

Got Questions?



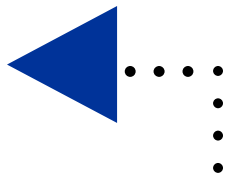
Email us and we might feature your question in here!

newsletter@vermontcomputing.com

VERMONT COMPUTING INC.



VCI



Here is a concept!
Flexible phones.

June 2006

Newsletter

Free One Hour Diagnosis!

We can help you find out what's wrong with your computer, for FREE!

Limited time offer

Megabyte, Gigabyte, Terabyte, Petabyte?
Universally large hard drives are on their way!

Amazing rate plan for Nextel. Check out the last page for details.

800 MINUTES/\$32.99 A MONTH

Details:

A Piece of Advice:
Family safety and MySpace

Computer Talk:
The Honest Truth on
How to clean LCD screens.

Side Order:
Your Rights Online: New
Patent on TV Forces You to
Watch Ads

Tech News:
James Bond drives a Toyota



VERMONT COMPUTING, INC.

By Dean Miranda



WHEN A COMPUTER DIES.....

Most have us have experienced this solemn event at one time in our life. Whether it was a school report due the following day wiped clean, or a presentation for work completely lost. We fear the ominous blue screen stating that there has been a "Fatal Error".

Thankfully not everyone has to live through this traumatic occurrence. Those that routinely have their computer maintained, have less computer issues, and immensely reduce the chances of a fatal error.

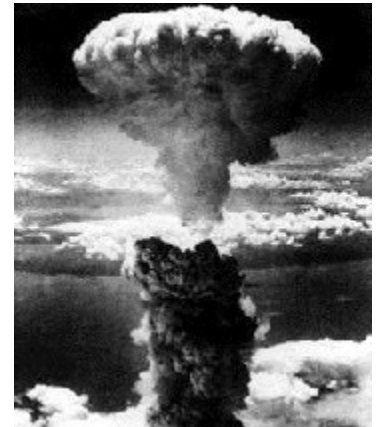
If your computer has not been looked at by a professional in over 6 months, you should at least have simple maintenance performed on it. It could save you some serious money, as well as a traumatic experience!

A PIECE OF COMPUTER HISTORY

"Intel cofounder Gordon Moore set off his first boom in Silicon Valley two decades before pioneering the design of the integrated circuit. One afternoon in 1940, near the spot where Interstate 280 intersects Sand Hill Road today, the future father of the semiconductor industry knelt beside a cache of homemade dynamite and lit the fuse. He was 11 years old." *Wired Magazine*

Where you'll find:

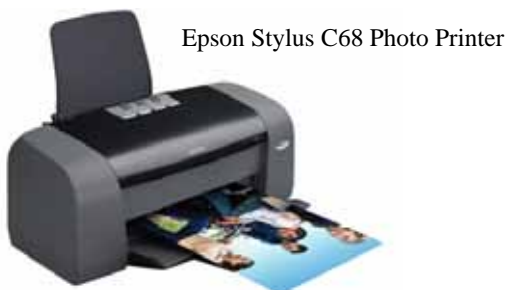
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No, Gordon Moore's "boom" wasn't this big...

LOOKING FOR A PRINTER?

Most packages you get from big name companies offer low end printers for free. The main reason low end printers can be "given away", is because the loss plus the profit is made up in the ink cartridges they sell you later. Some ink cartridges are even more expensive than the ORIGINAL PRINTER was. Knowing this its really a matter of preference of where you want the money to go, in a low quality printer with expensive ink, or a higher end printer with quality ink.



Epson Stylus C68 Photo Printer

COMPUTER TALK

What does Wi-Fi stand for?

This question was brought to us from a friend, and because we actually had varying answers, we decided to make a newsletter article out of it. I'll try not to make this answer long and bitter. Wi-Fi doesn't stand for anything. It is not an acronym. The term Wi-Fi was invented by Interbrand. Interbrand was hired by the designers of what is now the Wi-Fi standard to come up with the name and logo that could be used for a widely used product and to assist marketing efforts. "IEEE 802.11b Direct Sequence" isn't something anyone wants to have to remember. That's why Interbrand came up with Wi-Fi. Other popular words they've created are "Prozac", "Compaq", "oneworld", "Imation" and many other brand names that you have heard of. The only reason that you hear anything about "Wireless Fidelity" is some of the people in the group that actually designed the concept of Wi-Fi were afraid that it wouldn't make sense to the public. They could not imagine using the name "Wi-Fi" without having some sort of literal explanation. Thus they started a tag line of "The Standard of Wireless Fidelity", apparently this ended up confusing people more and according to Interbrand, "diluted the term" Wi-Fi.

Another Stab against Music Piracy

"The Washington Post is running a review of Microsoft's next version of Media Player, and its integration with MTV's new music service Urge. According to reviewer, Rob Pegoraro, 'Not only does this new, Windows XP-only software promote Urge to the exclusion of other retailers, you can't shop at this store-- or even just play your Urge downloads -- in any earlier version of Windows Media Player.' The Microsoft/Urge subscription model contains a new twist as well: 'Urge also lets you rent songs: \$9.95 a month (or \$99 a year) lets you download all the tracks you want to a computer, while \$14.95 (\$149 a year) lets you transfer those downloads to most newer Windows Media-compatible players. These rented songs can't be burned to CD and go silent if you stop paying the fees.'"

