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In this issue: *Windows XP Upgrade to Vista -Vista Vexes - New Security Products The Changing World, A Review of Vista - Book Reviews - Adobe Phototshop Elements 5 Spin It Again - Doing The Right Thing - Scanning Published Photos - Chapter Report*

Vista

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Home Basic

Home Premium

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Upgrade ?

Review

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Business

Ultimate

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Vista Vexes ?

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JOURNAL OF THE CHICAGO COMPUTER SOCIETY

Hard-Copy™ Staff

Managing Editor:
•William "Charlie" Sickels
773-538-1326
wsickels@sbcglobal.net

Features Editor:
•Beata Kernan
708-588-0385
ccsadmin@bigfoot.com

Features Associate:
•Hilton Kaufman

Chapter/SIG Editor:
•Vern Hendricks
847-265-8925
heyvern@bigfoot.com

Advisory Board:
•Vern Hendricks
•Beata Kernan
•Wm. "Charlie" Sickels

Advertising Manager:
•Beata Kernan

Graphic Design and Pre-Press Assembly:
•Tom Soltis
•Mick Hedrick

Here @ *e*Hard-Copy

Commentary and news about some of the articles and also our writers, along with related matters, all intended to make this journal more useful to you.

by Charlie Sickels, Managing Editor
wsickels@sbcglobal.net

Greetings, loyal fans, faithful readers, and general practitioners of other virtues. I can almost imagine hearing you counter with, "Greetings yourself. If you so admire loyalty and virtue, where was eHard-Copy for the month of February? The March issue was labeled as #2."

Ah yes, and this is #3, but you did get Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, and some not-bad weather. We think we're doing rather well to get out 10 issues per year, what with our skeleton staff and less than ample local input. Here's an opportunity to augment them both, right here. We need qualified editorial assistance and se need more local input. Think on it, you and your conscience. The e-mail address above will welcome your inquiry.

Much of this issue concerns Microsoft's long-delayed major new operating system Vista. The time passing from its being just a rumor to being likely, coming, coming soon, postponed, postponed for fixes, "Try this Beta version & let us know", further fixes, pre-announced, announced as available, to Service Pack 1 to ? Is a period commensurate with a college education – with or without graduate school, depending on number of service packs. As our Al Cheeks has pointed out, this sort of experience is common for a major new software project. Something like 90% is definable and knowable. The rest you learn the hard way and it is never done.

On the negative side (and who are we to spell out negatives?) we can refer you to some articles in the PC Pitstop website. [Now here note one of the advantages of electronic distribution: you can highlight a tedious address and copy it over to the search bar in your browser and be taken there, no sweat.] The articles which are collectively referred to as "Vista's Dirty Secrets" are in their Up Close section.

In articles we have gathered which are friendlier to Vista, there is one by Vinny LaBash for the user who wants to go ahead now and upgrade but is leery of the cost and risk of an upgrade from XP. It conveys an unannounced procedure to perform the upgrade without buying the entire new operating system. The procedure is rather detailed and must be followed carefully. Looks worthwhile for those resolved to go ahead which [chicken sounds] does not yet include this editor.

In local presentations, we have another in the series of introducing the CCS Board of Directors to the general membership. This one introduces the genial and knowledgeable CCS VP Tim Kekeis. If you have difficulty pronouncing the name, you can think of icing on a cake, "cake-ice", which is pretty close.

The Chicago Computer Society is a 501(c)3 educational not-for-profit personal computer User's Group with monthly meetings throughout Northeast Illinois and Northwest Indiana. All chapter and Special Interest Group meetings are open to the general public.

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Website hosting for CCS is provided by Network Solutions.
Contact our CCS Administrator, Beata Kernan, at (708) 588-0385 for a membership application.

Another Board member, Beata Kernan, previously introduced, has a couple of brief user reviews on books in an area of increasing prominence: the missing manuals of new programs. Why publishers so often choose now to omit a printed manual may be the cost of printing and packaging, the belief that distribution on CD permits adequate instruction, or that the program is self-explanatory. They are clearly wrong. It may be that developers and publishers of applications take the easy exit, knowing that others will fill the gap. There, they are right. The Missing Manual concept is born and growing. O'Reilly publishers to the rescue! Beata introduces us to a pair of books aimed at starters and full users of the new *MS Word 2007*.

