

Got Questions?



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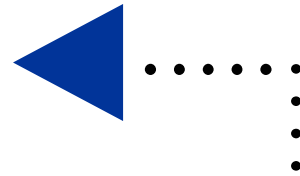
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New Add-ons for VCPCs!

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Newsletter



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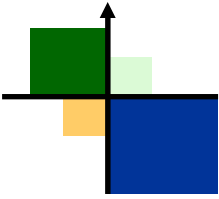
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VERMONT COMPUTING, INC.

VCI NEWS

New Add-ons for VCPCs!

XFX GeForce 8500GT

Looking for GeForce 8 series performance and DirectX 10 support that doesn't cost a lot? Check out this GeForce 8500GT from XFX, now available as a VCPC add-on for less than \$100.

Features include:

- 450MHz GPU and 256MB of DDR2 memory, yielding an 800MHz effective clock speed and 12.8GB/second memory bandwidth.
- DirectX 10 GPU with full Shader Model 4.0 support delivers unparalleled levels of graphics realism and film-quality effects.
- NVIDIA's fourth-generation GPU architecture built for Windows Vista gives users the best possible experience with the Windows Aero 3D graphical user interface.



Microsoft Natural Wireless Laser Mouse 6000

Microsoft Natural Wireless Laser Mouse 6000 is designed to conform to your hand in its most relaxed position. Breakthrough ergonomic design, the tilted, elevated hand position reduces pressure on the carpal tunnel and wrist.

Features include:

- Soft-touch materials and an ergonomic design fit your hand as naturally as a handshake.
- 4-Way scrolling. Scroll four ways for greater efficiency and comfort with Tilt Wheel Technology.
- Battery life indicator. You won't be caught with a dead battery--the Battery Status LED Indicator glows red when the battery is running low.

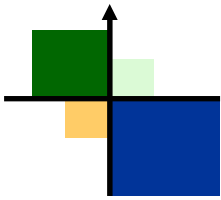


Don't forget to check out www.buyavcpc.com or our main site www.vermontcomputing.com when you are considering the purchase of a new PC.

Also 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 to pick up some VCI merchandise today.



Extension to learn more about Windows XP fonts

http://articles.techrepublic.com.com/5100-10877_11-6184920.html?tag=nl.e138

The Fonts folder, located in the Control Panel, provides a number of features you can use to keep track of the fonts installed on your Windows XP system. For example, on the View menu, you'll find the the List Fonts By Similarity command, which gives you a unique way to organize your fonts, and the Hide Variations command, which makes it easier to quickly discern available fonts by showing only one font from each family.

If you want to add more features to the Fonts folder, you can download the newest version (2.30) of the Font properties extension from Microsoft's typography page.

After you download and install this extension, the number of tabs on each font's properties dialog box will jump from two to 11, with each tab providing all kinds of information about the font. The information contained on these 11 tabs includes very detailed descriptions of each font, links to the font vendors and font designers, legal information, such as ownership, copyright, trademark, license, and embedding permissions, as well as technical information about the font.

Note: This tip is for both Windows XP Home and Professional.

5 e-mail habits that waste time and cause problems

<http://blogs.techrepublic.com.com/helpdesk/?p=56&tag=nl.e138>

#1: Vague or nonexistent subject line

... how often have you received an e-mail without a subject or one that's labeled, for example, "Phone number you requested." Why couldn't the sender have said, right in the subject line, "The phone number is xxx-xxx-xxxx"?

When sending an e-mail that concerns a particular person, give details in the subject line, along with the name. For example, if Joe Brown has been promoted, make your subject line "Joe Brown has been promoted." Do not use only the name as the subject. If you send out an e-mail with just the subject "Joe Brown," recipients may mistakenly believe that Mr. Brown has passed on.

In the event you do need to transmit such sad news, be explicit. For example, say "Joe Brown RIP" or "Passing of Joe Brown" or "Joe Brown [year of birth] - [year of death]."

#2: Changing the topic without changing the subject

Have you ever read an advertisement for an item that's on sale, then gone to the store only to discover that that item is sold out? By law, the store has to give you a rain check, because of abuses in the past. In the old days, the store would simply try to sell you something else instead, a practice known as "bait and switch."

E-mail users employ bait and switch all too often, usually out of laziness. For example, you send a note to a co-worker about subject 1. That co-worker later needs to send a note to you on subject 2. However, instead of creating a new note and labeling it "subject 2," he or she simply replies to you, discusses subject 2, but keeps the subject line as "subject 1." Annoying, isn't it? When

you send e-mail, make sure the subject line matches the actual subject. If you're going to send a note via a reply, change the subject line to match the actual subject.

A few months ago, during a period of really cold weather, a neighbor sent an e-mail to all the residents of our development regarding a neighborhood telephone directory, and titled it "neighborhood directory." A half hour later, I received a reply-to-all message from another neighbor with the subject "Re: neighborhood directory." When I accidentally clicked on that message, I read that the sender's heater had broken and that he was asking to borrow blankets and kerosene heaters. He did get what he needed and did later get his heater fixed. However, had he given his note a better subject heading, he might have had a faster response.

#3: Including multiple subjects in one note

Covering multiple topics in one note involves less sending and hence less e-mail traffic and volume. However, your recipient might overlook one or more of those topics. It's better to keep to one topic per message.

#4: Sending before thinking

When you were small, your mother probably told you to count to three before responding to someone (mine told me to count to 10). Why did she say that? She knew that answering before thinking can lead to problems.

Make sure you really mean to say what you've written. People can interpret your words differently from what you meant. A statement made in jest to someone via e-mail may have a greater chance of being misinterpreted than one made in person. Also, be careful about reacting and replying too quickly to an e-mail that upsets you. As Proverbs 12:16 says, "A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult."

