

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....

Founded 1984 **ARI** is the
Official Newsletter of
Computers Are Easy User Group

February 2012
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Confirmed
meeting
dates for
2012
Room A

February 25
March 24
April 28
May 26

MEETING PLACE
will be the
Glenside Public
Library
** **
*** **
** **
*** **
Visitors
Welcome

Frank Braman will give a presentation on February 25

"How To Give Short Or Long Presentations"

Are you being followed?

By Linda Gonse, Editor/Webmaster, Orange County PCUG, California
December issue, nibbles & bits
www.orcopug.org editor (at) orcopug.org

You may not even suspect you are being followed. But, as many as 60 ad networks may be tracking you on the web right now! What's more, they may be selling personally identifiable details about you.

If this disturbs you, you can put a stop to it. You can quickly opt out from advertising networks —each has multiple clients! — with just a few mouse clicks.

The National Advertising Initiative (NAI) is a cooperative of dozens of online ad networks that track you. An NAI statement says it developed an Opt-out Tool "in conjunction with our members for the express purpose of allowing consumers to 'opt out' of the behavioral advertising delivered by our member companies." To this end, NAI offers a YouTube video on their home page showing you how the Opt-out Tool works. (You can also see the enlarged video before you go to their site at <http://bit.ly/ruQt9S>)

Basically, the Opt-out Tool, which will not be installed on your computer, examines cookies (small text files) on your computer and identifies those member companies that have placed an advertising cookie on it.

Con't pg 2

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THE NAI OPT-OUT PROCESS

Send Your Choices

- Click the "Submit" button to register your choices with the NAI member companies you chose.
- The "Opt-Out Tool" sets an opt-out cookie for the selected company.

Company Name	Cookie Status	Opt-Out
Criteo <small>More Information</small>	Opt-Out Cookie You have opted out of this network.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross Pixel Media <small>More Information</small>	No Cookie You have not opted out and you have no cookie from this network.	<input type="checkbox"/>
DataLogix <small>More Information</small>	Active Cookie You have not opted out and you have an active cookie from this network.	<input type="checkbox"/>
DataXu <small>More Information</small>	Opt-Out Cookie You have opted out of this network.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Datonics <small>More Information</small>	Active Cookie You have not opted out and you have an active cookie from this network.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated Networks (AppNexus) <small>More Information</small>	Active Cookie You have not opted out and you have an active cookie from this network.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated Networks (DoubleClick) <small>More Information</small>	Opt-Out Cookie You have opted out of this network.	<input type="checkbox"/>

A few of the networks that may have placed one or more cookies on your computer.

When a member company's cookie is identified by the Opt-out Tool, you simply check the box next to the company name. If you are strongly motivated (or highly frustrated), check the "Select All" box! Then, click the "Submit" button, and you're done. The cookies will be removed for the selected companies and your opt-out status will be automatically verified.

Go to the NAI website at <http://bit.ly/sNMIj0> to get the opt-out process started.

There are two caveats. 1. Opting out of a network does not mean you will no longer see online advertising. But, the network from which you opted out will no longer be tracking you personally and displaying ads that are "tailored to your web preferences and usage patterns." Isn't that the idea? 2. Networks voluntarily allow opting out. It isn't a legal mandate. Also, technical glitches may occur. Cookies from any of these networks may reappear. So, use the Opt-out Tool regularly.

Quantcast Measurement and Advertising does not participate in the National Advertising initiative, but also offers you the ability to opt-out of their ads based on your interests.

Quantcast claims it doesn't store your IP address or any other personally identifiable information. "But, if you prefer not to receive interest-based content and advertisements enabled by Quantcast and not to have Quantcast measure your pattern of website visits or other online media consumption, you can opt-out by using our opt-out tool" at <http://bit.ly/vNAXOB>.

Opting out is the only way you can avoid being tagged, tracked and tempted by advertisers who know your purchasing history. By opting out you can end hunting season by advertisers who are determined to bag your money.

