amount of information in a given computer file.

The part of the word, "Mega" means, million. So one mega byte is a million bytes of information.

Kilobyte= 1000

Megabyte= 1,000,000

Gigabyte = 1,000,000,000

So when you have a hard drive that holds 40 gigs.

Your hard drive can hold 40 billion bytes of data. This Newsletter consists of about 430 kilobytes of data.

COMPUTER TALK



GET TO KNOW YOUR COMPUTER.....

IN NEXT MONTHS ISSUE:

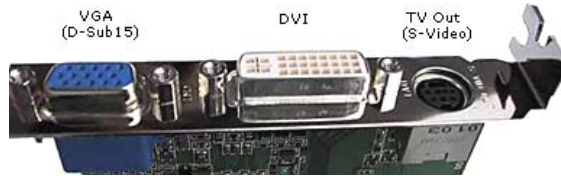
What is a VIRUS?

How do they spread?

Also:

What makes a computer run faster?

When Is it time to buy a new computer?



Video Cards have a lot of different looks, don't be worried if the one pictured doesn't look like yours! Some cards don't have the features listed, simply because the average customer doesn't need those features.

If you own a computer, you've plugged a computer into an outlet before, as well as plugged in the mouse and keyboard, and monitor. Most of us only go that far, have you ever wondered about the other slots and ports back there? In this month's Computer Talk article, we'll discuss some features on your computer, namely the ports on the back that don't get that much attention.

Your video card for starters, most likely we know where our monitor goes, so what do the other ports do?

S-video actually means separated video, it separates brightness and color information and this means much better quality for TV output.

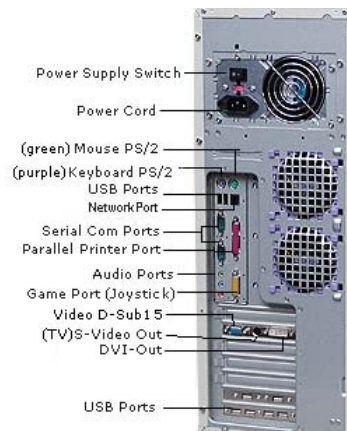
You could connect your computer to your TV if you would like. S-video to RCA adaptors are available and affordable.

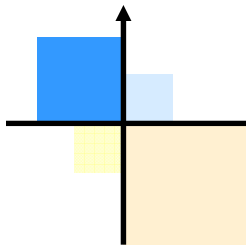
The ports to the left can all be used for the keyboard and mouse. USB and PS/2 are the newer standard, serial ports are being phased out due to USB's versatility.

I just bought a 17-inch LCD panel monitor for my computer, it seems so much bigger than my old monitor even though my boxy old monitor claimed to be as big, why?



That's because your old monitor was measured diagonally to the outside of the case, as was the typical way of measurement for TV's and monitors. Your new LCD's screen is in fact larger, because its the screen that's measured not the entire case.

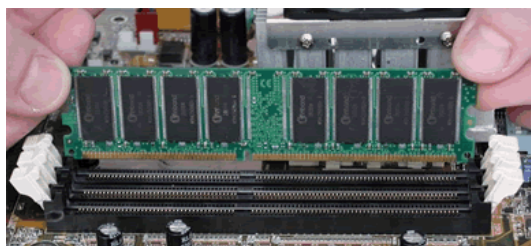




VCI NEWS



WANT TO UPGRADE?



RAM - Random Access Memory, is used by the system to store data for processing by a computer's central processing unit (CPU), also known as the processor.

The more RAM you have the faster your CPU will access data on your system, which is why RAM is one the fastest and easiest routes to go in upgrading your computer.

VCPC OWNERS!

This month, if you own a VCPC, you can upgrade of 512 MB of RAM with free installation, for only \$50. Which is \$25 off the regular price!



A DIGITAL POCKET KNIFE

We just got in new flash drives, up to 512 MB on a single flash drive. You can store practically anything on a flash drive, music, video, text files, PowerPoint presentations. Instead of burning to CDs, you can put your data right on the flash drive and bring it with you anywhere.

