

Microfoft Training Specialist to Speak

Sunday, September 16

Emmanuel "Manny" Garcia, a Microsoft Store Technical Advisor is our speaker for Sunday's main meeting.

Manny comes to us with 8 years of I.T. experience, mainly providing technical support for multiple fortune 500 companies.

He has multiple certifications across two platforms including
 Microsoft home Integration Certification
 Windows 8 Certification
 Macintosh Hardware and software Certifications



Emmanuel "Manny" Garcia

Recently Recognized by Microsoft as the Orlando Florida Malls first M.V.P., his peers were quoted as saying this about Manny:

"Manny consistently delivers the word "yes" better than almost anyone! Whether it is helping a customer work through a dilemma, teaching a peer, or doing stretch assignments for the leadership team, Manny does it with eagerness, enthusiasm and a can-do attitude. Where he is proficient, he shares knowledge, and where he has opportunities to grow, he works to gain understanding. Since the start of tech training, his positivity and energy have shown through, and he is truly a "dreamer, believer and future leader" at the Florida Mall Microsoft Store. "

Earlier on the same day of each presentation, the WINDOWS Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting is held. The WinSIG always meets at 12:30 pm, and

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is hosted by Hewie Poplock, former president of both CFCS and FACUG, and author of Hewie's Views and Reviews. Hewie will start at 12:30, just before the CFCS General Meeting. If you use or plan to use Windows, these discussions, demonstrations, and Q&A sessions will be of immense value to you. Geared to intermediate level Windows users, tips, tricks, and information on all versions of Windows are discussed. An e-newsletter is sent periodically with meeting information and links discussed at the meeting. You need not attend both meetings, but many members do. Non members are always welcome. Sign up for the free e-newsletter at cfcs.org.

Bring your questions about Windows or any computer questions to be fielded by a room full of computer enthusiasts. The questions will be answered during the Windows SIG or during the "AskIt Basket" portion of the main meeting. We even have a few lurking Mac owners, and when we turn off the lights to better view the presentations, you may notice the glow of numerous iPods in the crowd. CFCS was the first to put the 'YOU' in USER-friendly!

OUR OTHER SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG)

The ACCESS, MS OFFICE, and SECURITY SIGs meet conjointly on the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 pm at the New Horizons Learning Center at 1221 Lee Rd. Arvin Meyer, a Microsoft MVP (Most Valuable Professional), (and current CFCS president), leads the SIG. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cfcs-access> This is a combination of three separate SIGs which now meet alternately for the duration of Arvin's presidency. They will resume separate meetings when he leaves office.

The VIRTUAL DIGITAL PHOTO & VIDEO SIG lead has been assumed by Hewie Poplock and and it meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, by invitation. To register go to <https://apcug.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/event.pl>

The TECH DISCUSSION SIG meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 pm at the Casselberry Denny's at 436 and Oxford Rd. SIG leader is Stan Wallner, President Emeritus.

This SIG is a non-structured, open conversational group for CFCS members, that has no specific topic or speaker, but is simply a round table discussion. It is not an advanced group, but a place for people to come and discuss various tech subjects, such as new products and technologies, hardware, software, web-related, etc.

Bring in articles from magazines, newsletters, unusual problems/situations that have arisen, questions, etc. Also, new or ailing devices or notebook pc's are welcome, either for "show and tell" or discussion or demo of situations.

A screen and projector are available, but not always there. If you want it to demo something, please E-mail: tech-sig@cfcs.org a day or 2 ahead.

Another feature of this SIG is the Tech-SIG Yahoo Group mail. We now have 57 people communicating through this, with tips and tricks, "Ask-It Basket" type questions, etc. Also, a second, on-line VIRTUAL meeting of the TechSIG is being experimented with on the second Tuesday of each month. Co-hosted by Mike Ungerman and Stan Wallner, it may attract a long distance audience. Stay tuned to the e-Blast for times and details - it is not yet permanently scheduled, but will be announced in the e-BLAST and on the Tech-SIG Yahoo Group mail. If you are not on that list and want to be, please E-mail: tech-sig@cfcs.org

The iSIG meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at Denny's on Lee Rd & I-4. The iSIG meetings cover the products that use the iOS, which includes the iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch. This is a combined effort of the Central Florida Computer Society <http://www.cfcs.org> and the Florida Macintosh Users Group <http://www.flmug.com>. Other groups are invited to participate. Attendees are consumers, developers, consultants, and publishers, who find common interests and discuss how to handle topics from both the consumer & the developer perspectives. The SIG leader is Sean Kane, Certified Apple Technical Coordinator, long-time Mac and iOS user, and a technologist and consultant to The Walt Disney Company.

Please note that the iSIG meets at the Denny's on Lee Rd in Orlando. The Tech-SIG and the Board of Directors meetings continue to meet at Denny's on 436 & Oxford Rd in Casselberry. However, due to construction at Denny's, the iSIG will meet at Jackson-Hewitt on Lee Rd. for this month only. (See directions on page 24.) Stay tuned to the eBlast (cfcs.org) for details next month.

The Recycle Bin

by Stan Wallner,
President Emeritus, CFCS



Stan, a CFCS member since 1984, has served in many offices over the years, and is now on the BOD as President Emeritus. Separately, he is a local IT consultant, "PC Doctors Make House Calls," offering his services on-site, at your office or home - for PC and Laptop Upgrades, WiFi, Networks, Virus & Spyware removal, Troubleshooting both hardware & software, at reasonable rates (discounts for CFCS members!). You can contact him at smwallner@yahoo.com or 407-862-2669.

This is a MOST important issue regarding our environment, and can't be over-emphasized! It is an area that is changing frequently, so please keep reading this column regularly! This particular one has a LOT of changes, so please read carefully.

Regarding your bringing items to either the General Meeting or my own SIG which we did when we had Orlando Recycles. They would pick them up at my place, which is unfortunately a thing of the past. They can't do that anymore, and I can't take the items to them - just too far, both in time, gas costs, etc.

So, here is what I suggest you all consider for the various types of items, which I have sorted into two categories:

Category "A" - Primarily For Monitors, Printers, Scanners that still work, and PC's that are repairable, with exceptions as noted:

#1 Missionary Computer Fellowship; "MCF"

We'd been told last year that they were shutting down, but they didn't. We just got these details - they are still rebuilding PC's, sending over 40,000 overseas over the years, and also providing them to local people in need:

"What we need:

- Volunteers to work on computers. No experience needed - we will train you!
- Pentium II1 computers or faster. They don't have to work. We can fix them.
- Monitors less than 10 years old, especially flat

- screens. They need to work. We don't fix monitors.
- Currently working printers and scanners.
- Any Windows operating systems from Windows XP to Windows 7.
- Mice, keyboards and speakers and video, network and sound cards
- Hard Drives greater than 40 GB (We will SECURE CLEAN all HDs)
- CD/RW and DVD/RW Drives
- Memory DDR213 256 MB or above
- Microsoft Office software
- Cash (any denomination!)