Lamp Post 134

by John Spizzirri
February 19, 2012



Last month I wrote about SOPA and PIPA. Congress, in their wisdom, dropped consideration of those bills in an effort to get re-elected. Presidents Bush and Obama, during the year of their transisiton, authored (I doubt they wrote anything) the National Security Presidential Directive 54 (PD54 **(1)**), aka Homeland Security Presidential Directive 23 (HSPD23 **(2)**). Most of the details of PD54/HSPD23 are secret. They have the effect of law, yet no one outside government insiders know what is in them. The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC **(3)**) has been filing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA **(4)**) requests since 2008 in an effort to find out what the 'law' says **(5, 6)**. Unfortunately, the President (POTUS **(7)**) through his Attorney General (AG **(8)**) have seen fit to stall and drag out the proceedings so that the public can be kept in the dark. The people have some say about the Internet and privacy concerns via the Congress, as seen by the recent SOPA/PIPA flap. In contrast, the PD54 administered by the National Security Agency (NSA **(9)**). PD54 is outlined in the most general terms. It can deploy intrusion detection system, intrusion prevention systems, monitor all federally funded research and development, "connect current cyber ops centers to enhance situational awareness", implement a government-wide cyber counterintelligence plan, increase the security of our classified networks, expand cyber education (public and private), develop deterrence strategies and programs, define and develop technology strategies, extend cyber-security into critical infrastructure domains (public and private), and develop global supply chain risk management **(10, 11)**. Each of these topics are so broad that PD54 gives POTUS and the NSA almost unlimited power to do almost anything, with the Internet and other private networks. Interestingly, with all this power, the NSA was unable to thwart a Chinese cyper attack **(12)**.

- 1) <https://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/nspd/>
- 2) http://itlaw.wikia.com/wiki/Homeland_Security_Presidential_Directive_23
- 3) <https://epic.org/>
- 4) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_Information_Act_%28United_States%29
- 5) <https://epic.org/2011/12/epic-urges-court-to-order-disc.html>
- 6) <https://epic.org/foia/FOIAApp112409.pdf>
- 7) <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>
- 8) <http://www.justice.gov/ag/>
- 9) <http://www.nsa.gov/>
- 10) <http://www.whitehouse.gov/cybersecurity/comprehensive-national-cybersecurity-initiative>
- 11) <https://www.fas.org/irp/eprint/cnci.pdf>
- 12) <http://venturebeat.com/2012/01/13/sykipot-department-of-defense/>

The acronym, ACTA **(1, 2)**, does not sound bad. Behind this benign sounding word is a treaty that is SOPA **(3)** and PIPA **(4)** on steroids. ACTA stands for Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement. That name is deceptive. It is an international trade agreement similar to North American Free Trade

Agreement (NAFTA **(5)**) and General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT **(6)**). Both GATT and NAFTA required Senate ratification in accordance with Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution **(7)**. The United States Trade Representative (USTR **(8)**) has negotiated this instrument in secret **(9, 10)**. U.S. Senator Ron Wyden **(11, 12)**, chair of the Senate Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Trade, is concerned that the USTR and the President believe that this instrument is not a treaty and thus does not need a super-majority of Senators to ratify it. Wyden sent a letter to the POTUS about these concerns. I was unable to find any response from POTUS. What are some of the more ugly parts of the agreement? There is a clause that forces Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to 'filter' for violations of intellectual property (IP). There is a clause called three strikes. Three strikes is a reporting and enforcement methodology. Anyone in the world can file a complaint with the Anti-Counterfeiting Commission, created by ACTA, against any web site in the world. If three complaints are received by the Commission, the Commission orders the ISP to delete the web site and cancel the account of the person who owns the site. There is no proof necessary that an Intellectual Property violation has occurred. ISPs are expected to comply. A question occurred to me about interconnected companies. What if Youtube **(14)** received three complaints, would Google **(15)** have to be shut down too? (Google owns Youtube.) The individual countries are expected to force ISPs to comply. The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF **(13)**) has some excellent informational pages **(16, 17)**. Does it seem like the government is trying to stop the Internet? What are they afraid of?