For the first day of April, our Dave Uffer favored us with an account from his past which involved high-stakes potential construction, graphic manipulations, and dealing with entities abroad – some more receptive than others. To us, he claims to have partnered with Adobe to portray his firm's potential accomplishment. He said an eager junior member of the firm – also using CCS as its name – had pitched a rebuild of the Roman Colosseum, but could not find sufficient support within CCS, though Adobe seemed interested, perhaps thinking of the ad campaign that could follow, statements like "Adobe helps correct centuries of misuse", "Adobe spurs renewed interest in Rome Olympics" and "Impossible? Adobe did not think so!"

In another article, Irving Elliott addresses an intriguing option some of us may want to do for special occasions, scan a published picture. Heaven forbid having an intent to violate a patent or trade mark. But in the example given, the problem of dealing with interference patterns is handled, essentially by going soft-focus. He does not consider an option available in some photo editing applications like Photoshop, trying to resharpen the image by using the Sharpen Edges command. So I guess that is an exercise left to the reader, as textbooks like to say. ■ ***(TOC)***

The address for Hard-Copy
The Chicago Computer Society
P.O. Box 159
LaGrange, IL. 60525-0159

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YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meet Timothy Kekeis
Vice-President

Tim has been a member of The Chicago Computer Society for 17 years. At the Board level, in addition to his present position as vice president, a position he has held for three years now, he has served as the South and NW Indiana Regional Director for over 7 years.

At the chapter level, he has served as NW Indiana Chapter Coordinator and ran the NW Indiana Internet SIG. For five years, he was acting Chairman of the South Suburban Steering Committee. Tim has also participated in the management committee for the South Suburban Mini Expos. Tim attends most meetings of the South Suburban Chapter, NW Indiana Chapter, the CCS Board meetings and numerous other chapter and SIG meetings.

He has been a NT Network Administrator for 2 years for CCS and backup to the CCS Web Master during his absence.

His computer experience began back in 1969 as a programmer/analyst and he got into microcomputers in 1975. Tim has been in PC tech support in several companies for more than 10 years with duties also as an NT Network Administrator.

Tim recently graduated from Purdue University Calumet majoring in Computer Networking.

With his varied experiences in all levels of CCS, and his enormous technical background, Tim is a valuable asset to this organization and someone you should meet.

More

Chicago Computer Society Purpose

The Society is an education and information service organization dedicated to expanding knowledge, understanding, and the use of microcomputers by individuals and professionals.

The purposes of the Society are to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific or educational purposes, in the course of which operation and in furtherance thereof:

TO PROVIDE its membership with timely, accurate, and practical solutions to microcomputer productivity problems.

TO ATTRACT and help educate new microcomputer users, and to retain and learn from experienced, knowledgeable users.

TO SATISFY the information needs of its membership.

TO BE a recognizable force in the industry so that Society opinions may positively influence future microcomputer products.

Windows XP Upgrade to Vista

by Vinny LaBash
Sarasota PCUG, Florida
www.spcug.org
labash@spcug.org

Previous versions of Windows always accepted an installation disk as proof you had a legitimate copy of Windows. This entitled you to install the upgrade version of the latest release of the operating system. Vista doesn't work the same way. The only thing it will recognize is a copy of Windows already installed on a hard drive. Why Microsoft did this remains a mystery, but perhaps there really are things that mere mortals are not meant to know.

Don't go out and splurge on a full version of Vista. Read on and save some money. There are four primary versions of Vista:

Vista Home Basic
Vista Home Premium
Vista Business
Vista Ultimate

The difference between the full and upgrade versions of each variation of Vista ranges between $72 and $155. Even though Vista is a big improvement over XP, why spend the extra money for a full version if you don't have to? ***More***

THE WINDOWS VISTA PAINS'N'GAINS PAGE

VistaVexes

by Jan Fagerholm,
Asst Editor, PC Communit
Hayward, California
http://www.pcc.org
jan-f@pacbell.net

February, '07

By the time you read this, Vista will be retail. While the final version was released mid- November last year, it's not scheduled to show up as a boxed retail product until January 31st.