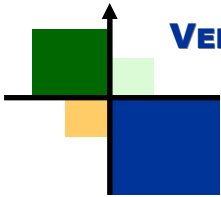
I'll talk more about it in a future article, but legal implications offer another reason to think before sending. E-mail can be subject to "discovery" by attorneys for a party that might be suing your employer. That is, the things you write in your e-mail could end up in the hands of those attorneys and could be used as evidence against your company in a trial. So before you send an e-mail, imagine that you're on a witness stand having to explain it.

#5: Inadvertent replying to all

Before hitting Reply To All, make sure you really need to do so. Does everyone need to see your response? Does your response benefit everyone else? Or are you sending merely a private response or addressing a personal issue with the sender? In these situations, it's better just to do a simple Reply. Otherwise, your private disagreement becomes public (and embarrassing) knowledge.

Be aware that if you receive a message because you're part of certain message groups (e.g., a Yahoo group), your reply might go to everyone in the group even if you just hit Reply.

Do you recognize yourself in any of these mistakes? The good news is that once you recognize these issues, it's easy to address them.



PERIPHERALS

Apple Fans - Not Music Fans - Will Buy iPhone

<http://www.extremetech.com/article2/0,1697,2150890,00.asp>

According to a study released Monday, only a small percentage of U.S. users actually use music phones to play back music.

The study, generated by Jupiter Research, found that five percent of consumers "sideload," or shift songs from their PC to their phone. And only two percent of consumers download music from over-the-air services from carriers like AT&T, which will launch the Apple iPhone this week, to the phones themselves.

Jupiter concluded that 27.9 million U.S. consumers will own phones that can play back music by the end of this year. But even the launch of the iPhone is not expected to fuel a resurgence in mobile music, Jupiter found.

Rather, Jupiter concluded that purchasers of the iPhone will be interested in it primarily because of the Apple name and interface, not because of its music capabilities...

Seagate Joins 1-Tbyte Drive Club

<http://www.extremetech.com/article2/0,1697,2150806,00.asp>

Playing catch-up to the likes of Hitachi and others, Seagate added two new 1-Tbyte additions to its family of Barracuda hard drives on Monday: the consumer-friendly 7200.11 and the ES.2 for businesses.

...the consumer desktop drives will begin shipping sometime during the third quarter, Seagate said, with the 1-Tbyte version retailing for \$399 - the same price as Hitachi's 1-Tbyte Deskstar 7K1000.

In addition to SATA, the company has also added a Serial Attached SCSI (SAS) interface to the business drives. Designed primarily for the corporate and enterprise market as a replacement for parallel SCSI, this interface allows for much higher speed data transfers than previously available and is backwards-compatible with SATA drives, Seagate said.

...The new family of Barracuda 7200.11 drives also come with a variety of enhancements, including 105 Mbytes/sec sustained data rate - the highest ever achieved, according to the hard drive manufacturer - as well as a low power rating of 8 watts at idle and a 32-MB cache.

Seagate is also promising that the 7200.11 will also whisper at 2.7 Bels, which is nearly undetectable by the human ear.

Like the ES.2, the Barracuda 7200.11 family of consumer drives will also come in 500-Gbyte, 750-Gbyte, and 1-Tbyte flavors, and will all be based on the company's second generation of perpendicular magnetic recording (PMR).

The 500- and 750-Gbyte versions will be priced the same as Seagate's previous 7200.10 family, Seagate said.

U.S. General Laments Google Earth Capability

<http://www.extremetech.com/article2/0,1697,2149938,00.asp>

The head of U.S. Air Force intelligence and surveillance on Thursday said data available commercially through online mapping software such as Google Earth posed a danger to security but could not be rolled back.

"To talk about danger is, if I may, really is irrelevant because it's there," said Lt. Gen. David Deptula, deputy chief of staff for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

"No one's going to undo commercial satellite imagery," he told reporters in Washington.

Deptula cited Google Inc.'s Google Earth, which gives Web users an astronaut's view of the earth and allows them to zoom down to street level. He said it had provided anyone with a credit card the ability to get a picture of any place on earth.

"It is huge," he said. "It's something that was a closely guarded secret not that long ago and now everybody's got access to it."

Asked if the U.S. military might try to implement restrictions or blackouts on imagery of some areas, Deptula said he was not aware of such an attempt.

"I don't want to speak to specifics, but not that I'm aware of," he said.

Instead, governments are trying to mitigate the effect through camouflage, concealment and deception, he said, providing no other details.

MS: Vista More Secure than Linux, Mac OS X

<http://www.extremetech.com/article2/0,1697,2149885,00.asp>

According to the numbers given in a new report from Microsoft, Windows Vista has blown away all the major enterprise Linux distributions and Mac OS X as far as having the smallest amount of serious security vulnerabilities in the six months since its release. The numbers were compiled by Jeff Jones, the security strategy director in Microsoft's Trustworthy Computing Group.

"The results of the analysis show that Windows Vista continues to show a trend of fewer total and fewer High severity vulnerabilities at the 6-month mark compared to...Windows XP (which did not benefit from the SDL [Secure Development Lifecycle] and compared to other modern competitive workstation OSes (which also did not benefit from an SDL-like process),"...

...In comparison, the most popular Linux distribution, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 Workstation, was swamped with 129 publicly disclosed bugs in shipping components, 40 of them "High Severity." "...By Jones' count, Vista seems to be a nigh-impregnable fortress. But counting vulnerabilities is not the best metric, say analysts and Microsoft observers.