- 1) <http://www.ustr.gov/acta>
- 2) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Counterfeiting_Trade_Agreement
- 3) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stop_Online_Piracy_Act
- 4) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PROTECT_IP_Act
- 5) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_Free_Trade_Agreement
- 6) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Agreement_on_Tariffs_and_Trade
- 7) http://www.usconstitution.net/xconst_A2Sec2.html
- 8) <http://www.ustr.gov/>
- 9) <https://www.eff.org/issues/acta>
- 10) <http://themoderatevoice.com/135270/tech-community-flexes-muscle-senators-run-for-the-door/>
- 11) <http://wyden.senate.gov/ron/>
- 12) <http://wyden.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=12a5b1cb-ccb8-4e14-bb84-a11b35b4ec53>
- 13) <https://www.eff.org/>
- 14) <https://www.youtube.com/>
- 15) <https://encrypted.google.com/>
- 16) <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2012/01/we-have-every-right-be-furious-about-acta>
- 17) <https://www.eff.org/issues/acta>

Microsoft (MS **(1)**) has released a 'pre-beta' version of Windows 8 **(2)**. I would assume that pre-beta would mean alpha, but what do I know. They announced, in early February, that a consumer preview version would be released toward the end of the month. The new look of Windows 8 is similar in many ways to the Windows Phone **(3)**. There is no Start button or orb. Applications and folders look like buttons on the desktop - the icons are gone. The desktop appears to be designed for a touch screen, like a phone or tablet. [See pg 9] Even the Blue Screen of Death (BSOD **(4)**)

looks different. If history holds true, this version of Windows will be another loser for MS. Windows 95, 2000, and Vista were not big hits with business and large organizations. Windows 98, XP, and 7 were adopted by business readily. Major product changes are ignored by businesses, but the revised and refined products are accepted. Windows 8 is a major change just like Vista. They are probably not well tested. They are tested by the users that buy the products or a forced to accept the product with a new machine.

- 1) <https://www.microsoft.com/>
 - 2) <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/apps/br229516>
 - 3) <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsphone/en-us/default.aspx>
 - 4) <http://www.networkworld.com/community/blog/blue-screen-death-gets-new-life-windows-8>
-

Google phone (1) is still free. Google has seen fit to give us another year of free calls to the U.S. and Canada, or call abroad at low rates. Google phone is located in Gmail (2).

- 1) http://www.google.com/chat/voice/#utm_campaign=en_US&utm_medium=homepage&utm_source=en_US-gizmo5
- 2) <https://accounts.google.com/ServiceLogin?service=mail&passive=true&rm=false&continue=https://mail.google.com/mail/&ss=1&sc=1&tmpl=default&tmplcache=2>

Wisconsin (1) is buying iPads (2) for schools. Taxpayers are not funding this purchase, yet. Wisconsin sued Microsoft on behalf of consumers who had complained that they had been over charged. MS lost the suit. The settlement funds (3) are being used for the Apple (4) product.

- 1) <http://www.wisconsin.gov/state/index.html>
- 2) http://store.apple.com/us/browse/home/shop_ipad/family/ipad?afid=p219|GOUS&cid=AOS-US-KWG-BOPIS
- 3) http://www.appleinsider.com/articles/12/01/28/wisconsin_uses_microsoft_settlement_funds_to_buy_ipads_for_schools_.html
- 4) <https://www.apple.com/>

Lisa Collier Cool (1) wrote an article (2) on how your computer affects your health for Yahoo.com (3). She covered carpal tunnel syndrome (4) (repetitive strain injury) and went on to vision problems, 'BlackBerry' thumb, insomnia, and physical computer-related accidents.

- 1) <http://www.lisacolliercool.com/Site/Home.html>
- 2) <http://health.yahoo.net/experts/dayinhealth/your-computer-harming-your-health>
- 3) <http://www.yahoo.com/>
- 4) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0001469/>

Apple posted record profits in its most recent quarter. Unfortunately, a public relations snafu soon

followed. Its "China problem" (1) was exacerbated by Jon Stewart's Fear Factory episode (2). It featured Foxconn (3) employees who "work 35-hour shifts at 31 cents an hour" making Kindle's (4), phones, and Apple products. Obviously, 35 hour shifts are impossible, but the hourly rate is correct.