How can we help you?:

Are you a missionary or involved in a mission?
Are you a church group or a non-profit?
Could you use a computer system or repair of an existing computer system?

If so, please call (407-422-9265) or email us (info@mcf-orl.org) . Donations can be brought directly to 725 West Central Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32805, on Tuesday or Thursday (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.). This is west of I-4, near North Parramore Ave and West Washington Street.

#2 Southeastern Data, at 142 Park Road, Oviedo, FL 32765
(Off Alafaya Trail, just north of E. McCulloch Road);
phone 407-971-4654.

They've been very helpful in allowing CFCS members to drop off most recyclables with no service charge, for quite some time; greatly appreciated!

SE Data offers free recycling with the exception of monitors and terminals with cathode ray tubes, CRTs and terminals which are \$3.00 each. TVs with cathode ray tubes need to be evaluated, but most are \$0.60/lb. Displays with LCD/LED screens are accepted at no charge and most likely can be purchased, working or not. You can come by anytime, but a heads up call would be appreciated for large loads. **Also, do let them know you are involved with CFCS.**

SE is also a great place to pick up parts and accessories, and they accept trade-ins against purchases and they will

even outright purchase your components. Their hours are 8:00 am til 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday.

Southeastern Data is ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 14001:2004 certified and offers shredding of hard drives, tapes, optical media, cell phones and small electronics at their facility and on site. And, since they will do also accept items that DO NOT work, they do truly fit in both Category "A" AND "B!!"

#3 Orlando Recycles, Inc.

They have changed their policies in that they will no longer be able to provide us with any revenue, and will no longer be able to pick up materials from my house. They are still a viable place to recycle, and there is no charge to you for items like CRT's, TV's.

They are at located at 5014 Forsyth Commerce Road, #4, Orlando, FL, 32807, just off Forsyth, about 1/2 mile east of 436 and south of Colonial. Their hours are from 9:30 to 5:30. You do not need to call them. You can take things on your own - just go there. No need to say you are involved with CFCS; just leave your items with them if they are open. AND, you can even go when they are closed - they have an outdoor Drop Box there, always open and available! Since they do also accept items that DO NOT work, they do truly fit in both Category "A" AND "B!!"

#4 Goodwill. They have recently changed their policy, and WILL now accept WORKING Monitors including CRT's if not too old, Printers, Scanners, PC's, DVD, CD or Hard Drives at all of their locations, including the manned Trucks around town.

#5 Salvation Army. They also accept WORKING Monitors including CRT's if not too old, Printers, Scanners, PC's, DVD, CD and/or Hard Drives at all of their locations.

They do not sell them in their stores, but Auction them off at their W. Colonial location, every Mon, Wed, and Fri, at 9:00 am, along with other various items that either did not sell or are damaged.

#6 Vietnam Vets. They also accept WORKING Monitors including CRT's if not too old, Printers, Scanners, PC's, DVD, CD and/or Hard Drives at all of their locations. They do sell them in their stores.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal invoices will be e-mailed from treasurer@cfcs.org approximately thirty (30) days prior to your membership expiration. Invoices will be snail mailed to members for whom there is no e-mail address in the membership database and to those members whose e-mail was returned to treasurer@cfcs.org for any reason. Please help us by adding this address to your contacts list and setting your spam filter to let our message get to your inbox. We do not share your e-mail address with others (We hate that too!), but it is necessary for full participation in the Society, including receiving your newsletter.

Members will be requested to renew their membership by paying dues on time. Dues may be paid by cash or check at the meeting, by PayPal at <http://www.cfcs.org/membership/membership.php> or by mailing a check to:

**CFCS
204 Larkwood Drive Ste 100
Sanford, FL 32771-3643**

If you do not receive a renewal invoice, lose it or have questions about your dues and or membership status, please inquire at the sign-in table or send an e-mail to: treasurer@cfcs.org.

Membership Cards: A new membership postcard with the membership card included for the next year will be distributed at the meeting following your renewal. The Cards will be mailed to those members who request

Category "B" - Scrap Only - For Monitors, Printers, Scanners that DON'T work, PC's that are too old, and/or NOT repairable, etc.

#1) A1 Assets (www.a1assets.com) is the parent company of Refresh Computers. Their address is 1100 Charles Street, Longwood, FL 32750. They have both drop-off and pickup services available. If there is a large quantity, they can pick up for you, but there may be a fee, depending upon the quantity and quality of the items.

Most items are free of charge to drop off. The only exceptions are CRT Monitors and TV's at \$3.00 per item under 21 inch. Larger TVs and monitors could be as much as \$10 each.

An appointment for drop off at Charles Street is not needed, but is not a bad idea if dropping off a truck load. The Phone number is: 407-339-7030.

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THE CENTRAL FLORIDA COMPUTER SOCIETY is a charitable, scientific and educational, nonprofit organization, founded in 1976 and incorporated in 1982 to encourage interest in the operation and development of computers through meetings with free exchange of information and educational endeavors.

Newsletter: The CFCS Newsletter © 2008 is the official newsletter of the Central Florida Computer Society, Inc. It is published every month by CFCS for the purpose of keeping members and others informed of computer-related news and activities of the Society. Circulation: 25,000.

Mailing Address:
 CFCS
 204 Larkwood Dr., Suite 100
 Sanford FL 32771

Membership: CFCS membership includes participation in the Society's activities and subscription to this Newsletter.

Annual Dues Schedule:

Individual	\$ 25
Extra family member	15
Student (Full time).....	15
Corporate membership.....	100*

*Includes free business card ad

Members are responsible for sending a change-of-address notification (including e-mail) to: membership@cfcs.org.

Gifts to CFCS are welcome, and because of the Society's nonprofit tax status, are tax deductible.

Meetings: CFCS meets each month on the 3rd Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at the **Jackson Hewitt Training Center, 2221 Lee Rd. Winter Park, FL**. The Jan. Feb. and Mar. meetings are held at another location. Guests and the general public are invited to attend. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) within the Society meet regularly. See Special Interest Groups listings on pages 6 & 7.

CFCS Web site: www.cfcs.org

Editorial: Articles for publication in the CFCS Newsletter should be *emailed* to the Editor at: editor@cfcs.org. Please use Microsoft Word format, Times New Roman font, 12 point, if possible. The deadline for submitting articles is the first of each month.

Articles by authors other than directors of CFCS and the Newsletter staff do not necessarily reflect the policies or sanction of the Society. Unless otherwise indicated, articles in the CFCS Newsletter may be reprinted in newsletters of other nonprofit organizations, without permission, provided credit is given.

