

Got Questions?



VERMONT COMPUTING INC.

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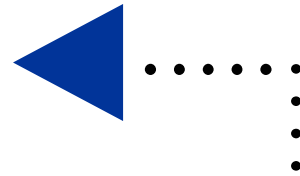
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Back to School!

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Newsletter



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BLOWOUT!:

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Tired of search engine results that aren't even close to what you're looking for? Try ChaCha!



Back to School Blow-Out!

Introducing 2 great packages of accessories, these go perfect with a new VCPC or laptop, or they are equally good on their own as a great value for back-to-school.

For Laptops:

- Rechargeable Wireless Optical Mouse
- Notebook Cooler Pad
- Mobile Calculator
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- Carrying Case
- USB Phone
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All for only \$63.33!

For Desktops:

- Norton Anti-Virus
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- Labtec Mouse
- 9000 Joule 6 outlet Surge-Protector
- Air Duster

All for only \$63.94!

Be sure to stop in to our store to check out our great deals on PCs and accessories.

Laptops starting as little as \$600!

We have a wide range desktop PCs all featuring our World's Best Warranty including replacement of any failed hardware for 3 years and free maintenance as often as twice a year for the life of the warranty.

Don't forget to check out www.buyavcpc.com for the convenience of configuring and ordering your own PC right from our site. Take advantage of prices and accessories not available in our store!

Ian's Pick-of-the-Month - Human Assisted Searching



Our service manager, Ian Stewart brings us a unique search engine as his Pick-of-the-Month. Called "ChaCha", this search engine offers an alter-

native to the big names like Google and Yahoo, by bringing search results together with the power of human editing. Here is what the site itself has to say about it:

"Tired of search engine results that aren't even close to what you're looking for? Us too. So we started thinking about a better way to search the Net... and we figured out what was missing... people....The first search engine that uses the brainpower of really smart people to find anything you want on the Internet.

Here's how you use it:

INSTANT SEARCH - Just like all those other search engines... only better. Because ChaCha keeps getting smarter.

VERMONT COMPUTING, INC.

Our search experts are constantly hand-picking cool, hard-to-find sites so you get only the best, most relevant results... OR LIVE GUIDED SEARCH - Instant search not cutting it? One click hooks you up with a live ChaCha Guide. A real person that will ask you questions, understand exactly what you want, and send you results that are dead-on. Computers can't do that. It takes a community of people who are motivated to help you get the answer you seek - no matter what it

takes. The brainpower behind ChaCha. - (<http://www.chacha.com/info/about>)"

This search engine seems to have a lot of potential so be sure to check it out the next time your planning do a search via your usual search engine.



Matt's Tech Tip - Fan Favorite



In my years of experience working with PC hardware, I've noticed one type of hardware failure rear it's ugly head more than any other—fan failure. One of the most inexpensive and easy repairs on a machine, a failure however can cost you your graphics card, your CPU, or your system.

Over the years I've seen failures on pretty much every type of fan on the system. A good practice to keep your fans from failing is simply to clean your machine on a regular basis. I'd say twice a year, or every 6 months, is a good goal.

Turn off the machine and unplug the power. Open the case by removing the side panel, usually there are 2-3 thumb screws, or sometimes regular case screws holding it on. Remove them and take of the side panel. Use a can of compressed air to blow dust out of the interior of the case paying special attention to the CPU fan and heat sink, fans on the graphics card, and on the power supply.

Even with regular cleaning, fans will wear over time. If you hear your PC starting to make more noise than usual, it could be a fan beginning to fail. You may be able to narrow it down by blowing compressed air though your fans in turn until you find the noisy culprit.

Case fans are normally easy to replace, just unscrew them, unplug them and plug a new one in, the fans on power supplies or heat sinks are sometimes a little more difficult. You may want to have a professional, such as our trained technicians, handle replacement on more difficult fans.

There is nothing like the frustration of losing a \$300 graphics card or your CPU due to the failure of a fan that costs less than \$20. With regular maintenance and replacement when needed, you can easily avoid this scenario. We carry a wide range of new and used replacement fans right in our shop for your repair needs.

Headlines

Playing Music Slows Vista Network Performance?

<http://it.slashdot.org/it/07/08/21/1441240.shtml>

Over the months since Vista's release, there has been no doubt about the reduced level of network performance experienced compared to Windows XP. However, some users over at the 2CPU forums have discovered an unexplained connection with audio playback resulting in a cap at approximately 5%-10% of total network throughput. Whenever any audio is being sent to a sound card (even, several users report, while paused), network performance is instantly reduced. As soon as the audio is stopped, the throughput begins to climb to its expected speed. It's a tough one for users - what do you pick, sound or speed? So much for multi-tasking."

ISP Guarantees Net Neutrality, For a Fee

<http://yro.slashdot.org/yro/07/08/21/0252258.shtml>

"Ars Technica has up an interesting article on the first ISP to guarantee network neutrality. It's called COmmunityPOwered Internet, aka Copowi. The offer of neutrality comes at a higher price — mostly due to uncompetitive telco line pricing schemes — \$34 for 256K DSL, \$50 for 1.5 Mbs, and \$60 for 7 Mbps. The owner claims to need only 5,000 subscribers to move his ISP into the national arena from the 12 Western states where it now operates. Would you be willing to spend the extra bucks for network neutrality?"

World's largest music retailer ditches DRM, not censorship

<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20070821-worlds-largest-music-retailer-ditches-drm-not-censorship.html>

...DRM isn't yet dead in the music business, but it has a nasty, hacking cough. Wal-Mart is the latest company to ditch the DRM in an attempt to crack the coveted iPod market, which for years has been out of reach. The company announced this morning that it has embraced high-bitrate MP3s from Universal and EMI (iTunes only has DRM-free files from EMI, not from Universal), and it promises to continually expand its offerings.

...As a sign of how badly Wal-Mart want to attract iPod users, the music store doesn't list tracks as being DRM-free, but as being ready to "play on the iPod."

Because neither Warner nor Sony BMG are yet licensing their catalogs without DRM, many of the tracks at the store are still DRM-encumbered WMA files - it's a confusing situation and a huge drawback if the company wants iPod users to shop there...

...(but) pricing is competitive. The 256kbps MP3 tracks are available for \$.94 apiece, which compares well with iTunes' \$1.29 for 256kbps AAC files

...Only edited versions of albums with parental advisories are available, just as they are in Wal-Mart's offline stores...The policy is in contrast to iTunes, which offers both versions for sale and allows users to choose which version they wish to purchase.