- 1) <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/china-wrestles-with-apple-problem-2012-01-29>
- 2) <http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/mon-january-16-2012/fear-factory>
- 3) <http://www.foxconn.com/>
- 4) <http://www.amazon.com/>

Between you, me and the LampPost, that's all for now.

ICE Your Cell Phone - Save Your Life

By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

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You may have never heard of the ACEP, American College of Emergency Physicians, but their new consumer website is one you might want to visit. With the number of emergency room visits growing rapidly, this organization has put together a website where patients can access health information, share stories, and get involved in advocacy efforts. www.acep.org

Visits to the emergency department hit a new high in 2006. A record 119.2 million people, up from 115 million, were recorded by the Centers for Disease Control, with an average of 227 visits per minute. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) predicts those numbers will only keep rising.

According to the report, age groups with the highest visit rates were infants under 12 months of age and those over the age of 75. In fact, people aged 65 and older are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population and are the most likely to be admitted to the hospital of all emergency patients. Researchers conclude that visits for patients between 65 and 74 could nearly double from 64 million in 2003 to 111.7 million by 2013. Despite these numbers, emergency departments continue to close - causing delays for people with serious medical conditions like heart attacks.

In honor of its 40th anniversary, ACEP will be making available video clips featuring emergency medicine pioneers, vintage photographs and radio public service announcements. In addition, the organization is launching a new consumer website, EmergencyCareForYou.org, which features extensive public information. The year-long campaign is sponsored in part by General Motors OnStar, Ultrasonix and ZOLL Medical Corporation.

The [EmergencyCareForYou](http://EmergencyCareForYou.org) website is a comprehensive site that you will want to visit. It has information on everything from "how to tell if it is an emergency" to "family disaster preparedness".

One important section of this website talks about how "ICE" and Your Cell Phone Can Help Save

Your Life.

The website states, "Emergency physicians are recommending that people with cellular phones add "ICE" entries into their cell phone address books. This stands for "In Case of Emergency," and medical professionals are using it to notify the person's emergency contacts and to obtain critical medical information when a patient arrives unconscious or unable to answer questions."

I didn't know about this, yet it sounds like a great idea! Check it out. It may save your life. More information can be found at the ICEforHelp website. www.iceforhelp.com

DO YOU "YOUTUBE"?

By Elaine Szaniszlo, Editor, Northeast Ohio PC Club

December 2011 issue, Nybbles & Bytes

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I had always thought that YouTube was a site that had lots of fun videos. Well, it does, but read on!

I was on a trip recently and the fuses blew on the car power outlets. We needed to replace the fuses as our plug-in GPS would not work otherwise. Of course, everyone knows the fuse box is located under the dashboard, right? But did you know some cars have another fuse box under the hood? We found that out on youtube.com. We typed in the car make, model and year, and fuse box, and up came a very nice video showing where the fuses were in the engine compartment, how to get the cover off and showed there was a fuse puller included (a very useful tool, indeed!). Now we would never have known that.

A friend told me he was going to replace a garbage disposal. He went to YouTube. Again, there was a detailed video explaining how to do that. Other ambitious folks I know have used YouTube to get videos on repairing clothes washers, too.

I used YouTube once to get some cooking information, but never realized the wide scope of informative videos that was available. So the next time you want to solve a problem or get information on any do-it-yourself project, check out YouTube. It may make YOU happier.

Too Many Choices

By Wil Wakely, President, Seniors Computer Group, California

December 2011 issue, Bits and Bytes

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Choosing a computer used to be relatively easy: Do you want a desktop with a tower or a flat unit that fits under your monitor? This is no longer true. Now we have a plethora of choices: Desktop, Laptop, Notebook, Tablet, Smart Phone, and smart e-Book Reader. Perhaps I have missed a late comer; if so, forgive me. Let's review the features, pros and cons of each.

Desktop

For a fixed location, non-portable computer a Desktop is the best choice. It is the least expensive computer and can be easily customized to whatever your computing needs might be. It is a necessity for gamers and heavy-duty computing such as photo and video processing, CAD (computer-aided design), and data processing. There are wide choices of software and hardware which results in lower costs and greater availability of these items. Larger displays, multiple ones if desired, are available along with specialty multi-function keyboards and a variety of mice, all of which can be easily attached. More powerful computer chips, memory chips, video processors, large, multiple hard drives and powerful wireless adaptors are choices only available with Desktops.