THE SIMPLE AND HONEST TRUTH LCD CLEANING CLOTHS

Many of our customers have been coming to us with a valid question. How do I clean my laptop screen? (Also applies to LCD desktop monitors)

Here is the simple and honest truth, a little bit of water, and a soft cloth, is all you really need. You don't want to use Windex, because many believe the ammonia in Windex can damage some LCD screens.

FUN AND USEFUL WEBSITES TO VISIT

1. www.addictinggames.com
2. www.flipside.com
3. www.epicurious.com



A PIECE OF ADVICE

Hanging Out on Myspace

“They paper their virtual walls with kittens and cartoon characters, give their address as Candyland, their age as 103 and announce they are yearning for true love. Welcome to the secret, yet very public, world of young teens who are flocking to social-networking Internet sites both to chill with friends and to figure out the timeless adolescent question "Who am I?"” Taken from a CNN article concerning MySpace.com

Recently, I had a concerned parent come in the store worried about her kids safety and privacy online. While most dangers online can be eliminated by communicating, communication about computer use between parent and child is uncommon and mostly ignored.

Here is a simple way to explain where these dangers come from. Your computer is a home, its your electronic home. Inside it you can choose to keep confidential information, and it will stay that way provided you don't open any doors to the outside world. The moment you get internet access you build a door, you're free to come and go and roam about in the open virtual world of information. The internet for the most part is just as safe as the real world we live in. Just like leaving your physical home though, you no longer have control of who sees you. Worse than that, in this virtual world (the internet), there are no law enforcement officials set up in order to provide protection from dangerous situations. The only way to protect yourself is to be aggressive in informing yourself about where you are and what you are doing.

You wouldn't walk around in New York City and hand out your credit card to anyone that held a billboard that said "free", right? Nor would you let your children wander around a large city unwatched or unknowing of their where about. Of course there are many website blockers, and tools to stop certain pages from view, but that's all they are tools, robots. A robot can not think like a human could, when approached with information and conversations from chat-rooms, or MySpace, or any other website that allows you to store and trade information. In order for everyone to be safer on the internet, we have to realize its not just a stagnant program, but a very REAL world you can tap into whenever you are on the computer. Communication between parents and children of where they go and who they talk to is vital to keeping information secure and family members safe.

MySpace has been under much scrutiny about the safety and privacy of its users, its about as dangerous as a school locker filled with pictures and mementoes , as long as users are careful of who they add to their account! MySpace is simply another way of conveying information. Once a user has set up an account, you have the ability to choose your "privacy settings". If you are under 15 your MySpace page or profile is automatically made private and ONLY friends you CHOOSE to add can see your page. Even with this privacy settings in place though automated or not, parents still need to be watchful of their children. One way is to set up your own account and literally look at their page, just to keep an eye our for them. Assuming of course that... they will let you add them as a friendbut that's something you have to discuss with them.



VCI NEWS

Windows Vista. Should You Care?

By Jeremy Lesniak

We've been getting lots of questions here at VCI about Microsoft's next version of Windows, Windows Vista. The questions have ranged from general to specific, but the one thing everyone wants to know is when it will affect them. There will be two ways to get Windows Vista; from purchasing a new computer or purchasing it to install on an existing computer. Most of us will be content to wait until we buy a new computer. After all, Windows XP has been around a few years and it's fairly stable. Windows Vista promises to be everything XP has been and more, but history has shown that Microsoft isn't exactly the best at delivering on their promises.

What does that mean for you, as a business owner or consumer? It means that you will need to evaluate Windows Vista yourself, if you so choose, to see if it will be a worthwhile upgrade. Vermont Computing, Inc. has plans for Windows Vista. We plan on offering it a few months after launch (currently scheduled for the end of this year for businesses and early 2007 for consumers) while continuing to offer Windows XP computers. Why would we do this? Our philosophy involves selling what we know and trust. Windows Vista, as a new operating system, can neither be known nor trusted. For that reason we will not be jumping on the initial launch. Windows XP had major problems at its' release, and was much better after Service Pack 2. We aren't promising to wait any certain period of time, or until a Service Pack is released. We're simply going to wait until we can trust Windows Vista on one of our VCPCs. Besides, we would never put any old parts or operating systems in one of our beloved computers.

Sign up and Save Paper!

If you would like to have the newsletter emailed to you, please include your full email address in the request email.

Please send your request to:
newsletter@vermontcomputing.com

Free 1 Hour Diagnosis

For just a little while longer you can receive a free one hour diagnoses on your computer. If your computer is acting strangely when you use it, it'd be best to have us take a look at it before it stops working completely!