This issue was created using Microsoft Office 2003 and MS Publisher 2003 Edition. ☐

Interested in making a difference?
 Then volunteer with CFCS! The programs and benefits that members receive would not exist without members also volunteering. There are vacancies for a Program Chair/Coordinator, Education Chair and Advertising Chair. Please contact Arvin Meyer, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. president@cfcs.org

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CFCS Newsletter Advertising

Computer ready rates, for one time insertion, whether in the Printed or Electronic Edition:

Full Page	\$200.00*	Quarter Page	\$75.00*
Half Page	125.00*	Business Card	25.00*

Advertising deadline: the first day of month of issue. Electronic copy is required.
 All ad copy and correspondence should be sent by email to: advertising@cfcs.org
 Annual Rates, Paid in Advance, for 12 insertions, with a minimum of 2 Printed Editions: Full Page \$1200 Quarter Page \$450
 Half Page 750 Business Card 150
 *Does not include Back Page; please inquire if interested

CFCS is associated with both International & Florida User Group Associations:



www.apcug.net



If you only have a small quantity of items (1 to 4 items) you may drop them off at one of the Refresh Computer Stores. Locations are found on the Refresh web site at <http://refreshcomputers.net/>. An appointment/phone call is not needed for small drop offs.

#2 Best Buy Stores. All local stores; no need to contact them first. All items above; all at NO CHARGE, limited to three items per visit. The only exceptions are CRT Monitors or TV's. First, there is a maximum size of 32", and there will be a fee of \$10.00 each. However, they do immediately return the \$10.00 to you in the form of a Cash Card! You can go to www.bestbuy.com/ recycling for more info, or CALL '24/7' 1-888- BEST BUY (1-888-237-8289)!

#3 Recycling Directory: <http://earth911.com/> This is a directory containing information for recycling over 240 different products that are free for consumers. There are over 127,000 locations and programs that people can search to find local recycling and disposal resources. Thanks to Mike Ungerman and Hewie Poplock for sending this to me - includes County places, and for example - Staples, many others, by ZIP. It is thorough! (However, what is not mentioned on this site, for example, is that Staples just mentioned CHARGES \$10 EACH for any PC, Printer, CRT or LCD, even Hard Drive! Only small items, such as mice and keyboards are free. So I would say 'caveat emptor' applies! Call or go first, as I did!

#4 Seminole County Residential Electronics recycling: <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/envsrvs/solidwaste/electronics.aspx>

Where can I recycle my e-scrap?

The Seminole County Solid Waste Management Division accepts e-scrap at the Central Transfer Station's Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Facility. The e-scrap is accepted during regular working hours.

1950 State Road 419; Longwood, Florida 32750
HOURS: Monday - Saturday, 7:30am - 5:30pm, (except certain holidays)

Who can recycle e-scrap?

The electronics recycling program is available for all residents of Seminole County for e-scrap generated in your home. This service is FREE OF CHARGE for residential

households. Contact Seminole County's Solid Waste Management Division Customer Service Team at 407-665-2260 for more information.

#5 Orange County Electronic Waste Disposal

<http://www.orangecountyfl.net/YourLocalGovernment/CountyDepartments/Utilities/ElectronicWasteDisposal.aspx>

Electronic equipment from your home can be recycled. Examples of electronic equipment include: Computers, Televisions, VCRs, Fax machines, CD players, Stereos. These items are accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Orange County Landfill Monday through Sunday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and the McLeod Road Transfer Station on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. This free service is available to eligible Orange County residents.* An attendant is present at the facility to assist with unloading.

For more information about disposing of electronic equipment, please call the Solid Waste Hotline at 407-836-6601 or send an e-mail to Solid.Waste@ocfl.net.

*Eligible participants include residents of unincorporated Orange County and the cities of Apopka, Ocoee, Orlando, Windermere, and Winter Garden only. Proof of residency required. (We have no idea why Winter Park, Maitland, and other cities are not included.) Here are details on the locations.

Orange County Landfill; 5901 Young Pine Road; Orlando, FL 32829; 407-836-6600

McLeod Road Transfer Station; 5000 L.B. McLeod Road; Orlando, FL 32811; 407-245-0931



File Recovery Strategies

By Dick Maybach
 Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ
www.bcug.com
n2nd@charter.net

Using home computers affords many opportunities for errors and malfunctions. You probably have experienced at least one of these mishaps.

- Shortly after emptying the recycle bin, you realize it contained a file you should have restored.
 - A CD, CD-ROM, or DVD is scratched and unplayable or unreadable.
 - You formatted the memory card for your digital camera with vacation pictures you hadn't yet moved to your PC.
 - Your computer won't boot, and you haven't backed up all your files.
 - Your hard disk is beginning to report errors, and again it isn't backed up.
- You had a fire, a flood, or a power surge, and your hard disk is dead.

Surprisingly, you can probably recover some and perhaps most of your data in each of these cases, as you will see in this article and the two that follow it: Windows graphical tools, and command-line tools. As will become apparent, by far the best approach is prevention in the form of a good backup regimen, and if you haven't already, reading this series may inspire you to begin one.

Regardless of what happened, the first step is usually the same – turn off the equipment that contains the damaged medium. Don't power it up again until you have collected any equipment and software you need and have developed a good plan. If the plan involves using unfamiliar software, practice the procedures on a test medium until you are comfortable with them.

It's most important that you not write anything to the device from which you hope to recover the files. This implies several things.

- If the device is your system disk (C: for Windows users), you must not install any software before you have recovered the files. Ideally, you shouldn't even reboot

from it.

- To recover files from your system disk you must remove the disk and mount it in a different PC (unless you have recovery software installed) or use a Linux live CD.
- When you recover files from a device, you must rewrite them to a different device.
- The general approach depends on the nature of the problem.
- *Complete device failure or physical damage from fire, water, electrical surge, or physical shock* – You can't do anything and neither can your local shop; instead, you must send the device to a specialist. Expect the fees to start at above \$1000, and they could be much higher. Reputable firms don't guarantee success, but many charge you only for what they are able to recover.
- *Problems resulting from a gradually failing system disk* – You must either move the drive to a new computer or boot from a live CD (which doesn't use the internal hard drive). Regardless of your approach, your first task is to move all the data from the failing device to a good one. The preferable way to do this is with a program such as gddrescue (discussed in part 3), which is designed to recover as much as possible from a corrupt filesystem.
- *Problems resulting from a gradually failing storage device that is not a system disk* – Since your system disk is fine, you can use your computer to salvage the data. Again, the first step is to move all the data to a good device.
- *A computer that won't boot* – Most likely, your data isn't affected, but you should move all your files to an external device before you try to repair the operating system.
- *Problems resulting from malware or a software mal-*



Lake Mary store is located in the Oaks at Lake Mary shopping center, at 3005 W. Lake Mary Blvd.

