

Got Questions?



VERMONT COMPUTING INC.

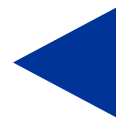
Email us and we might feature your question in the newsletter!

newsletter@vermontcomputing.com

Subscribe to this newsletter online! Visit: <http://www.vermontcomputing.com/newsletter/> or send an email to newslet-



Take one!



Vermont Computing, Inc.
23 Merchants Row
Randolph, VT 05060
Tel: (802) 728-9217

Store Hours: Mon – Fri 8:00 – 6:00 Sat & Sun 10:00 – 12:00
Holiday Hours: 24th 8am-4pm, 25th Closed, 26th Closed

Amazing Holiday Deals!



Get PCs and Accessories
10% off
Plus deals on VCPCs,
details inside

Facebook broadcasts purchasing habits without permission

Number of Cellphones Now Equal To Half the Human Species

Teach yourself General PC Maintenance!

Vol 7 Issue 22
Nov. Part 2
Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:

YCI NEWS:

- **HOLIDAY DEALS**
- **HEADLINES:**
- **FACEBOOK REEVALUATING BEACON AFTER PRIVACY OUTCRY**
- **GOOGLE PURGES THOUSANDS OF MALWARE SITES AFTER SEO ATTACK**
- **EFF RELEASES REPORTS AND SOFTWARE TO SPOT COMCAST NON-NET NEUTRALITY**
- **NUMBER OF CELLPHONES NOW EQUAL TO HALF THE HUMAN SPECIES**
- **CARNEGIE MELLON'S DIGITAL LIBRARY EXCEEDS 1.5 MILLION BOOKS**

MATT'S FEATURED

SITE:

- **YCI How-Tos**

VCI News - holiday deals



Now through end of December all used computers, monitors and computer components are 10% off!

...And, if you purchase a **new VCPC** you get a free *Norton Anti Virus* installed! Not to mention our professional maintenance and the worlds best warranty!

Be sure to take advantage of these great savings!

Holiday Hours: December 24th, 8am-4pm

December 25th: Closed

December 26th: Closed

Headlines

Facebook reevaluating Beacon after privacy outcry, possible FTC complaint

<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20071129-facebook-reevaluating-beacon-after-privacy-outcry-possible-ftc-complaint.html>

Just weeks after Facebook began rolling out its latest marketing strategy, a tool called Beacon, a backlash is building once again over privacy concerns. Users of the site have been finding their off-Facebook web activities—such as purchases at online retailers, reviews at other sites, and auction bids, among other things—being broadcast to their friends without their consent....

Beacon offers "trusted referrals" to Facebook partner sites—the idea is that when my Facebook friends see that I just purchased some shoes from Overstock.com, they'd be more interested in checking out that retailer (and maybe even those shoes) because I shopped there. Or when I leave a review of a business on Yelp, my friends can see that I took interest in that business enough to talk about it, and go to check out Yelp themselves for similar reviews.

The concept isn't a bad one. Businesses love trusted referrals, and generally speaking, people love telling their friends about stuff they've bought. The problem with Beacon, however, is that no one asked any of

Facebook's users whether the site could start tracking their non-Facebook activities for broadcast on Facebook.

...some people have gotten quite upset. After all, who wants their friends to see...an entire laundry list of their holiday gift purchases?

Facebook tried to head off the initial backlash by adding a few ways to let users opt out of various parts of Beacon, but that's just the problem—the solutions were not easily discoverable and incomplete...

This isn't the first time Facebook has made a mis-step that has resulted in outcries from its users over privacy. When the site first implemented its news feed feature—a running feed of every single change made to your profile, your relationships with people, etc. that is broadcast to all of one's friends on Facebook—there was no way to opt out either, and many users suddenly felt over-exposed.

Facebook has since added privacy options to the news feed and some users have embraced the "feature." The same type of acceptance could happen for Beacon, assuming Facebook is able to implement privacy controls that users are actually comfortable with... (cont. page 4)

Matt's Featured Site - VCI How-To's



I'd like to introduce you to a helpful website—our own!

Visit our website, www.vermontcomputing.com and go to the "support" section where you will find a link to our "How Tos". Here you

can find a lot of useful information in plain English. Check out, basics like "How to attach a file to an e-mail" or "Word Processor Basics". If your interested in security there's "Using Spy-Bot" and our "Security Guide". Below is and excerpt from our General PC Maintenance how to:

Removing Unneeded Programs

This part will help you uninstall the programs that you do not need.

1. Click the Start button in the bottom left hand corner of the screen.
2. Go to Settings/ Control Panel
3. Click the icon for Add/ Remove Programs
4. Look down through the list for programs which you don't use anymore. If you are in doubt about whether you use a program, DO NOT uninstall it. For other programs, it is ok to uninstall them.
5. Repeat steps 1 through 4 for each program you want to uninstall. After each uninstall, restart the computer.

