

Got Questions?



VERMONT COMPUTING INC.

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Store Hours: Mon – Fri 8:00 – 6:00 Sat & Sun 10:00 – 12:00
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VCI: A New Look Online

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Newsletter



Amazon's Ebook The Future of Reading?

How to Keep Your PC Running this Winter

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JEREMY'S TECH TIP:

- ***KEEP IT CLEAN THIS WINTER SHUTDOWN:***
- ***"COMEDY OF ERRORS"***



Visitors of our website will notice that we've given our site a brand new look! Don't worry, the sections of the site you've come to know and love such as our how to's, cool gear, vcpc shop, and newsletter are all still here. You may notice some further changes over the next month, so please look forward to more exciting changes and enjoy the cool design! -END

Headlines

Amazon's Ebook The Future of Reading?



<http://slashdot.org/articles/07/11/18/067235.shtml>

"With a seven-page cover story on The Future of Reading, Newsweek confirms all those rumors of Amazon's imminent introduction of an affordable ebook. Kindle, which is named to evoke the crackling ignition of knowledge, has the dimensions of a paperback, weighs 10.3 oz., and uses E Ink technology on a 6-inch screen powered by a battery that gets up to 30 hours from a 2-hour charge. Kindle's real breakthrough is its EVDO-like wireless connectivity, which al-

lows it to work anywhere, not just at Wi-Fi hotspots. More than 88,000 titles will be on sale at the Kindle store at launch, with NYT best sellers priced at \$9.99."

Additional info:

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/70983>

Two Companies Now Offering Personal Gene Sequencing

<http://science.slashdot.org/science/07/11/17/1947210.shtml>

"Yesterday, deCODE genetics announced the launch of their \$985 personal genotyping product, deCODEme (video), beating their competitors to market. Perhaps not coincidentally, 23andMe's website is suddenly much more informative today, and the New York Times features a preview of 23andMe's \$999 offering. deCODEme and 23andMe will scan about a million and 600,000 sites across the genome, respectively and assess your risk for common diseases, along with providing information about ancestry, physical traits, and the ability to compare genes with friends and family."

Additional information from:

<http://www.decodeme.com/> and

<https://www.23andme.com/>

Jeremy's Tech Tip - keep it clean this winter



It's that time of year again when the wood stoves are burning and the furnace is keeping us warm into the night, which also means a lot of dust blowing around and clogging up your com-

puter!

Why should you worry about dust in your computer? Here is what Falcon Safety Products has to say

(<http://www.falconsafety.com/default.aspx?pageid=86>)

"Even the smallest amount of dust, an amount barely visible to the naked eye, can wreak havoc on the internal components of a computer. As the computer's cooling fan spins, it not only forces cooler air to the inside of the computer case, but things like dust, soot and cigarette smoke as well. Once inside the computer case, dust, which is heavier than air, will form an insulating blanket, settling on and corroding the computer's delicate circuitry...In some cases, PC cooling fans and vents accumulate so much dust, that they render themselves useless."

Make-it-simple.com goes on to say:

(<http://www.makeitsimple.com/sections.php?articleid=1>)

"Nowadays, personal computers are being used in different ways than years ago. Hardly anyone 10 yrs ago used a personal computer as a home voice/fax answering system. Now it is becoming more common to leave a computer running 24/7 to handle voice/mail/fax. It's the 24/7 that quadruples the dust problem. Then take over clocking into account, throw in a bunch of extra fans most sucking air out and you can multiply the dust problem even more."

So it seems like dust can be a big problem in your PC. What can you do about it? Well, we at VCI feel that every 6 months is a good rule of

thumb, and place a thorough physical cleaning of computer components as an element of our package B (or 6 month) maintenance package. If you own a VCPC that's within it's free maintenance period, be sure to bring it in for this important maintenance. If not, you can always look into purchasing one of our money saving maintenance cards that entitles you to maintenance packages totaling 2 years worth of maintenance!

Want to try cleaning your PC in between visits? Try a can of compressed air.

"Simple short blasts from the compressed-gas duster will quickly and effectively clear any debilitating dust from the fan blades and cooling vents, furthermore allowing the proper circulation of cool air, needed to keep the inside of the computer at an operating temperature."

(<http://www.falconsafety.com/default.aspx?pageid=86>)

We don't recommend touching the internal components of your computer excessively (or some areas at all) but don't be afraid to open your PC case and have a look. You may be surprised by how dusty it is! Compressed air "gives the user the ability to safely blast dust from the computer's internal components without having to directly touch the delicate circuitry". If you aren't comfortable doing this, or are worried about damaging your computer, please don't hesitate to bring it in to the shop for one of our trained technicians to service.

Other things you can do to reduce dust in your system is to place it higher off the ground, and away from heat vents. Keeping your PC away from sources of heat is also good from a cooling standpoint, computer components create heat internally and need to maintain an appropriate temperature to keep from over-heating. Follow these tips and keep computing smoothly this winter.—END

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Terabit-Per-Second Class Connections over FTTH (fiber-to-the-home)

<http://slashdot.org/articles/07/11/17/1913237.shtml>

"Thanks to research from Japan's Tohoku University, an article at Tech.co.uk wonders if someday the megabit and gigabit classes of net connections will join kilobits in the 'antique tech' bin. By doing some advanced mathematics and 'tweaking' existing network protocols, researchers may be able to enable standard fiber-optic cables to carry data at hundreds of terabits per second. 'At that speed, full movies could be downloaded almost instantaneously in their hundreds. At the heart of the development is a technique already used in some digital TV tuners and wireless data connections called quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM). One glance at the Wikipedia explanation shows that it's no easy science, but the basics of QAM in this scenario require a stable wavelength for data transmission. As the radio spectrum provides this, QAM-based methods

work fine for some wireless protocols, however the nature of the optical spectrum means this has not been the case for fibre-optic cables ... until now."

Robots Assimilate Into Cockroach Society

<http://hardware.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=07/11/16/227204>

"Scientists have gotten tiny robots to not only integrate into cockroach society but also control it. 'This experiment in bug peer pressure combined entomology, robotics and the study of ways that complex and even intelligent patterns can arise from simple behavior. Animal behavior research shows that swarms working together can prosper where individuals might fail, and robotics researchers have been experimenting with simple robots that, together, act a little like a swarm.'

More information available here:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/16/science/16roach.html>

Shutdown - "comedy of errors"

Ever get the feeling that the problem might not be your computer?