Vista has many new features, and not just the interface (GUI). Microsoft's new restrictions on kernel access creates problems for many applications. While this was done to reduce security vulnerabilities, it produces incompatibilities in many common applications. Here's a few I've had trouble with:

* *McAfee Internet Security Suite*
* *McAfee VirusScan Enterprise*
* *Norton Internet Security Suite*
* *Symantec AntiVirus Enterprise*
* *Cyberlink PowerDVD 7*
* *ABBYY FineReader 8.0*
* *Microsoft Visual Studio 2005*
* *Google Earth (any version)*
* *Partition Magic 8*
* *PerfectDisk 8*
* *Roxio Easy Media Creator Suite 9*

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The Changing World A Review of Vista

by David Steward,
APCUG Advisor
Alamo PC Organization, Texas
www.alamopc.org
dsteward@apcug.net

The title of this article explains a lot. With the release of Microsoft's newest iteration of Operating Systems, Vista, we are going to be making a lot of changes in how we perform day-to-day tasks on our computers. For once, I think they actually got it right. With a more intuitive interface, a lot less cluttered desktop, easier networking and a much more robust security system, Vista will indeed go a long way in making the lives of us who spend a great deal of time staring at a computer screen easier and more exciting.

Getting Started

The first thing that you will notice when opening the box is that Vista is shipped on a DVD instead of a CD, as all of the previous operating systems from Microsoft have been. There are a couple of reasons for this. The first is that Vista is packed with much more content than has been available in the past. Things like Windows Defender, Sidebar, Snipit (a screen capture utility and more), built-in Fax and Scan, and Windows Live Meeting all of which are designed to make life easier.

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Be Sure to check out the monthly calendar for meetings about your computing needs at www.ccs.org

New Security Products Shown at APCUG Annual Conference

by Ira Wilsker,
APCUG Director
Columnist, The Examiner
Beaumont, Texas;
Radio and TV Show Host
Iwilsker@apcug.net

I recently had the opportunity to attend the annual meeting and convention of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) in Las Vegas. Even though I have attended APCUG annual events since 1991, it always amazes me how quickly technology changes, and how those changes are rapidly introduced to us consumers. Every year participants are astounded by what we see, but every year has also demonstrated technologies dwarfing those shown the previous year. The APCUG events were all on topics related to personal computers, including security, applications, operating systems, hardware, CPU, and other technological services and components. Three of the presenters were companies in the computer security software sector.

Grisoft (www.grisoft.com) is a computer security software publisher headquartered in the Czech Republic, and best known in the U.S. for its very popular free version of AVG antivirus software. I was very surprised to learn that the more sophisticated and comprehensive commercial versions of AVG are among the most widely used computer security utilities in Europe. AVG has a

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Book Reviews

Word 2007 , *For Starters The Missing Manual*

by Beata Kernan

This book covers the basics of *Word 2007*, part of the more comprehensive book by the same author reviewed below.

The Introduction pages explain some of the things that are new with *Word 2007*, the latest version. You can create notecards, greeting cards and invitations and also, programs, booklets, brochures and more. Of course, you still can create the normal letters and lists.

In *Word 2007 For Starters*, we learn that the commands have been reorganized. The new *Word* has a ribbon that takes the place of the menus and the toolbars. Building Blocks give your document the look you want with pre-designed, preformatted elements. Another new feature in *Word 2007* is Live Preview. Holding your mouse cursor over a command, formatting option, color, etc, you will see a preview of what the change will look like. ***More***

Software Review

Adobe Photoshop Elements 5

by Nancy Dennis
Membership Chair
Sarasota PCUG, Florida
www.spcug.org
membership@spcug.org

Adobe Photoshop Elements 5 is a photo editing and organizing program that also includes easy to use features to backup your photos and really fun creative ways to show off your photos to family and friends.

Adobe Photoshop is the top of the line photo program for the professionals and costs hundreds of dollars. *Elements* (under $100) has many of the same features as the professional version with a lot of fun and easy features added in, making it the software choice for the non-professional user like you and me.

