



February Newsletter 2008

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Our February Skype demonstration was a lot of fun and very informative. It is a great way to have an inexpensive computer (VoIP) phone service—calls are free to anyone in the world who uses Skype. You can also make low calls from your computer to a regular phone—especially with a monthly subscription fee. I am including a short review of Skype that I received in June last year.

There are other VoIP services such as Vontage and MagicJack. All of the services require a high speed internet service and can make computer dialed calls. The MagicJack device makes one of your USB ports into a phone jack that uses a regular phone. Since the calls are still computer generated, you have no long distance charges to any phone in the United States. Since you get to

assign a phone number to your MagicJack, you can have a local presence anywhere in the United States even if you never make calls on it yourself. Use the call forwarding feature, and the calls will ring on your home phone. It would also make a great gift for someone living outside the US. Calling the assigned local number would be free, and their MagicJack calls back into the US would only cost \$20 per year.

We are trying a more active, hands on approach to our meetings this year. Bring your questions, new ideas, interesting websites, and computer. If there is something you would like to see covered, please email me ([bethpick@emailx.net](mailto:bethpick@emailx.net)) or just hit reply to the message this is attached to. See you this Saturday (March 14th).  
—Beth

## Skype 4.0

By Joe Nuvolini, Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, CO  
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I've been a Skype subscriber for some time now. What is Skype, you say? Well, it's an online chat/phone/video service which has, as of the end of March, some 309 million registered users. Last I heard, that is more subscribers than all the US telephone services combined! It allows you to make computer to computer calls free worldwide. It can support 12 million users at a time. In addition to audio and video chat, you can instant message, send text messages to phones, and share files. You can call from computer to phone as well.

It has three levels of service for the computer to phone service. For \$2.95 per month you can make free computer to phone calls anywhere in the US and Canada. The \$5.95 service includes the US, Canada, and Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Monterrey Mexico. For \$9.95 per month you get unlim-

ited free computer to phone calls worldwide. They point out that unlimited means up to 10,000 minutes per month. Let's see, 10,000 minutes is over 6.9 days! I'm currently subscribing to the \$2.95 service. To call overseas with my service it runs about 2.1 cents per minute to Europe or from Europe back to the States. Skype has been offering video calling as well since 2005. Their data compression allows quality voice transmissions on a bandwidth of as little as 2kbs and video on 6kbs. It has a new version, 4.0, which is in beta testing. It allows you to see the person you are calling full screen. For this feature to work well you need 90kbs. I'm using it and it seems to work real well. This full screen mode will be very useful for the computer user group community.

While at the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG) Convention held in conjunction with the January 2008 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) attendees in their forum with the vendors discussed presentations at user group meetings.

Over the years, the cost of sending representatives out to user groups for the purpose of promoting their wares has become no longer cost effective. We discussed the use of Webinars (live presentations across the Internet).

This new version of Skype looks to be ideal for such a program and it can be done at little or no cost to the vendors and user groups. If you haven't tried Skype, you should. You can download the current version (3.8) at: <http://www.skype.com/>

download/skype/windows/. If you are adventurous and want to try 4.0 beta go to: <http://www.skype.com/intl/en/download/skype/windows/bets/>.

By the way, if you have wireless Internet access you can purchase a WiFi phone at the Skype online store and it will allow you to make calls whenever and wherever you have wireless Internet access. There's a lot more information which you can checkout at their Website: <http://www.skype.com>.

## Google Knol

By Brandon Zubek, WorldStart Staff Member

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According to Google, a knol is "a unit of knowledge, an authoritative article about a specific topic." The **Google Knol** service just reached 100,000 articles and it's finally being recognized as a potential competitor to Wikipedia. If you'd like to learn more, here's how you can get started reading and contributing to Google Knol!

### Reading It

Reading a Knol is simple! All you have to do is point your Web browser to <http://knol.google.com> and search for whatever you'd like to read about. The search is powered by Google, so you know it's good!

### Search Results:

Results 1-10 of about 774 for **Barack Obama**



#### [Barack Obama](#)

By [Maic Samuel Delvarella](#)

Born the 4th of August, 1961, Barack Obama is an American senator & a major member of the democratic party; he is the...

Views: **51**  
Published version: **23**  
Edited: **Sep 29, 2008 1:03 PM**  
★★★★☆ 7 Ratings



#### [Barack Obama](#)

By [Lauren Langmead](#)

Barack Obama is the 2008 Democratic candidate for President of the United States and the junior US Senator from the...