The new Apopka store is in Victoria Plaza, at 1087 W. Orange Blossom Trail. (407-814-3935) This is just past the 429, in the same Plaza as the Harbor Freight. Both open 9-7 Mon.-Sat. Closed Sundays

5% discount on most items for CFCS members!

function – If this occurs on a system disk, you must not boot from it, as this would allow the problem software to continue its mischief. Thus, you must use either a live CD or attach the disk to a clean computer. Once you do this, there will be no new damage, which means you can recover files at your leisure.

Problems resulting from user errors – If these occur on a system disk, you should not boot from it until you have recovered the data. This is because each boot causes files to be written, which could overwrite what you are trying to recover. The best time to recover that data is immediately after you delete it, providing you had already installed the recovery software you need. Thus, this case is an exception to the rule that your first step should be to shut down your computer.

Your first decision is whether to attempt the recovery yourself or pay a shop to do it. If the data is very valuable or belongs to a business, strongly consider having a competent professional do the work. Also consider a professional if the medium is failing; here, you have little time, as data losses will continue. Ask what approach they will use, and if their strategy is different than what I discuss here, they should be able to justify it.

You must next decide whether you will use a tool in your native operating system or a Linux (probably command-line) tool. A strong advantage of working in your native environment is that it reduces the likelihood of serious errors. However, to recover files from a Mac or Microsoft system disk, you will have to remove it and connect it to a separate, healthy computer that has the appropriate recovery software. Rather than opening the healthy computer's system case to install the hard disk in it, consider buying a IDE to USB, a SATA to USB, or a laptop disk to USB adapter (depending on the drive you're working on). (Of course, this isn't necessary if the problem is on a removable medium, such as a memory stick or CD-ROM.) An alternative is to use a Linux live-CD, which runs from a CD-ROM or memory stick without accessing the hard disk at all, except to recover files from it. As a result, you don't have to move the hard disk to another PC. Even die-hard Windows users should consider acquiring and experimenting with a Linux-based maintenance disk, such as Parted Magic, to be ready in case of difficulty. (See my article in the April BCUG Bytes, available at <http://www.bcug.com>)

Next month we'll look at recovery tools that run under Windows. (I'm not able to test Mac procedures, but a Web search will find graphical recovery tools for the

Mac.) The following month, we'll look at Linux command-line tools, two of which also run on both Mac and Microsoft operating systems. To decide between graphical and command-line tools, consider the following.

Graphical tool pros:

- familiar environment and intuitive procedures. (You probably don't need a manual.)

Graphical tool cons:

- need to remove the system disk from the PC,
- need a second PC and probably an adapter to work on the system disk, and you can work only on native filesystems (FAT and NTFS for Windows).

Command-line tool pros:

- handles a greater range of problems and if used with a live-CD, allows working on a system disk in place and on many different filesystems.

Command-line tool cons:

- user needs more expertise and if used with a Linux live-CD, the environment is probably unfamiliar.

From this I recommend that if you are familiar only with Windows or the Mac and are recovering files from a removable medium, use graphical tools that are native to your operating system. However, in part three, we'll look at two command-line tools (TestDisk and PhotoRec) that run on both Windows and the Mac as well as on Linux, and both are almost as easy to use as the graphical tools. If you have a system disk problem, use a Linux live-CD (such as Parted Magic), mount the disk in a second PC that has the proper recovery tools, or take the PC with the problem disk to a good shop. Of course, by far the best approach is to use an effective backup program, which lets you avoid this whole mess.





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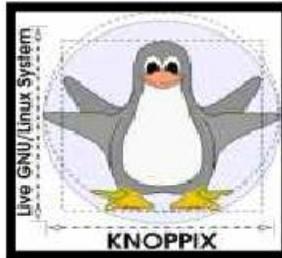


*Enrollment in, or completion, of course is neither an offer nor a guarantee of employment. Additional training, experience or skills may be required. Most offices are independently owned and operated.

Call 888-282-1040 for information.

Knoppix Live CD

By Cal Esneault, President, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA and leader of many Open Source Workshops & SIGs
 Cajun Clickers Computer News
<http://cccclinuxsig.pbwiki.com>
www.clickers.org
ccnewsletter@cox.net



About seven years ago I was introduced to Xandros GNU/Linux by the Cajun Clickers. Like most distro's (distributions) then, it required a full installation onto the hard drive, a step for which I was not ready. Knoppix, a GNU/Linux* system developed by Klaus Knopper of Germany, was then a rare version in that it could run from a CD without modifying the hard drive (known as a "live" CD). Knoppix allowed me to explore and appreciate Linux without having to jeopardize my existing system.

Since then, almost all major distro's offer downloads with "live" media choices that allow you to preview the OS and optionally install the OS directly from that media. *GNU is an alternate name for Linux. Cf. Wikipedi-

dia.

The strength of Knoppix is the excellent hardware detection and minimal configuration to get a working system. It shines as a system rescue and maintenance tool for working with other systems. For example, it can mount and access most other Linux or Windows partitions automatically. While it can be permanently installed, it is typically used with "live" media (CD, DVD, USB, ...). Advanced methods exist to modify or give "permanence" to Knoppix, and many experts remaster their own customized versions.

I downloaded and burned a copy of the latest CD (iso Knoppix 6.7.1). A screenshot of the desktop menu and 3



open applications is shown below.

Currently Knoppix uses a lightweight 32-bit LXDE desktop (see my November 2011 article on LXDE). PCManFM is the file manager, and Iceweasel is the Internet browser. With this configuration, Knoppix hardware specs should allow it to run on older systems.

Surprisingly, it includes the powerful (and bulky) GIMP and LibreOffice programs. My biggest surprise was that it included Compiz compositing manager which gives tremendous graphics effects for screen "eye candy." See below an intermediate screen as an application window dynamically explodes into squares during application



exit.

While this is interesting for those with modern graphic cards, my experience was that it made less powerful systems hang-up and require reboot. I solved this by using the cheat-code "knoppix no3d" at the boot prompt to restrict Compiz and give a working desktop.

Knoppix is an example of the unique combination of software that can be assembled when the distro is the work of a single developer. For example, there are tools for system and network administrators, applications for system rescue and repair, and a version for blind users (based on ADRIANE). Since my first encounter, Knoppix has introduced over a dozen versions with use of many new concepts (early to use KDE 4.x, early to use LibreOffice, etc.). This distro is a utilitarian system suited for experienced Linux users who want to learn more about their systems. Learn more by visiting www.knopper.net/knoppix, or look for Knoppix in the top search boxes at www.distrowatch.com.

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Light Housekeeping for a Safe and Healthy Computer

By Mike Morris, Editor, Front Range PC Users Group, Fort Collins, CO, <http://www.frpcug.org>
 Twiterext@gmail.com

The Front Range PC Users Group (FRPCUG) provides free computer help to the community and to several other local non-profit organizations. As a result of these efforts, we have concluded that there are two tasks and several free and reliable utilities that help to maintain a safe and healthy computer.