Removing Temporary Files

This part will help you delete unneeded files from your computer.

1. Click the start button in the bottom left hand corner of the screen.
2. Go to Search (or Find, depending on your version of windows)
3. In the box where you enter what you would like to search for, type this in, without the quotes: "*.tmp *.old *.bak *.chk" NOTE: The * is obtained by shift & 8.

There is a period between each star and the three letters after. And, there is a space in be-

tween each *.xxx and the next one.)

4. Once you have entered the 4 types of files to search for, click the Find or Search Button
5. Delete everything that is returned in the results. (NOTE: If there are a lot of files returned, click the first one with the left mouse button. Then scroll down to the bottom of the list. Hold down the left shift key on the keyboard, and then click the last file in the list. All the files should be highlighted. That way you can delete them all at once.)

Scandisk

This part will check your hard drive for errors. Make sure you have performed step III first.

1. Go to Start/ Programs/ Accessories/ System Tools. Click the icon for Scandisk.
2. Make sure the drive letter (C, D, etc.) for your hard drive is checked. If you have more than one, you will want to do Part IV for each.
3. Click the button for Thorough. Then check the box for "Automatically Fix Errors."
4. Click Start
5. When it is done (and this can take hours) you will want to restart your computer.

Disk Defragmenter

This part will make your computer more efficient – allowing it to run faster.

1. Go to Start/ Programs/ Accessories/ System Tools. Click on the icon for Disk Defragmenter.
2. Select the hard drive you would like to optimize. If you have more than one, like with Scandisk, you will want to perform Part V for each drive.
3. Click OK.
4. When the program is done, you will want to restart.

Be sure to check out this and our other How-Tos for more helpful information! -END

VERMONT COMPUTING, INC.

Google Purges Thousands of Malware Sites

<http://it.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=07/11/29/1318257>

Stony Stevenson sends in word on the most massive "SEO (Search Engine Optimization) poisoning" seen to date. The attack was directed at Google in particular and resulted in tens of thousands of Web pages hosting exploits showing up on the first page of Google searches for thousands of common terms... Sunbelt Software blogged about the attack on Monday after investigating it for months. By Wednesday Google had removed tens of thousands of malware-hosting pages from its index.

EFF Releases Reports and Software to Spot Interference with Internet Traffic

<http://www.eff.org/press/archives/2007/11/28>

San Francisco - In the wake of the detection and reporting of Comcast Corporation's controversial interference with Internet traffic, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) has published a comprehensive account of Comcast's packet-forging activities and has released software and documentation instructing Internet users on how to test for packet forgery or other forms of interference by their own ISPs.

Separate tests in October from EFF, the Associated Press, and others showed that Comcast was forging small parcels of digital data, known as packets, in order to interfere with its subscribers' and other Internet users' ability to use file-sharing applications, like BitTorrent and Gnutella. Despite having been confronted by this evidence, Comcast continues to issue incomplete and misleading statements about their practices and their impact on its customers.

"Comcast is discriminating among different kinds of Internet traffic based on the protocols being used by its customers," said EFF Senior Intellectual Property Attorney Fred von Lohmann...

Protocol-specific discrimination gives ISPs a tremendous amount of power over the kinds of new applications and services that can be deployed by innovators and competitors. To the extent that practices like those employed by Comcast change the "end-to-end" architecture of the Internet, those

practices jeopardize the Internet's vibrant innovation economy...

Number of Cellphones Now Equal To Half the Human Species

<http://hardware.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=07/11/29/213245>

"A major milestone was reached today, according to communications industry analysts: there are now some 3.3 billion mobile phone accounts worldwide. Of course, it doesn't really mean half the world's population has a cell phone, since users in 59 countries average more than one per person. "The mobile industry has constantly outperformed even the most optimistic forecasts for subscriber growth," Mark Newman, head of research at Informa said in a statement. "For children growing up today the issue is not whether they will get a mobile phone, it's a question of when," Newman said. In recent years the industry has seen surging growth in outskirts of China and India, helped by constantly falling phone and call prices, with cellphone vendors already eyeing inroads into Africa's countryside to keep up the growth."

Carnegie Mellon's Digital Library Exceeds 1.5 Million Books

<http://slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=07/11/29/2048204>

...(You may be) familiar with Google's book scanning project, a collaboration with several major universities to digitize works of literature, art, and science. But Google may have been beat to the punch this time -- about a decade ago, Carnegie Mellon University embarked on a project to scan books into digital format, to be made available online. Today, according to new reports, they now have a collection of 1.5 million books, the equivalent of a typical university library, available online."

"At least half the books are out of copyright or scanned with the permission of copyright holders. Excerpts of copyright-protected works are available, though organizers expect complete texts to become available eventually."

(http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071127/ap_en_ot/digital_library;_ylt=ApRX78dBwELqXzq2_U2cbGUDW7oF) -END