Views: **827**  
Comments: **4**  
Published version: **10**  
Edited: **Dec 30, 2008 7:22 AM**  
★★★★☆ 20 Ratings



#### [Review of Barack Obama words](#)

By [Saïd Khan](#)

We must spread the Obama phenomena of wisdom. He is truly a wise leader, which is the key to all great leadership.From...

Published version: **11**  
Edited: **Dec 30, 2008 11:50 PM**  
★★★★☆ 1 Rating



#### [Barack Obama's Foreign Policy](#)

By [Ritu Dhungana](#)

Introduction The United States, being the largest economy in the world and the largest spender in the defense, has a strong...

Views: **41**  
Published version: **6**  
Edited: **Nov 25, 2008 5:25 AM**  
★★★★☆ 2 Ratings

As you can see, there are a lot of Knols (774) about Barack Obama, ranging from his foreign policies to buying cheap Obama memorabilia. Knols can be written by anyone, so the content varies quite a bit.

### Writing Your Own Knol

To write a Knol of your own, go to <http://knol.google.com> again and click on **Write a Knol**.

Sign in to your Google account (if

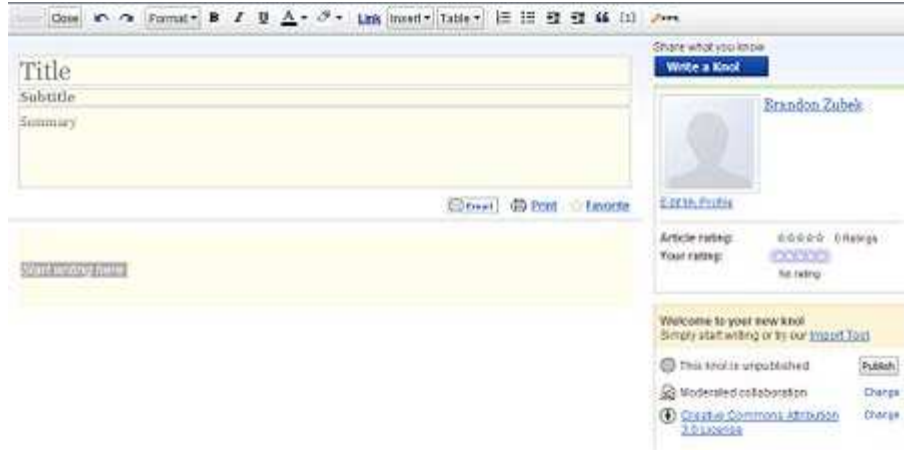
Share what you know

Write a Knol

you don't have one, you'll need to sign up first)



Click on the **Write a Knol** button again. You'll then see the basic structure for writing a Knol. You can choose your license as well, which I think is great! Pick from three Creative Commons licenses (saying that people can use it,



but with conditions) or All Rights Reserved (only under limited circumstances can people use it).

## System Mechanic 8 – A PC “Swiss Army Knife”

*This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).*

WEBSITE: <http://www.iolo.com>

FREE TRIAL SOFTWARE:

<http://www.iolo.com/downloads.aspx>

Frequent readers of this column will be well aware that there are many computer utilities in cyberspace that can improve the performance of our PCs. As we use our computers, the registry becomes cluttered and inefficient; useless files consume valuable real estate on our hard drives; and other maladies caused by the software on our computers deprive us of the performance we paid for and deserve. While I admittedly use several different utilities to maintain peak operating efficiency of my computers, if I had to choose only a single utility for computer maintenance, it would be lolo's System Mechanic ([www.iolo.com](http://www.iolo.com)). I have used System Mechanic for many years in its earlier versions, but now lolo has released the latest iteration, System Mechanic version 8.

Simply, System Mechanic 8 is arguably the most comprehensive PC maintenance utility available, with over 40 distinct performance and security tools included, giving it “Swiss Army Knife” features. According to published sales figures, System Mechanic is the #1 best selling PC tune-up software on the market, and has won awards for excellence from dozens of computer publications, including Cnet's Editors' Choice, Windows Magazine, PC Computing, ZDNet Editors' Pick, Computer Shopper's Top 100, Computerworld, and

many others.

Rhetorically, why would I choose System Mechanic 8 over all of its competitors? Because of what it does, its power, versatility, and features; that is why. Compared to its major competitors, none of them offer the feature rich set of functions that System Mechanic offers. According to lolo, “Over 98% of PC problems are caused by clutter and faulty settings that are the result of everyday PC use.” System Mechanic 8 can repair or otherwise remedy virtually all of these problems. Many of a PC's problems can be traced to problems and errors in the registry, a large data file that contains information on the hardware and software installed on the computer. The registry is almost constantly written to, and read, often leaving obsolete data in the registry. This obsolete, and eventually erroneous data left in the registry consumes some system resources, and can promote errors and other problems as faulty data is read and processed. The registry must be periodically purged of useless data, defragmented and compacted in order to contribute to better PC performance, a function that System Mechanic 8 excels at.