The choice between proprietary brands such as Dell or HP vs. a “plain vanilla” custom machine depends upon your budget and how much technical support you may need.

Laptop

Portable laptop computers come in a variety of sizes, prices and features. Many of the more expensive ones rival some Desktop machines in capability. The display screens are smaller than Desktops and the keyboards with the integrated touchpad mouse are not as user friendly as those on Desktops. Newer models have built-in Wi-Fi for connection to the Internet, whereas older models required a USB Wi-Fi adapter. Most

Laptops have a built-in video camera for video messaging with friends via Skype. For equivalent features, Laptops are always more expensive than Desktops as are any repairs or upgrades. However, if portability of a powerful computer is a requirement, a Laptop is a good choice. An auxiliary USB external hard drive or large thumb drive (flash drive) is useful for backup and storage for Laptops.

Notebook

The Notebook is just a smaller, lighter version of a Laptop with a smaller screen and keyboard. It is not recommended for heavy duty use, but is fine for travel and is less expensive than Laptops, Tablets or Smart Phones. Most of the Laptop features are also found in Notebooks. Some Notebooks come with electronic memory instead of hard drives. This memory is faster and lighter, but holds much less data than hard drives. The Chrome by Google is a Notebook that utilizes the Cloud for much of its power and capability.

Tablet

A Tablet has no external keyboard, but the screen is touch sensitive so a virtual keyboard on the screen is provided instead. However, the touch-screen eliminates much of the standard keyboard activity. The availability of software for Tablets is growing rapidly, but there is nowhere near the number of titles available for the computers described above. For casual use, Tablets are fine for email, Web browsing, limited word processing and spreadsheet work. Most Tablets are less expensive than Laptops, but often cost more than Notebooks. Tablets also have e-Book reading capability. They have no hard drive but Cloud storage via the Internet somewhat replaces this function. The iPad by Apple seems to be the leader in Tablets, but many competitors are coming on-line with similar features at lower prices.

Smart Phone

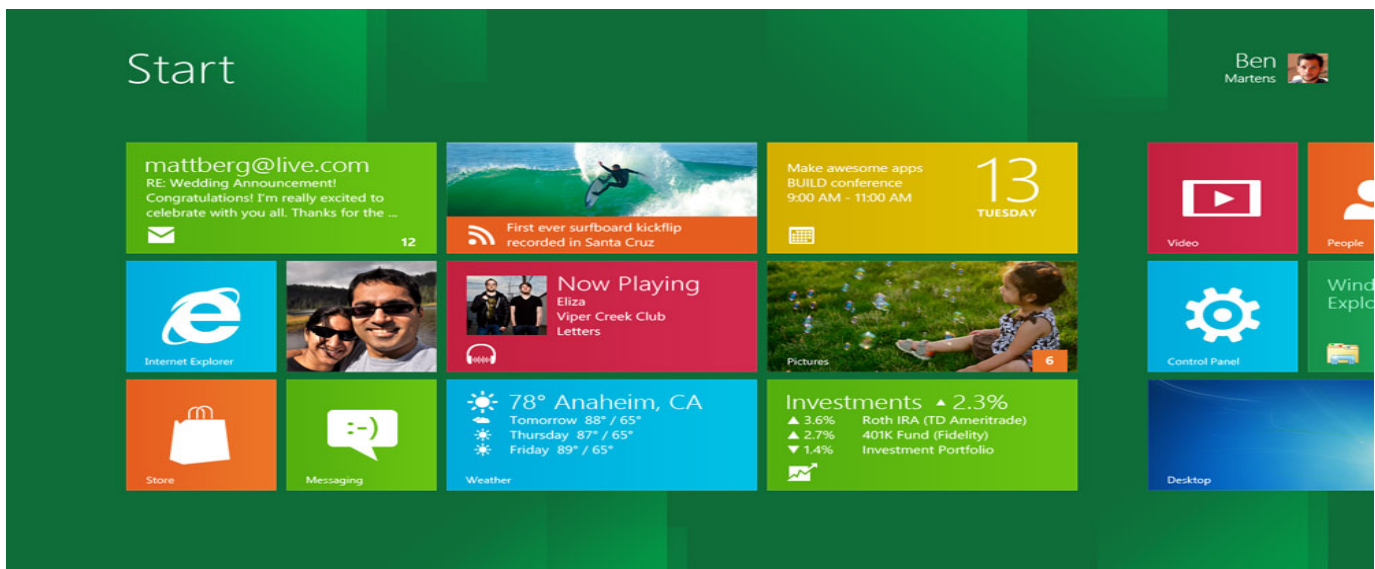
There are two major varieties of Smart Phones: iPhone and Android. The iPhone is a proprietary operating system by Apple and is more expensive than other Smart Phones, but is claimed to be more user friendly. The Android phone is an “open source” operating system developed by Google and as such has many more Apps, (software applications). The major drawback to these phones is the small display screen. They have touch screens in lieu of a keyboard. However, they are cell phones, which none of the above are. They are also connected to the Internet for email and Web browsing and can play music and video. The phones can be quite inexpensive because the carriers (Verizon, ATT, etc.) require signing a two year contract for the reduced cost. Breaking the contract early can be very expensive. There is a basic cost for the phone service and an equivalent monthly charge for Internet service. There also can be an additional service charge for data usage. Look for unlimited data-use contracts, if available.