The software installs the Adobe Photo Downloader in your system tray and is ready instantly whenever you plug in your camera or memory card. Your photos are downloaded into the Organizer where you have easy access to them for viewing, tagging, creating collections, printing, e-mailing, creating all the fun projects, or switching to the Edit mode for a Quick Fix or Full Edit.

More

CCS Help Line

For Members Only.
You can get help with your computer needs by going to the CCS web site in the members only area.
Click CCS Help Line.

Scanning Published Photos

by Irving Elliott
Twin Cities PC User Group, Minnesota
www.tcpc.com/
irving.elliott@att.net

If you scan a photo from a newspaper or magazine, then examine the results on your computer screen, you may see a criss-cross pattern of fuzzy lines over the entire print. If you print the scanned photo, you may also see such a pattern. This happens because pictures in newspapers and magazines are printed in a "halftone" mode.

The halftone process was invented when it was desired to print black-gray-white photographs using a printing press that used only single-color black ink. In this process, the photo is divided into a pattern of small squares, then each square is replaced with a black "blob" of a size proportional to the average shade of black in the square. For example: a white square remains white; a light gray square becomes a small black blob; a dark gray square becomes a larger black blob; a black square remains black. The gray shades were called "half-tones", which explains the name of the process. Originally, the conversion was done by re-photographing the picture with a camera that contained a wire screen, then developing the picture in a high-contrast mode. Nowadays, the process can be accomplished on a computer.

More

West Suburban Computer Club

by Terry Moye (scribe)
CCS Member

Meeting of March 1, 2007

Stan Hungness, group's coordinator, called the March, 2007 meeting of the West Suburban Computer Club to order about 7:30 pm. The meeting as usual started with Open Forum, included Latest Technology Update, and ended with Presentation.

Open Forum

Q. Loaded software program, it changed some desktop icons to be now associated with loaded software program?

A. During installation, user should disassociate software icons from software loaded.

Q. Need to buy computer for $ 800. Any suggestions?

A. Dual core. Wireless keyboard/mouse. Monitor. Vista with 2G RAM memory.

Q. Need software to organize Norton, spyware when booting?

A. CLOCK. Software schedules programs stages.

Q. Shared network drive does not allow access to certain files?

A. Check a box that allows all access (top folder permission).

Q. How to protect hijacking on LAN setup?

A. Use encryption software for files such as WPA (need security passwords).

Q. Is there software for encrypting jump drive to use on another PC?

A. *MIGU* software package.

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Apply for Membership

Any way you look at it, your Chicago Computer Society membership is a great value!Membership includes access to CCS monthly *eHard-Copy* journal, discounts on our Education Programs, participation in our Special Events, and many other benefits.To join, print this page on your local printer, then FILL IN THE BLANKS and MAIL it in along with your check made payable to The Chicago Computer Society to ""The Chicago Computer Society"PO Box 159"LaGrange, IL 60525-0159. **It will take approximately two weeks to process your** appplication and six weeks to start receiving your first issue of Hard-Copy, the Society's award-winning monthly journal.Thanks for your application and welcome aboard

Membership Application

TYPE OF APPLICATION: (Non-Senior and Senior memberships include immediate family.)
Check One: o Non–Senior o Senior (65+ with proof of age) o Student (Full time with copy of valid ID)
Check One: o New o Renewal **PERSONAL INFORMATION:**
Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Initial: ____
Street Address _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: Day: _____ Evening: _____ Email: _____
I o do o do not wish to occasionally receive vendors' promotional material or e-mail solicitations.
CCS Membership dues are $40 per year ($30 forSeniors [65+] or Students)
MEMBERSHIP DUES ENCLOSED: _____(Check or Money Order) Make Check payable to:
THE CHICAGO COMPUTER SOCIETY
Mail to: **The Chicago Computer Society, P.O. Box 159, LaGrange, IL 60525-0159**

Please allow 2+ weeks to process this application and 6 weeks to receive your first Hard-Copy

Where did you hear about CCS

CCS Member: _____
Other: _____