Our computers are constantly reading from and writing to the hard drive, and that drive often becomes cluttered, fragmented, and may also have some errors in the data stored on it. While almost all flavors of Windows have some type of “defrag” and “chkdsk” software to defragment the hard drive, and check it for errors, the Windows integral versions of those utilities are very basic and lack

the power to do a truly thorough job, as System Mechanic will do. Clutter and useless files consume a lot of the storage space on our hard drives; System Mechanic 8 can identify and remove that clutter, freeing up that hard drive space, making for a more efficient hard drive.

Sometimes, and it will likely happen eventually to each PC user, the computer will not properly boot. For that particular eventuality, System Mechanic 8 will allow the user to create a bootable emergency CD that may be able to revive "crashed" systems. Another irritant that many of us suffer through on a regular basis is the boringly slow boot process itself, where we wait and wait for our computer to become usable. System Mechanic 8 claims to have 19 different ways that it can speed the boot process by making it more logical and efficient. Another way that we are losing performance that we are paying for is by having improper internet settings. Many of these settings are mundane and not readily accessible to the typical user. By modifying these settings to their ideal point, internet throughput can be improved, in some cases tripled. System Mechanic 8 will analyze our internet connection, and make any changes necessary to maximize performance.

PC security is a major issue that all of us must deal with on a constant basis. System Mechanic 8 contributes to system security by fixing settings that would otherwise allow an intruder to access the computer, making cyber attacks that more difficult. Sometimes we have files that we want to securely delete, being well aware that normally deleted files are easy to recover, which may create another security problem. This utility offers the user a military grade wiping function that can securely delete unwanted data.

System Mechanic 8 retails for \$49.95 for a one-year license, and can be used on up to three computers; discounts are available online ([www.iolo.com](http://www.iolo.com)) for longer licenses.

For those who want an even more feature rich product, Iolo offers System Mechanic Professional, version 8 (\$69.95 for 3 computers). This Professional version is an integrated bundle which includes most of Iolo's other popular products. The bundle includes Iolo's antivirus software, renowned for its hourly updates; and its Personal Firewall to protect from intruders and malicious software. Another program included with the Professional bundle is another personal favorite of mine, Iolo's Search and Recover. This program

## Smart Computing Tip Of The Day

### Screen Savers

Over the years, you may have received email messages warning of viruses that lurked inside popular screen savers. Such warnings are, in some cases, hoaxes. Nevertheless, you should treat all screen savers as if they actually were contaminated with viruses, spyware, or adware. A screen saver is an executable file and, as such, has the potential to carry dirty code into your system.

You should take the opportunity to scan any screen saver file you download for viruses and spyware before loading it into your system. When you're satisfied that a file is safe for installation on your PC, you can install it in one of two ways. If the screen saver bears an .EXE file extension, double-click the file and follow the on-screen installation instructions. If the file has an .SCR extension, however, then simply move it to the WINDOWS\SYSTEM32 (in WinXP) or WINDOWS\SYSTEM (in Win98/Me) folder and select it as your screen saver in the Display Properties dialog box. (You can access Display Properties in any version of Windows by right-clicking your Desktop and selecting Properties from the pop-up menu.)

can recover files that were deleted, including photos, videos, documents, email, music, and other data that may have otherwise been lost. Search and Recover can undelete files from hard drives, digital cameras, memory cards, and almost all other digital media.

Professional also includes DriveScrubber, a utility that can securely erase data from hard drives. This is necessary when donating a computer, selling it, or recycling it. Without securely deleting our personal data, others can access it and use it for a variety of purposes, including identity theft. DriveScrubber overwrites the data using methods that meet strict government and military standards, ensuring the destruction of that data, without harm to the drive itself.

Iolo has a winner in System Mechanic 8. For those who like to try software before they purchase it, Iolo offers a free, 30 day, fully functional trial version of each of its products at [www.iolo.com/downloads.aspx](http://www.iolo.com/downloads.aspx). If you try the software, you will probably like it as much as I do, and find it indispensable.

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Do you really know how to forward an e-mail? It is estimated that over fifty percent of email users do not know how to do it properly. Do you wonder why you get viruses or junk mail? Email messages get forwarded countless times without concern for the security of the previous sender's addresses.