Smart e-Book

Older e-Book readers were just that — monochrome digital book readers, e.g., early models of the Amazon Kindle. Newer Readers such as the Amazon Fire and Barnes & Noble Nook have full color touch screens with Wi-Fi along with their e-Book reader function. The Fire also has free Internet connectivity via Sprint. So the e-Books are now competing with the Tablets, having similar features but with a display size intermediate between Tablets and Smart Phones. Look for e-Book Readers to become even smarter in the near future.

So what's next? I predict expanded speech recognition and generation will soon be incorporated in most computers, as an alternate to touch-screen, mouse and keyboard. A larger selection of Apps will become available as software programmers jump on this lucrative bandwagon. Faster Internet connections are already available in selected locations and will come to your area soon. Look for LTE, 4G, 5G and even faster connections. Better displays that don't wash out in sunlight are being developed and we should see them soon. Lower prices and enhanced features due to competition favor the consumer and should happen very quickly. Decisions, decisions... Stay tuned!

Ready for Windows 8? Here's the look of that future.



February 2012 CD of the Month

ARI - February newsletter
AutoHotKey - Program to create short cut keys
BetterExplorer - A replacement for Windows Explorer
BleachBit - A powerful file system cleaner - be careful
Boomerang4Gmail - Info about a browser addon for Gmail
BringFocus - Timer for doing tasks
CDBurnerXP - Updated CD / DVD writer
CDOMlists - Lists of past CDOMs
ClickTo - Sends clipboard info to a web site or file
D7 - PC technician aid to a uniform procedure to follow
EaseusBackup - Backup software
EMDB - Personal movie database that brings in IMDB data
Foxit - Updated PDF reader
FreeOTFE - On the fly encryption
Jaangle - Music player and organizer
jEdit - Small editor program
KomodoEditor - Powerful programming editor program
MemberContributions - Things e-mailed to me from members
OldTimeRadio - Old time radio broadcast
OpalCalc - Super small spread sheet for small jobs
PhraseExpress - Organizes text snippets for quick access
Plex - Media center for you PC
RealWorldPaint - Paint and photo manipulator
SlideshowCreator - Combines various photo formats into movie
SlimDriverUpdate - Checks on driver revisions for you
Snappy - Screen shot program
Sysinternals - Tool set for Windows that MS purchased
Themes - Desktop themes and wall paper
Tiles - Make Win 7 look like Win 8
TinyEdit - Small Notepad like editor
VLC - Updated media player
WriteMonkey - Lightweight word processor - fast

Members Helpline

Any member with a specific expertise can volunteer to be on the Members Helpline.

Beginner Helpline - Billy Douglas

Beginner hardware problems - Dick Fergus

Hardware problems, XP, Win 7 & Linux - John Spizzirri

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