TECH NEWS

Nokia 888 Phone

It may not be coming to a retailer anytime soon, but the Nokia 888 communicator concept phone is making headlines in design and communications industry journals. Designed by Turkish student Tamer Nakisci for the Nokia Benelux Open Design Awards, this concept includes a malleable interface. The ability to twist and bend the phone into many shapes, even a wristband, means users can carry the phone on their wrist or clipped onto other devices.



Toyota/Citizen key watch



In Japan, Toyota has released a wristwatch that doubles as an electronic key for its Crown car model. The gadget, developed with watchmaker Citizen, looks like an ordinary high-end watch, but it unlocks the door of the Toyota Crown when the wearer grabs the handle. A button on the side of the watch allows for keyless power locking and unlocking.

Philips Wireless Music Center



The Philips Wireless Music Center is a sleek digital music hub that can convert audio CDs into MP3 files, store gigabytes worth of digital files and wirelessly stream your favorite tunes to five wireless music stations anywhere in your home. The wireless streaming can pipe the same music to all satellite stations, or you can program it to play a different music file for each of the stations.

SIDE ORDER

Your Rights Online: New Patent on TV Forces You to Watch Ads

<http://appft1.uspto.gov>

"A patent application filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office says researchers of the Netherland-based consumer electronics company have created a technology that could let broadcasters freeze a channel during a commercial, so viewers wouldn't be able to avoid it. Philips acknowledged that this technology might not sit well with consumers and suggested in its patent filing that consumers be allowed to avoid the feature if they paid broadcasters a fee."

Music Downloads = Expensive Concerts?

www.bbc.com

"According to an article at BBC News, \$250 tickets for the latest Madonna tour are the fault of P2P file sharing. 'Before the advent of illegal downloads, artists had an incentive to underprice their concerts, because bigger audiences translated into higher record sales, Professor Krueger argues. But now, he says, the link between the two products has been severed, meaning that artists and their managers need to make more money from concerts and feel less constrained in setting ticket prices.' And it seems David Bowie agrees. Is 'the fans always get fleeced' the rock industry's equivalent to Moore's Law?"

12.8 Petabytes, You Say?

www.drexel.edu

MadUndergrad writes "Dr. Jonathan Spanier from Drexel University has come up with a novel way to greatly increase data storage density: water. Specifically, they propose using hydroxyl ions to stabilize minute ferroelectric wires. These wires could be many times smaller than what is possible today, enabling data densities in the neighborhood of 12-13 PB per cubic centimeter. While there are still many problems to be resolved before drives using these can be manufactured this technology does seem promising. For one thing, it would be non-volatile, but could apparently be made to act as RAM. The fact that this is coming out of a university gives me hope that this technology won't turn out to be just so much vapor."

Electric Car Faster Than A Ferrari or Porsche

<http://money.cnn.com>

"CNN's Business 2.0 has photos and video of a Silicon Valley-made electric car with a 0-60 acceleration rate that's faster than a Ferrari Spider and a Porsche Carrera. From the article: 'In fact, it's second only to the French-made Bugatti Veyron, a 1,000-horsepower, 16-cylinder beast that hits 60 mph half a second faster and goes for \$1.25 million.' The X1 is built by Ian Wright whose valley startup WrightSpeed intends to make a 'a small-production roadster that car fanatics and weekend warriors will happily take home for about \$100,000 --a quarter ton of batteries included. The X1 crushed the Ferrari in an eighth-mile sprint and then in the quarter-mile, winning by two car lengths.'"

SPRINT/NEXTEL NEWS

NEXTEL

800 MINUTES/\$32.99 A MONTH

Nextel has an amazing rate plan for the commencement of summer! A simple versatile plan for everyone, 800 minutes plus free nights and weekends, unlimited free Direct Connect with other Nextel subscribers and a splendid variety of features to help, guide, and please the adventurer within you! The best part.... its only 32.99 this month. Nextel Partners has never had a better rate plan!

Here are a few features available that have been mentioned in the past months. Direct Talk, a valuable feature when out camping or hiking where cell service is unavailable, you can switch over to Direct talk on your Nextel Handset and use it as a common Two-Way radio! Driving Log, this feature keeps track of the distance you and your Nextel phone travel. It saves the information to DrivingLog.com. Then when you would like to view and download your driving information you can go to the provided website to get your information!

SUN, SUMMER PICNICS, AND A HANDFUL OF BLACKBERRY

OK, so maybe the last thing you want on vacation is spam wirelessly sent to you on the golf course (and I don't mean the canned meat preserve). But the fact remains that if you want to stay in touch with your business, the Blackberry is your answer. Nextel has dominated the market as avant-guard with the Blackberry , and blackberry-like tools.

If you'd like first hand reviews simply ask Jeremy, President of Vermont Computing, its how everyone in the store stays in touch with him! He can tell you just how reliable and helpful its been for him.

ACCESSORIES FOR YOUR PHONE.

We have a selection of cases to help you protect your phone from damage. Also plenty of car and home chargers so that you never lose another call from a dead battery again, wherever you are.

Also we have in stock extended life batteries for your Nextel handset!