Every time you forward an e-mail there is information left over from the people who got the message before you, namely their e-mail addresses and names. As the messages get forwarded along the list of addresses builds and builds creating a huge resource for spammers. All it takes is for someone to get a virus and the infected computer can send that virus to every e-mail address that has come across that computer. Even if the address collection doesn't result in a virus it surely will be harvested by spammers or someone looking to make a couple of cents for a listing of good email addresses. How do you stop or at least minimize the propagation of email addresses? There are several easy steps that we should all practice.

- (1) Before you send out a forwarded e-mail, DELETE all of the other addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top). That's right, DELETE them. Highlight them and delete them, backspace them, cut them, whatever it is you know how to do. It only takes a second. You MUST click the 'Forward' button first and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message. If you don't click on 'Forward' first, you won't be able to edit the message at all.
- (2) Whenever you send an e-mail to more than one person, do NOT use the To: or Cc: fields for adding e-mail addresses. Always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) field for listing the e-mail addresses. This is the way the people you send to will only see their own e-mail address. If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC: and that's it, it's that easy. When you send to BCC: your message will automatically say 'Undisclosed Recipients' in the 'TO:' field of the

people who receive it.

- (3) Remove any 'FW:' in the subject line. You can re-name the subject if you wish or even fix spelling.
- (4) ALWAYS hit your Forward button from the actual e-mail you are reading. Ever get those e-mails that you have to open 10 pages to read the one page with the information on it? By forwarding from the actual page you wish someone to view, you stop them from having to open many e-mails just to see what you sent.
- (5) Have you ever gotten an email that is a petition? It states a position and asks you to add your name and address and to forward it to 10 or 15 people or your entire address book. The email can be forwarded on and on and can collect thousands of names and email addresses. A FACT: The completed petition is actually worth a couple of bucks to a professional spammer because of the wealth of valid names and email addresses contained therein. If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter to the intended recipient. Your position may carry more weight as a personal letter than a laundry list of names and email address on a petition. (Actually, if you think about it, who's supposed to send the petition in to whatever cause it supports? And don't believe the ones that say that the email is being traced, it just isn't so!)
- (6) One of the main ones I hate is the ones that say that something like, 'Send this email to 10 people and you'll see something great run across your screen.' Or, sometimes they'll just tease you by saying something really cute will happen IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN!!!! (Trust me; I'm still seeing some of the same ones that I waited on 10 years ago!) I don't let the bad luck ones scare me either, they get trashed.



(Could that be why I haven't won the lottery?)

(7) Before you forward an Amber Alert, or a Virus Alert, or some of the other ones floating around nowadays, check them out before you forward them. Most of them are junk mail that's been circling the net for Years! Just about everything you receive in an email that is in question can

be checked out at Snopes. Just go to <http://www.snopes.com/>. It's really easy to find out if it's real or not. If it's not, please don't pass it on.

So please, in the future, let's stop or at least minimize the junk mail and the viruses by taking the steps outlined above.

## How To Send An Email Message To Any Cell Phone

By Written by Ken Peters, Hilton Head Island Computer Club, SC  
product.review (at) hhicc.org

[www.hhicc.org](http://www.hhicc.org)

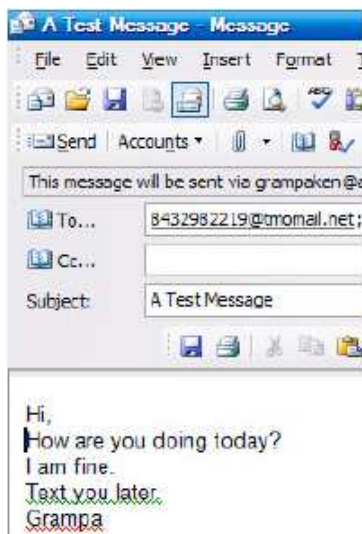
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Impress your kids, grandkids and friends with your ability to text. Send a text message to their cell phone by email from your computer.

Most cell phones have the ability to send and receive short text messages. This is called short message service (SMS) or text paging. This service can take email sent over the internet and deliver them to a cell phone as a text message. Each carrier has its own email address extension i.e. @tmomail.net for T Mobile carrier.

The two things you need to know to send a message are the person's cell phone number and their carrier's email extension. So to send to a T Mobile phone, enter the phone number and add the extension - 8433216549@tmomail.net

The message will look similar to this.