Without a doubt, the two most important safety and security tasks for every Windows computer user are:

- Keep the Operating System up to date
- Keep the security software up to date

In addition to those two tasks, there is some computer "housekeeping" required to keep your computer healthy (for those of you who consider yourselves not knowledgeable enough to "maintain" your computer, think of these utilities as cleaning tools, not maintenance tools).

For housekeeping, these utilities are recommended:

1. Revo Uninstaller

This free utility does an excellent job of uninstalling unwanted software—even better than the Windows utility.

You can use the default settings of Revo.

It is important to note that Revo first runs the uninstaller program provided with the program you want to remove. At the end of that process, you are asked if you want to restart your computer. At this point, DO NOT RESTART YOUR COMPUTER. Click on "No" or "Restart later" (or whatever similar message is displayed). That will allow the rest of Revo to run. It will check for leftover files in the Windows Registry and the directories. Whatever files or file remnants it finds, select everything it finds and delete them.

You can download Revo from <http://>

www.revouninstaller.com/revo_uninstaller_free_download.html. The free version is the one in the left column.

When installing this (or any program), proceed carefully, because very likely there is additional software "bundled" with what you want—that additional software is usually unnecessary. Examine each screen as it is displayed and uncheck or refuse any of the extra unwanted software.

Sometimes, even Revo needs some help. When combined with a registry cleaner, unwanted software can be effectively removed. The registry cleaner we recommend is:

2. CCleaner

This is another free, excellent utility. There is much debate in the computer world about registry cleaners. Since the Windows Registry is so crucial to correct operation, one viewpoint is that no one but an expert should use them. It is true that modifying the Windows Registry has the potential to create problems. However, those of us in FRPCUG have used CCleaner on many computers without problems. When using the registry cleaner option of CCleaner, you will be asked if you want to backup your registry. It's a safety factor that is up to you.

There are two parts to cleaning your computer of unwanted/left-over junk using CCleaner: Cleaner and Registry. Use both—once a week is recommended, but at least once a month.

There are cases where, after running Revo, it may be necessary to run CCleaner 3 or 4 times before all of the junk is removed. For example, if you have Norton security software installed on your computer and want to remove it, it will take Revo and possibly 3 or 4 passes of CCleaner (restarting your computer after each CCleaner run) to completely remove the Norton software (more on Norton in a moment).

You can download CCleaner from http://www.filehippo.com/download_ccleaner/. Use the "Download Latest Version" button with the green background at the right side of the page.

For computer security:

Virtually all new Windows computers are delivered with a trial version of one brand or another of security software installed, usually good for up to 90 days. Once that trial is over, you need to pay for an annual subscription for updates.

In today's world, there is no need to pay for security software. There are a number of excellent, free security software programs available. And, there are cases where the free software might actually be better than security software that you buy. For example, in the past, Norton security software acquired a reputation for slowing down the computers on which it was installed (my own experience with Norton software—at least the older versions, based on helping other computer users, is that it is not as good at catching malicious software (malware) as other programs).

Of the many free security software applications available, FRPCUG members have used these four, and found them to be reliable and effective (just because the software is free does not mean it is less capable):

One is Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE). You can download MSE from <http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=5201>. Note that there are 2 versions available, depending on whether your computer has an AMD or an Intel processor.

Another is Avira Free. This application received excellent reviews from the independent security software testing organization, AV-Comparatives - Independent Tests of Anti-Virus Software, <http://www.av-comparatives.org/>

A third choice is Avast Free, and a fourth choice is AVG Free. We suggest you read the reviews on these products (enter: review of—and the application name—into a Google search, or use the AV Comparatives website mentioned above). If you decide to use one these applications, download it from <http://www.filehippo.com>. You are less likely to encounter excess, unnecessary additional software (sometimes called "bloatware" or "sneakware"). Once you connect to the file hippo website, just enter the name of the application into the search box.

Another area of debate regarding security software is the number of different security software applications that should be installed and running on one computer. With one exception, described below, you are probably going



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to be better off with only one. Since these applications are always running (in the background), it is very likely that two or more security applications running simultaneously will cause conflicts (and/or slow down your computer). It is possible, with a lot of experimentation, to find multiple security applications that do not conflict (one FRPCUG member has done so), but for most computer users, one application is sufficient.

The best way to change security software is to download, but don't install, the new security software. Then use Revo (and if necessary, CCleaner) to remove the old security software. Finally, install the new security software.

A supplementary security software program that works extremely well is Malwarebytes. You can download this program from <http://www.filehippo.com/search?q=malwarebytes>. The free version does not run continuously in the background, as do other security software applications. That means Malwarebytes does not conflict with any other security software. The only disadvantage to this program is that you have to remember to run a

manual scan (say once a week). It's worth it—Malwarebytes finds problems other security software does not.

The best way to keep your computer secure, as mentioned above, is to keep the operating system and security software up to date. You can set Windows computers for automatic operating system updates. Virtually all security software programs, including the free ones can be set up for automatic updates.

For more information on this topic, connect to http://frpcug.org/presentations/BB_Present04.pdf and http://frpcug.org/presentations/comp_maint_security.pdf.

One other suggestion:

Another free, useful utility is Belarc Advisor. The program provides a detailed list of the hardware installed in your computer. You can download Belarc Advisor from http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html. While not crucial, like security software and maintenance utilities, Belarc is a helpful program to have on your computer.

We have installed and run these programs on many computers without any problems. There is, however, always the chance that some unusual combination of hardware and software may result in a problem. So you should backup at the very least your important data, even if it is just copying that data temporarily to a flash drive. Please read our disclaimer at <http://www.frpcug.org/k-byte/current.pdf> (page 19).

Happy Computing!

Musings by Stan



by Stan Wallner,
CFCS President Emeritus

Cell Phone Address Books - Is YOURS Backed Up?

This all started when my wife lost her cell phone last week. It was an inexpensive Samsung 'slider,' just sliding up to expose the 10 number keys. I replaced it with a similar Samsung, this time a flip, \$30. When I sent out an email to a number of people I'd told to call me until we got her a new phone, and they could go back to using her number, I included the following paragraph:

"The cool thing is that years ago, when we first got the Samsung slider she lost, we'd set up a free on-line update for her address book on the T-Mobile website that has been keeping a live back-up for all additions and deletions ever since. Remember, this is not a smart phone, no internet access... When I put in the new SIM Card with her a/c info, it was like "Oh, I know you - here are your 50 some contacts!"

So, the only thing she has to do is re-do the speed dial numbers!"

Many of you have Smart Phones, and the backup process is easy since you have internet access. You folks can probably stop reading now (or, maybe check with some of your friends or family to be sure they are doing something about this). However, I was very surprised

how many responses I got, saying 'how do you do this?' Thus this article.