Swiss army knives have evolved in the 21 century. From Swiss Bit their combination utility knife includes a detachable flash drive. A flash drive has become such an important utility, a portable, rewritable, mass storage device, that is small enough to be fitted on your keychain, or now in your Swiss Army knife!

We want feedback!

We now have a Newsletter Remarks email that allows you to communicate directly with us.

- Would you like to tell us how we're doing?
- Do you have questions that you'd like to see featured in our newsletter?
- Did you see something or read something in our newsletter that you would like us to expand on?
- Have questions about Nextel?
- Would you just like to get to know any one of the staff here at VCI better?

Drop us a line sometime at:

newsletter@vermontcomputer.com

~Also be sure to let your friends and family know about the newsletter.~



TECH NEWS



MOTOROLA, BURTON PARTNER ON SNOWBOARD

MOTOROLA, BURTON PARTNER ON SNOWBOARD TECH

Next winter, the world's snowboarders will add another "trick" to their repertoire with the ability to switch between their iPod play list and incoming calls in mid-air thanks to three new products from Motorola and Burton Snowboards. Launched today at the 2005 Consumer Electronics Show, these Bluetooth-enabled jackets, helmets and beanies will provide wireless, high-performance connectivity and playability on the slopes for the 2006 winter season.



The products introduced at CES include:

Jacket – the Bluetooth-enabled jacket links a rider's cell phone and/or iPod with an imbedded system operated via an easily removed control module on the jacket sleeve. Stereo speakers are built into the hood of the jacket and a microphone is embedded in the upper section near the collar, allowing seamless, unobtrusive wear ability and playability. Elements can be swapped between products, used as stand-alones and removed and re-inserted easily.

CAUTION:

Not a jacket you would buy for a first time Snowboarder!!



Helmet and Beanie - Bluetooth technology built into the helmet and beanie keep riders connected to their music and wirelessly to their phone. When the modules are removed from the helmet and beanie, they can double as a stereo headset.

Motorola believes the greatest technological advances are made to make everyday tasks easier. For snowboarders, using a cell phone or an iPod in cold temperatures can be a significant challenge. With these new products, Motorola and Burton will allow snowboarders to overcome extreme conditions through their innovative designs and improved technologies, making the snowboarding experience on the mountain that much better.

More at:

<http://www.transworldsnowboarding.com/snow/news>





SPRINT/NEXTEL NEWS

FOCUS ON DRIVING...



What is Focus on Driving?

Sprint created Focus on Driving, an interactive program for teenage students enrolled in driver's education classes, to teach them about one of the top concerns on the road – driver distraction. The program was designed in conjunction with driver's education administrators, instructors and student focus groups.

Knowing that teenagers listen and learn from their peers, our goal was to create a program that speaks to them in their own language, using real-world examples. The result of this collaboration is a relevant curriculum that engages students, challenging them to take responsibility for practicing safe and attentive driving.

Connect your phone to your PC

With a USB Data Cable for your Nextel phone, you can : access the internet, upload new ring tones & graphics. Manage & backup your phone book, and charge too, just plug-n-play!

DID YOU KNOW?

Nextel has recently merged with Sprint! Which means better coverage for you!

VCI offers great rate plans for Nextel phones. Come in and check out some top sellers from Motorola on display in our store.

~Like the Nextel i730~

Sprint is proud to offer Focus on Driving free of charge to teachers and school administrators. Participating schools receive a free teachers guide, student guides, parent-student pledge cards, classroom posters, and an instructional video. In addition, schools may request guest instructors from Sprint.

Focus on Driving was originally piloted in Orange County, Florida in 2003. It is now available statewide in Florida, Arizona, California, Washington and Virginia. National expansion will continue on a state-by-state basis throughout the 2005-2006 school year.

More at : <http://www.sprint.com>

Nextel Best Seller

The Nextel i730 is an excellent choice for people who want a durable Nextel phone with a good set of features. You'll like the color display and the sturdy feel of the Nextel i730, which features:

- Bright, 65K color internal display
- Built-in speakerphone for hands-free calling
- Walkie-talkie for use with Nextel Direct Connect
- GPS enabled for location-based services