The email message



Appears on cell phone

Some of the common cell phone emails are:

### Alltel AT&T (formerly Cingular)

10-digit phone number@message.alltel.com 10-digit phone number@txt.att.net

Example: 2125551212@message.alltel.com

Example: 2125551212@txt.att.net

### Boost Mobile Nextel (now part of Sprint Nextel)

10-digit phone number@myboostmobile.com 10-digit telephone number@messag

ing.nextel.com  
Example: 2125551212@myboostmobile.com

Example: 7035551234@messaging.nextel.com

### T-Mobile Verizon

10-digit phone number@tmomail.net 10-digit phone number@vtext.com

Example: 4251234567@tmomail.net

Example: 5552223333@vtext.com

### Virgin Mobile USA US Cellular

10-digit phone number@vmobl.com 10digitphonenumber@email.uscc.net

Example: 2622341256r@vmobl.com

Example: 2125551212@email.uscc.net

### Sprint PCS (now Sprint Nextel)

10-digit phone number@ messaging.sprintpcs.com

Example: 2125551234@messaging.sprintpcs.com

**If you can't find the email address for the carrier, check the carrier's website (Links above) or call their customer service.**

The one receiving the message may be charged 10 to 15 cents per message unless they have a plan that includes text messag-

ing. Your kids and grandkids most probably do have a text plan. There is a 160 character limit per message including the email address and the subject line. Some carriers will split the message into two messages if it is longer.

The person receiving the email text message can reply to you from their phone and sometime later you'll receive their reply in your email inbox. If you don't like texting from a cell phone or hate trying to type a message with those small phone keys, give this a try. It's fun.

#### Smart Computing Tip Of The Day

##### **Don't Use Stereo Speakers With Your PC**

At first, it may sound like a great idea to use those old stereo speakers you have tucked away in the attic. But stereo speakers usually aren't magnetically shielded, and they may cause interference with your monitor or other peripherals. Plus, stereo speakers don't work well with sound cards because sound cards generally produce weaker sounds than stereos do.

## Consumer Electronics Show 2009

By Joe Nuvolini, President, Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, CO  
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The trip to Las Vegas was uneventful. The line to get a cab was about 20–25 minutes long as many were arriving for the show. The Somerset House Motel was surprisingly pleasant. The room had two beds, lots of closet space, a nice bathroom, and a kitchenette with a frig, sink, and stove. The walk from the motel to the press room in South Hall was about 15 minutes.

Wednesday evening, I attended the Sony press conference at the LVCC. The presentation lasted about 30 minutes and was about all the “new toys” they would



be showing at CES. One was the Sony Vaio P series. It is an Ultra Mobile PC (UMPC) weighing 1.4 lbs with wireless WAN/LAN, an 8” hi res screen and built in GPS. It runs about \$900. They showed some of their Bravia LDC HDTV's in the 26” to 56” range. Other Sony items were their 10–12 Mp digital cameras and digital picture frames. It was a nice affair with wine, beer, cheese and crackers, and fruit.

The press room featured sweet rolls and Starbucks

coffee for breakfast. Chatted with member Frank Fraser on my ASUS using Skype. It worked fine. While checking out Skype, I found my daughter, Marie, in Portland online so I got to see her and my granddaughter, Sara.

The South Hall opened early the first day so I hit the floor at the opening gun. Stopped at the SDCA (that's an FLA for SD Card Association). They reported that the next generation of SD cards (SDXC) will hold up to two terabytes of data and will have read/write speeds of 104 Mb per second with a road map to 300 Mb per second. Hopefully we will see them later this year. At that rate you could buy a camera for a newborn with one of these cards and take photos his/her whole life and never erase any. Imagine, one's whole life on an SD card. UMPCs were everywhere at this show. I had no idea how popular they had become. I spent some time in the morning of the first day in the South Hall, Central Hall, and North Hall (automotive area). I was working my way over to Piero's for Lunch@Piero's sponsored by Pat Meier Johnson. I missed this event last year and wanted to make sure to get there first thing this year. Pat was as lovely and gracious as ever. They did not serve lunch this year, but I had planned to have lunch at the Press Room.

I attended the Sandisk press briefing. They announced several new items. The first was their line of SSDs (Solid State Drives). They now have them in sizes up to 240 GB. Prices range from \$149 for a 60 GB to \$499 for a 240 GB; still a bit pricey. Next was Slot Music. These are devices that play pre-loaded micro SD cards. We all were given a slot player. It will have to wait until I get home to report on it. They also have a slot radio that plays the micro SDs and is also an FM radio. It will sell for about \$99.99. Slot radio cards

will run about \$39.99 but will be loaded with music. A couple of other items of news: iTunes will change their pricing structure with songs going from \$.69 to \$1.39, depending on the popularity of the song. They will also no longer be protected.

While at CES, I watched the BCS football championship; first half at the Riviera and the second half in my room. Was glad to see Florida win and also to see that Utah was rated #2! At lunch on Thursday, I sat next to a gentleman from Rome whose family had relatives in Civita di Bagnoregio, one of my favorite spots in Italy. I saw him again at the Victorinox press conference. More on that later.