If you do not have a back-up of your address book and lose your phone, it is similar to having a PC Hard drive die with no back up of pictures, documents, ... Would you be easily able to contact all those and/or find all those #'s?? I think this is very important - I think a lot of us don't realize how horrible a catastrophe it would be to lose either their address book from a cell phone, or their data from a PC Hard Drive that died - BACKUPS ARE CRUCIAL.

If you are not doing anything about this now, I strongly suggest you should first see if you can find anything in the manual that came with your phone (if you can find it). If not, call and discuss this with your cell phone provider, and see what they can offer for your phone. I am sure there is something. They may refer you to your cell phone manufacturer - many have excellent service lines; your carrier can give you one for the phone you have.

As an example, I have an HTC phone. Their support # is 866-449-8358; this is a 6 am - 1am, 7 days per week, 365 days per year Cust/Tech Support Hotline for HTC Phones! (Including all holidays!)

The absolute worst thing you can do is NOTHING!

Stan is a CFCS member (since 1984), has served in a number of offices over the years, and is currently on the Board of Directors as President Emeritus. He is a local consultant, offering his services on-site, at your office or home - for PC and LapTop Upgrades, WiFi, Networks, Virus & Spyware removal, Troubleshooting both hardware & software, at reasonable rates, with discounts for CFCS members. You can contact him at either smwallner@gmail.com or 407-862-2669.

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Media Sharing & Devices

By Jerry Grommes,
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SCUG News
www.scug.org

As many of you know I feel strongly that my media, whether it's pictures, videos, music, recorded TV, etc., should be available to me on whatever device I own and not just tied to a computer, CD/DVD player or a DVR. With the increasing number of different kinds devices coming to market, each with its own nitch, I have finally resolved myself to the conclusion that there is not going to be a one size fits all anywhere in the near future.

About three weeks ago Bob Dell sent me a quote from the Tribune's business section (Visions of technology's future): *"Five years from now," says Nate Williams, Motorola Mobility's senior director, head of product marketing for the Converged Experiences group, "you're going to see a dramatic increase in the number of connected devices. The number is about five in the average home now — tablet, gaming console, PC — and it's going to 15 to 20. You're going to have a home with more technology and, hopefully, it will be managed in a way that's a lot more efficient."* I thought that over a bit and started counting. I have eight, which puts me a little above average but less than half of where they are predicting us to be at in the next five years.

Where are you at? Start counting, (Desktop PC, Notebook, Digital Camera, MP3 player, Smart phone, Smart TV, Tablet) that's 7, so you can see, they are adding up fast. Do they all share your media? The answer is yes, but not easily. In my opinion the industry has a long way to go to make it seamless for end users to have their content available across all devices and platforms.

All this lead in was to get to the point of sharing recorded TV and device #9. Ever since migrating from the Commodore to a PC, I have had a TV tuner card in every one of my PCs and if I want to record TV that's how I do it (record it on my computer). From there I can convert the recording to various formats for different

devices or burn to DVD. This worked well until the arrival of digital TV. I have cable and they gradually kept dropping the analog channels till it got to the point where I had to add a DTA (Digital Transport Adapter) to the TV tuner in my computer in order to get most of the basic channels again. This happened about the time that I migrated to Windows 7. Since most versions of Windows 7 include MCE (Media Center Edition), I decided to try MCE and found it to be an excellent avenue for watching TV in a little window or for recording TV. The programming guide makes it a snap to schedule recordings.

Device #9

So on to device #9. Two weeks ago I was surfing the channels and found a program that I wanted to record to watch later, problem was it was a High Definition channel which is not broadcast on an alternative digital channel thus I could not record it. Comcast seems to be doing more of this High Definition-only thing lately (not because you get a better viewing experience but rather they can rent you more HD boxes). While watching the show I couldn't record, I grabbed my tablet and started searching for a solution for recording HD on my computer. In a few clicks I was at the Hauppauge web site reading the specs on the WinTV-DCR-2650, a dual tuner CableCARD™ receiver for your Windows 7 PC. I then clicked on the "Features" tab which stated:

WinTV-DCR-2650 is just like a cable TV set top box (a "DVR" box) in that it can be used to watch and record TV from digital cable. There are a couple of differences: WinTV-DCR-2650 needs a PC to work. Currently, only a PC with Windows 7 Media Center is compatible with the WinTV-DCR-2650.

WinTV-DCR-2650 does not have any internal disk storage: it uses your PC for storing recorded TV programs. The nice thing about using your PC for storage is that if you fill up your hard drive with TV programs, you can easily add a new hard drive to your PC.

WinTV-DCR-2650 records in the original transmitted quality. For example, if you record from an HD channel, the recording will be HD.

There is no monthly fee for the WinTV-DCR-2650. Once you buy it, it's yours to use forever. But you still need to sign up for cable TV service, and you will still need to rent a digital cable card from your local cable operator.

After reading the 3rd bullet point, that it could record

HD channels, I changed my search to a shopping search and had my order placed before the show I wanted to record was even over. How's that for impulse buying?

As you can see from the Quick Setup Guide instructions, there is not much to the setup and installation, it took approximately a half hour to complete the 1st time through. However, I had to repeat step 4 three additional times before everything was fully functional and that took over three hours because after every call I was instructed to wait 45 minutes or more before all the channels would be available. Overall, approx four hours from out-of-the-box to watching and recording High Definition TV on my computer.

WinTV-DCR-2650 rear panel connectors



Installation instructions for the WinTV-DCR-2650

- Step 1. Run the Windows Digital Cable Advisor to make sure your PC is compatible with the WinTV-DCR-2650.
- Step 2. Plug the WinTV-DCR-2650 into your PC via the USB cable. Connect cable TV. Insert the cable card you received from your cable operator into the back of WinTV-DCR-2650.
- Step 3. Run the Windows Media Center TV Tuner setup and select your cable TV operator.
- Step 4. Call your cable TV company to activate your cable card and "pair" it to the WinTV-DCR-2650

Four calls

In each of the four calls to Comcast a different support person was on the other end, each was very courteous, spoke very good English and seemed very knowledgeable. In the first call the support person activated the card and told me to wait 45 minutes or more before all the channels would be available. After 45 minutes I had all of the digital channels but only the basic (2, 5, 7, & 9) HD channels.

Second call

In the second call the support person said she would resend the activation to the card and told me to wait 45 minutes or more before all the channels would be available. This netted the same results so I ran the Hauppauge diagnostic program that was included on the installation CD. It reported that the firmware on the CableCard was out-of-date and not supported.

