

Got Questions?



# VERMONT COMPUTING INC.

Email us and we might feature your question in the newsletter!

newsletter@vermontcomputing.com

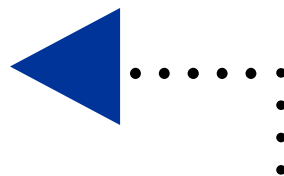


## Store Hours

Mon – Fri 8:00 – 6:00

Sat & Sun 10:00 – 12:00

# VCI



## Vol 7 Issue 2 Jan. Part 2 Newsletter

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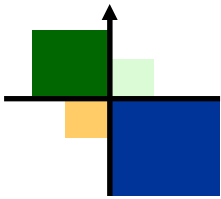
- *PINNED START MENU ITEMS IN XP*

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## **New Add-ons for Website "VC"PCs**

Our current VCPCs, model .04 and 1.05 have gotten additional upgrade options. Conveniently configure your preferred PC on our website and let us build the new PC of your choice. Base prices starting at just \$399 and \$699 gives you room to add additional upgrades to suit your needs. Here is some of what's newly available:



### **XFX Geforce 7600 GT**

Unleash extreme HD gaming and video on your PC with an NVIDIA GeForce 7600 graphics processing unit (GPU). Featuring the award-winning GeForce 7 Series architecture, the GeForce 7600 GPUs deliver smooth, realistic gaming at ultra-high resolutions.

From Tom's Hardware:

"The 7600 GT is an amazing card in (it's) price range, sporting new SM 3.0 technology and very high clock speeds that let it deliver excellent performance. Its weakest feature is its 128-bit memory bus, but its high memory speeds offset that disadvantage and make it competitive with 256-bit cards like the X800 XT / X850 XT, and even the 7800 GS."

### **Canon CanoScan LiDE Color Scanner**

Affordable, quality scanning made easy

- 1200 x 2400 dpi optical resolution with 48-bit color depth for sharp, accurate scans.
- Three one-touch buttons Scan/Copy/E-mail for easy operation.
- Compact and stylish design.
- USB powered.
- Advanced Z-Lid accommodates scanning of bulky items such as books with ease.



Expect high quality results from this easy to use document and photo scanner. Featuring 1200 x 2400 dpi optical resolution and 48-bit color, scans are sharp and accurate. Best of all, operation is simple thanks to three one-touch buttons. Scan an image, or create an email attachment, or color copy in just one step\*.

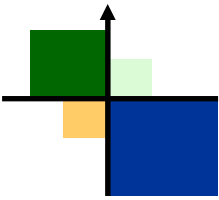


Many more! Check out our site [www.vermontcomputing.com](http://www.vermontcomputing.com) for more great products to compliment your purchase of a new PC.

Also new on the website, we have **VCI t-shirts and merchandise!** In association with CafePress, Vermont Computing is now offering fine Vermont Computing gear.

Proceeds will be donated to a **non-profit organization**.

Head on over to [gear.vermontcomputing.com](http://gear.vermontcomputing.com) to pick up some VCI merchandise today.



# TECH TIPS

## Take advantage of the Windows XP Start menu's pinned items



You're probably familiar with Start's left side menu—but do you know why the program list is divided in two? Here's what you need to know about the pinned items list found in Windows XP, and how you can customize it to easily access your favorite programs.

The left panel of the Start menu consists entirely of a divided list of programs that Windows XP thinks will come in handy for you: the pinned items list above the separator line, and the *most frequently used programs list*, displayed below the line.

By default, Windows XP places links to your Internet browser and your e-mail application in the pinned items list and will place as many as 30 shortcuts to the programs that you've recently used in the most frequently used programs list. (The most frequently used programs list is, by default, six shortcuts long.)

In order to really take advantage of the Start menu as a launching area for all the programs you use most often, you can configure the entire left panel as a pinned items list. Here's how:

1. Right-click the Start button and select the Properties command to display the Taskbar and Start Menu Properties dialog box.
2. Click the Customize button adjacent to the Start Menu radio button to display the Customize Start Menu dialog box.
3. In the Programs panel, use the Spin button to set the Number Of Programs On The Start Menu setting to 0. Click the Clear List button.
4. In the Show On Start Menu panel, you can clear the Internet check box because the Internet Explorer icon already appears in the Quick Launch menu by default, and maybe even the e-mail check box, depending on how you launch your e-mail application.
5. Click OK twice—once to close the Customize Start Menu dialog box and once to close the Taskbar and Start Menu Properties dialog boxes.
6. Click the Start button and access the All Programs submenu.
7. Locate and right-click on a shortcut to a program you use most often and select the Pin To Start Menu command.

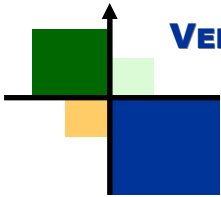
You can pin as many as 30 of your most often used programs to the Start menu, depending on your screen resolution setting. With your *actual* favorite programs on the pinned items list, you can now really take advantage of the Start menu.

*Note: This tip applies to both Windows XP Home and Windows XP Professional.*

Source: <http://www.techrepublic.com/>

Fig. 1: Start menu with only pinned items.





**VERMONT COMPUTING, INC.**

## **PERIPHERALS**

### **Google Announces Plan to Open Online Bookstore**

<http://www.gizmodo.com/>

We knew that the beta of Google Book Search really was, for once, just a beta version of a much grander project. Now we know what that project is. BusinessWeek is reporting that Google has disclosed to publishers its intentions to expand its Book Search beyond a mere search and preview service into one where users will be able to purchase access to entire copies of books, and possibly download them to other devices.

There are, however, some roadblocks. Reaching agreements with the publishers themselves is naturally the most pressing issue in terms of acquiring content to sell, but we'll wager it's an issue not far from resolution, given Google's public disclosure of their plans. The book industry writ large, however, is obviously uneasy about the kind of access and distribution Google looks to bring to book content — the Authors Guild lawsuit against Google mentioned in the article makes this clear.

It's debatable, though whether relatively mediocre digital book sales are a content issue or a hardware issue — will more (and better) books that are more easily accessible fuel sales or do we have to wait for the "iPod device of the book"? It looks like time — and Google — will tell.

### **65% Spend More Time with Computer than Spouse**

<http://www.prnewswire.com/>

65 percent of consumers are spending more time with a computer than with their significant other, according to new independent research commissioned by support.com. Conducted by independent research firm Kelton Research, the "Cyber Stress" study confirmed consumers' growing relationship with technology in their everyday lives. In fact, more than 8 out of 10 Americans (84%) say they are more dependent on their home computer now than they were just three years ago...

-- The average consumer has experienced computer troubles eight times about every four months - over the last three years.

-- The average American is wasting 12 hours per month - the equivalent of half a weekend - due to problems with their home computer.

-- A majority of Americans (52%) describe their most recent experience with a computer problem as one of anger, sadness or alienation.

### **Spam is Back With A Vengeance**

<http://www.slashdot.org/>

"The Red Tape Chronicles reports that just last December (2006), the FTC published an optimistic state-of-spam report. It cites research indicating spam had leveled off or even dropped during the previous year. It now appears spammers had simply gone back to the drawing board. There's more spam now than ever before. In fact, there's twice as much spam now as opposed to this time last year. And the messages themselves are causing more trouble. About half of all spam sent now is "image spam," containing server-clogging pictures that are up to 10 times the size of traditional text spam. And most image spam is stock-related, pump-and-dump scams which can harm investors who don't even use e-mail. About one-third of all spam is stock spam now."