The Central Hall was loaded with big screen LCD panels from an assortment of vendors with spectacular high definition displays. I spent some time wandering around there. As mentioned earlier, Victorinox, makers of Swiss Army knives, held an affair for the press at the end of the third day. Their big news item was the announcement of Presentation Pro. Many of you have seen their knives. Well, Presentation Pro lets you load a presentation on their flash drive which is part of a Swiss Army knife. The presentation data is encrypted when loaded on the drive using an algorithm based on your finger print so it is totally secure. The unit also has an LED pointer for use during the presentation. The button to advance the slides is also on the unit, using bluetooth technology. Victorinox has been in the business of making Swiss Army knives for close to 125 years and has always tried to stay on the cutting edge of technology. It was quite an impressive presentation which, by the way, was made using their new device. The attendees received a device which looks like a pocket knife but, in fact, contains a flash drive, pen and



flashlight. The flash drive contained their press kit.

On Saturday I went over to the Sands/Venetian area to see what all was in that venue. It was home for many gadget devices as well as the home for the Asian vendors' displays. One really neat device I saw was by Pogoplug. This unit is about the size of the electrical conversion transformer I take to Italy with me each year. It plugs into an AC wall outlet. There are two jacks on the other side. Into one you plug your external USB hard drive. Into the second, you plug an RG45 CAT5 cable from your router. You log into the vendor's Web site and register the units registration number, your e-mail address, and password. Once registered, you can access the drive from anywhere in the world. It then appears as a local drive on the computer you are using until you log off. Pretty neat. It runs about \$79.

Speaking of remote access, I have been writing daily reports from my home desktop computer using logmein.com, which I wrote about a few months ago. It works great. I even downloaded Windows 7 beta onto my home desktop when it was released that weekend. It was about 2.5 GB so it took a while. However, the ISO file was sitting there for me when I got home. I plan to borrow an unused computer from the office to run it on. I'm sure I will have to add a bit of RAM.

By Sunday, the last day, many of the attendees had departed so there was not a lot of activity. The effects of the recession were obvious at this year's show. There were fewer vendors. Attendance was down 23% from last year (110,000 versus 140,000). Hopefully, if the economy improves a bit this year, next year the show will return to its old robust size. That's it for CES 2009. I look forward to CES 2010!

## Magic Word Brings Email to the Offline World

A review by Gabe Goldberg, Computers and Publishing, Inc Tipler (at) gabegold.com

*This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).*

If you've ever wondered how to bring email to the techno-phobe in your life, the answer isn't Abracadabra, it's Presto.

If you're reading this online, you own or have access to a computer. But you likely have friends or relatives -- perhaps elderly, budget-restricted, technophobic -- who don't. So they're not in close touch and can't share online family or community



activities.

Presto <<http://www.presto.com>> is a combination color inkjet printer and paid Web-based service which allows people without computers to receive email, including attachments.

Setting it up is simple: after purchasing the device, someone with just a bit of tech savvy creates the account, picks an email address (such as [gabeg99@presto.com](mailto:gabeg99@presto.com)), and lists people allowed to send email to the address. At specified times of



day, the printer dials a toll-free telephone number, downloads accumulated email, and prints it.

With only two controls -- Volume and Stop -- it's easy to operate. It plugs directly into a telephone jack and doesn't need a separate phone line or jack or even a splitter, since an existing telephone or accessory (answering machine or Caller ID device) can plug into it, daisy-chain style.

Presto is ideal for letting seniors receive email from children, grandchildren, friends, former colleagues, military buddies, etc. And it's useful when businesses request customer email addresses to conduct or simplify transactions. It handles pictures and many attachment formats nicely, printing them as if it was a FAX machine. So it allows sharing any online or computer content as PDF files such as maps and directions, travel itineraries, Web pages, spreadsheets with financial or family contact information.

Simple steps authorize new people to send email, and when ink runs low, the printer is smart enough to either alert the person who set up the

account or automatically order new cartridges.

After failing for a dozen years to excite my in-laws about email -- they steadfastly resisted being online -- my retired Navy father-in-law fell in love with a Presto I loaned him, discovering that it let him hear from his old Navy buddies around the world. And receiving color pictures of the grandchildren sealed the deal.

The printer costs \$150 or less (always comparison shop online!) and the service costs \$12.50/month with yearly subscription. The only thing missing is the printer downloading paper and ink through the phone line -- but that would need real magic!