Third call

On the 3rd call I gave the diagnostic information to the support person who put me on hold while he collaborated with another technician. When he returned he stated that he would have to flash the firmware of my CableCard and told me to wait 45 minutes or more before all the channels would be available. He also gave me a different phone number to reach a higher level of support if flashing the card didn't work. After my 45 minute wait I retried and had all digital channels but no HD channels (lost ground). I reran the Hauppauge diagnostic and it reported no errors and said all is well.

Fourth call

The 4th call was to the new number given by the last rep and the support person on the other end had all my information from the previous calls and said she would run some diagnostics on the card from her end, after which she said she would reactivate the card asked me to tell her what lights were flashing while she was doing it. While this was going on she said that if this didn't work she would schedule a service call. By the time we were done talking the reactivating had completed and I had all channels (including the HD Channels) that I subscribe to and I didn't have to wait for 45 minutes.

All Channels

I am very pleased with the Hauppauge WinTV-DCR-2650 picture quality; it is very good and since I was already using MCE there was no learning curve. I can receive every channel on my computer that I can get from the Comcast HD Box except On Demand and Pay Per View. With two tuners built-in you can watch one show while recording another. As for media sharing I give it a thumbs up because I can now record a HD TV show and use Windows Live Movie Maker to save it to a format that can be viewed on my Android Tablet.

Hauppauge is headquartered in Hauppauge, NY and has been bringing TV to the PC since 1992. The Company is the worldwide leader in developing and manufacturing

PC based TV tuners and data broadcast receiver products. Hauppauge's products allow PC users to watch television on their PC screens, videoconference and create both still video images and digital TV recordings. Hauppauge's flagship product, the WinTV, is the leading branded TV tuner card for PCs.

Setting WIN7 Default Applications

By Dick Maybach

BUG Bytes,

Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ

www.bcug.com

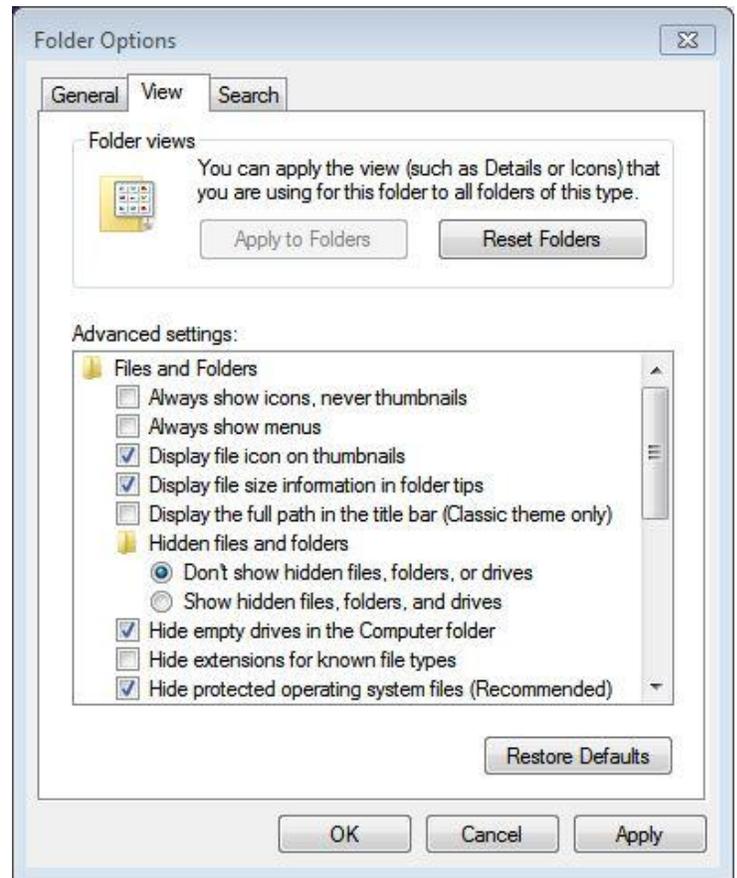
n2nd@charter.net

Windows 7 offers a convenience that previous versions had – when you double-click on a file icon in its file manager, an appropriate application program starts and opens the file. However, you may disagree with Windows about what is appropriate. Fortunately, it is easy to make a one-time over-ride of the default or permanently change it to what you prefer.

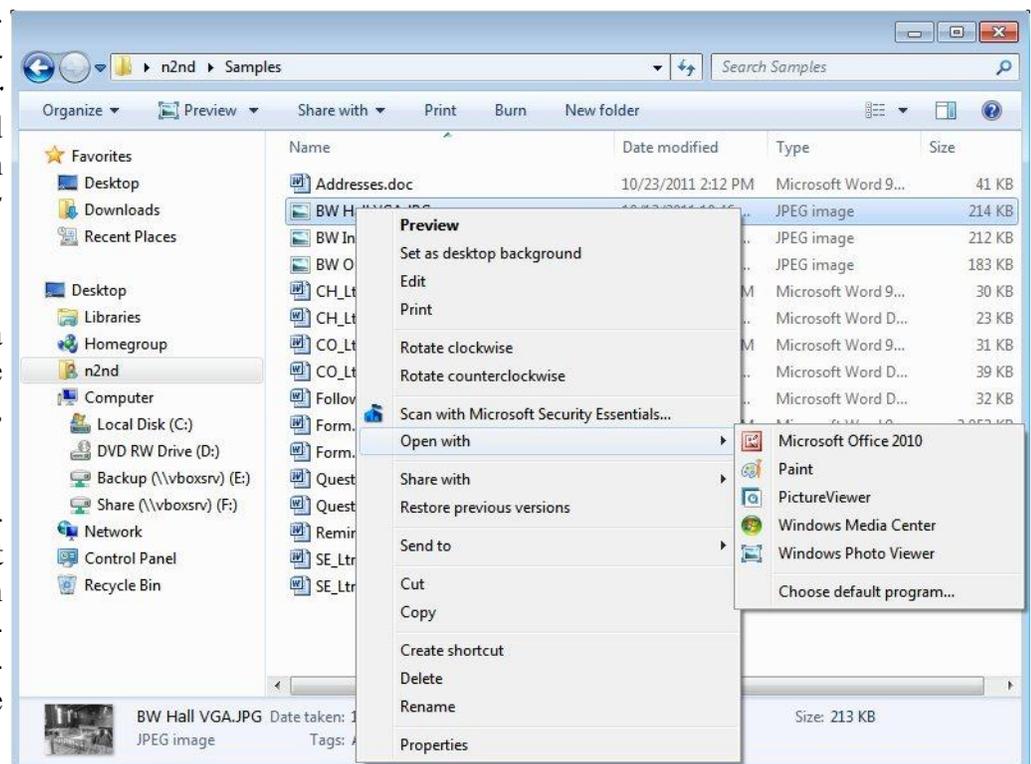
Windows uses the file's extension to identify the file type and to select the application to use for it. The extension is the text that follows the last period (.) in the filename. For example, .doc or .docx identifies an MS Word file, and its default application is usually MS Word. Windows 7 is often configured to hide file extensions, but you can change this by navigating to *Control Panel* ® *Appearance and Personalization* ® *Folder Options*, selecting the *View* tab, and removing the check from the item *Hide extensions for known file types*, as shown in the screen shot above right..