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With Presto, you send email:



## Presto Mail Preview

Interested in seeing what your email would look like when printed by the Presto Printing Mailbox? Use our Preview tool as follows:

1. Open your email program and write a message
2. Attach a photo or PDF document
3. Send your email to: **[preview@presto.com](mailto:preview@presto.com)**

You'll receive a message from Presto Bulletins ([presto\\_bulletins@presto.com](mailto:presto_bulletins@presto.com)) with a link. Click the link to see what your message will look like when printed on a Presto Printing Mailbox.

Note: If you don't receive an email from [presto\\_bulletins@presto.com](mailto:presto_bulletins@presto.com), please check your junk mail folder

They get printed letters:



# Bookmarklets

By Neil Patel, WorldStart Staff Member

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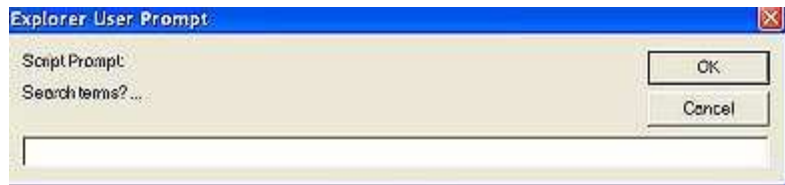
Today I am going to introduce you to something called Bookmarklets. Bookmarklets are tiny add ons simply made for your Web browser. They are basically buttons programmed with JavaScript code that allow you to do useful functions, straight from your Web browser. Bookmarklets can let you modify the way you see another Web site, search more quickly in ways not possible with a search engine, navigate Web sites more effectively and much, much more!

In this tip, I'll show you how to add bookmarks to your browser, how to find them and I'll share with you four Bookmarklets that I think are extremely useful.

First off, you need to make sure you have the links toolbar. That's were the Bookmarklet buttons should be accessed from. Bookmarklets work with both Firefox and Internet Explorer and I will show you how to work with both.

In Internet Explorer, go to **View**, then click on **Toolbar**. Check **Links** if it isn't already. A toolbar should appear. Delete any buttons on it by right clicking them and pressing **Delete**. Do the same for Firefox, but instead of clicking on Links, check **Bookmarks Toolbar** instead.

Okay, you're now ready to use Bookmarklets. To add a Bookmarklet in Internet Explorer, right click the link and press **Add to Favorites**. A box should appear with a list of folders near the bottom. If not, press **Create in <<<**. Then select the **Links** folder and press **OK**. In Firefox, all you need to do is drag the link up to your **Links bar** and let go. Here's what a toolbar full of Bookmarklets looks like and what happens after you press the Google Search.



To find Bookmarklets, all you need to do is search your favorite search engine and you'll receive tons of results.

Alright, before I tell my favorite Bookmarklets, I have some bad news. Although Bookmarklets work with all browsers, some of them are made for only one browser. If it works with Firefox, you'll see this image next to the name. If you see this, it works with Internet Explorer. Also, another very important tip is when you add these Bookmarklets, you might see weird names next to them when they are on your toolbar. All you have to do is right click the button and press **Rename** to give them a new name. Try to pick a short name, so you can fit even more Bookmarklets in!

Okay, now for my favorite Bookmarklets! Feel free to use these to get started and then go on and make your own favorites too!

## . Google Search

Most of you probably have a toolbar for Google, but this is great for searching for something straight off of a Web site. All you have to do is highlight the text and press the button. If nothing is selected, a box will appear asking you what to search for.

Use this link to add this Bookmarklet.



## 2. AutoScroll

This Bookmarklet scrolls the document at a readable pace. A great feature about this is you enter a number (one to eight) and that's the rate you'll scroll at with eight being the fastest. I constantly use it to skim read long articles.

Use this link to add this Bookmarklet.



## 3. PNX8 Photo Editor

This is probably one of the most useful Bookmarklets of all. This is a photo editor and it allows you to edit tasks right on the Web. Sometimes when you only need to make a couple tweaks, it's so much easier than opening Paint or Photoshop. After you are done making changes, you can save

the image to your desktop or upload it to a photo sharing service.

To add this Bookmarklet, visit [www.pxn8.com](http://www.pxn8.com). Click the link that says "**Choose your image to edit**" and you should see a link to add the Bookmarklet to your favorites.

## 4. Tiny URL

This Bookmarklet shrinks a URL if it's too long to e-mail or hard to remember. To read more about services like this, check out this tip.

Use this link to add this Bookmarklet.



There you have it! A fast and easy way to do the things you want to do on the Web. I hope you have fun with this tip!



# The 16th Annual Southwest Computer Conference San Diego, California May 29, 30 and 31, 2009

Don't miss out on the 2009 Southwest Computer Conference - May 29, 30 & 31 in San Diego at the beautiful Town and Country Resort & Conference Center.

- Great meals & vendor presentations
- Informative tech sessions & workshops
- Up close & personal time with vendors at the Expo
- Opportunity to book meetings for your group
- Interact with officers & members from other computer clubs
- Conference T-shirt & Welcome Bag full of goodies
- And much more..

New this year - SPECIAL EVENTS: Viejas Casino & 60-store discount mall day trip on Thursday (May 28) prior to the conference and Golfing with Al Hill on Friday morning (May 29) at the nearby Riverwalk Golf Course. Flyers for both events are attached.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **April 1 - Viejas day trip registration deadline**
- **May 1 - \$60 Early Bird registration ends**
- **May 1 - \$119 hotel conference room rate ends**
- **May 1 - Digital Photo Contest entry deadline (see guidelines at [www.theswcc.org/Contest/contest.htm](http://www.theswcc.org/Contest/contest.htm))**

Resort & Convention Center in San Diego. In this time of economic decline the registration and hotel room rates remain the same. Registration is \$75.00, however if you register by May 1, the Early Bird special is \$60. (Many people have already registered.) You will find the registration form at: <http://theswcc.org/registration/registration.htm>

To obtain the same conference rate as last year (\$119 single or double), hotel reservations must be made by May 1. <http://www.theswcc.org/hotel/>

hotel.htm

The conference team has been busy planning new and exciting events such as a day trip to the Viejas Casino and 60-store outlet mall on Thursday, May 28. A bus will be provided and you will receive a casino Fun Book, \$10.00 cash and discount coupons for the stores at the outlet mall. A \$20 deposit is required and you must register by April 1. <http://theswcc.org/registration/Casinoregistration.pdf>

Mr. Bicep, the Musclemann of Technology and television personality, will kick off the conference

on Friday afternoon with his infamous Gadgets workshop.

And don't forget about the Digital Photo Contest. We have a new category this year - Digital Art. This category is appropriate for those who dramatically change a photo in software such as Corel® Painter or Adobe Photoshop®. This is a category exclusively showcasing such art. If the digital darkroom work is the main attraction of the photo, or plays a big part, enter it here. See the Website for details. <http://theswcc.org/Contest/contest.htm>

## **Amanda's Cool Site** — By Amanda, WorldStart Staff Member

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### **My Live Signature**

I'm really excited about sharing this Web site with you! My mom sent it to me after she used it to create a signature she could use for her work e-mails. I recommend starting with the Quick Tour.

The Quick Tour will not only walk you through the whole process, but it will also explain all the different ways you can make your signature. You'll want to get a static signature, because they're free! (Only the static ones created from the wizard or with the draw tool are free).

To get started making your signature, click on Start Now. You'll then need to choose whether you want to use the wizard or the draw tool. I recommend using the wizard, because it was a lot more fun to select a font that matches my hand writing than to draw a deformed version of my signature with the mouse.

To use the wizard, click on the Create Signature button underneath the text that says "Create a new signature using our wizard." That will lead you to a page where you'll be presented with three options: wizard, draw or upload. You'll want to select the wizard, which is the first option.

After selecting the wizard tool, you'll be asked to type in the name or nickname you'd like to use for your signature. I put in Amanda @ WorldStart.com, which is how I sign my e-mails. In the next step, you'll select which font you want to use. There are around 120 different fonts you can choose from and they may take a minute or two to load. Click on the bullet of the font you want to use and then click on the Next button at the bottom of the page.

The next step is to select the size you want your sig-

nature to be. I like mine rather small, so I selected size 2. There are ten different sizes to pick from, so you'll have plenty of options. Click on the Next button to continue. Here you'll select the color of the font you want to use for your signature. There are ten different colors to choose from. Next, you can set the slope of your signature. There are ten different slopes to choose from as well. You're finally finished!

Take the code they give you for your signature (signature ID) and copy it. Then paste it on the Start Now page under the Download a Signature heading. The other thing you can do with the signature ID is paste it under the Generate a Code section. That will give you a choice between an HTML code and a BB code. If you want to use it on a forum, choose the BB code. If you want to use it on a Web page, choose the HTML code.

Now, you have a personalized signature all your very own. Yes!

<http://www.mylivesignature.com/>

### Smart Computing Tip Of The Day

#### **Wireless Sets You Free**

With so many wireless devices on the market, it's time to break free of the ties (and cables) that tether you and your electronics to a single space in your house. You don't have to replace all your devices at once, but when you're ready for a new printer or laptop, make sure they have wireless capabilities. There are also new cameras from Canon, Kodak, and Nikon that are wireless, and if setting up surround sound means tripping over wires, look into wireless speakers, as well.