I prefer this because I can look at a list of files and immediately see which are, for example, text, music, or spreadsheets.

While using Windows Explorer, double-clicking on a filename will start an application and open the file with it. If you want to open it with a different application, right-click on the filename, then click on *Open with*. The



screen-shot below shows the result, which is a list of the applications that can open the file (a JPEG image in this case). To change the application that starts when you double-click a file with this extension, click on *Choose default program ...*, and select a new default for all files with the same extension (.jpg in this case).

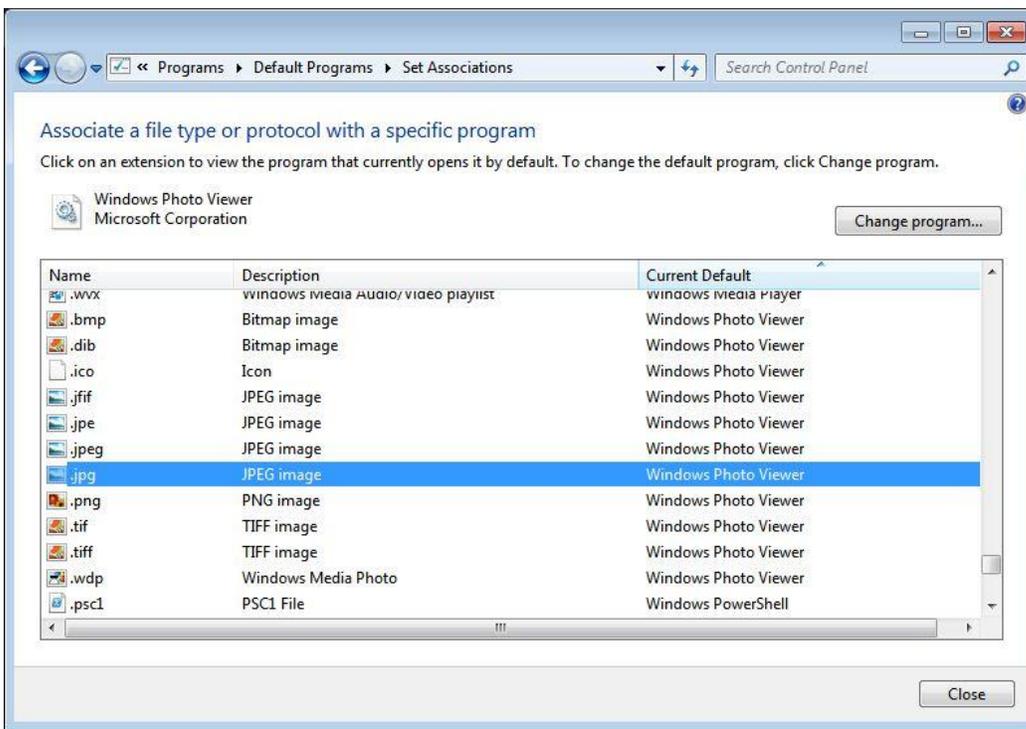
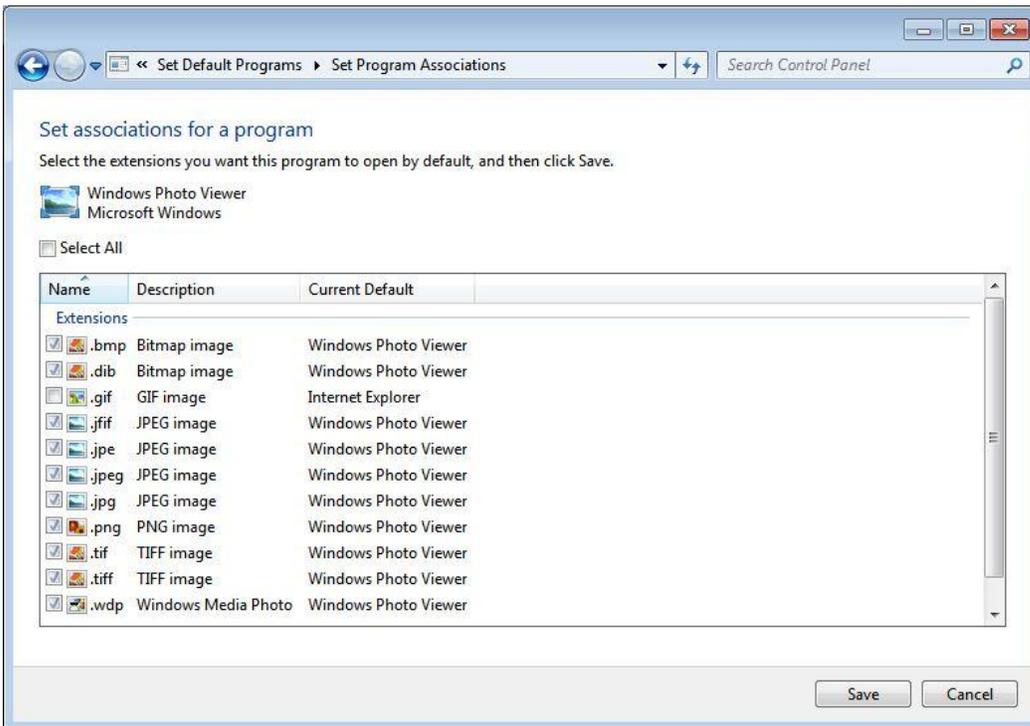


The above approach is tedious if you, for example, wanted to change the default application for all image files, not just JPEG ones. In this case, you would probably prefer the following. Use the sequence *Start ® Control Panel ® Programs ® Set your default programs*. You will see a list of all the programs that have been as defaults. Select one and click on Choose defaults for this program. The screen below shows the result for *Windows Photo Viewer*, which is a list of all the file types that this application can open. Note that the only image type is isn't currently assigned to is GIF image. You could change this by selecting GIF and clicking on the *Save* button.

This approach doesn't always work – the list of default programs is incomplete, and applications that are not already defaults won't appear. A more robust, but more tedious, approach is to go back one window and select *Associate a file type or protocol with a program* instead of *Set your default programs*. (Before taking the screen-shot, I had clicked on the heading *Current Default*, which sorts the display by default application, *Windows Photo Viewer* in this case).

To change a default, just select the program type, click the *Change program ...* button, and select the application. Since many different image file types appear together, it is much easier if you want to change them all. You would probably scan the entire list in case some image files were assigned a different default, and of course, you have no assurance that the application you select can actually open the file.

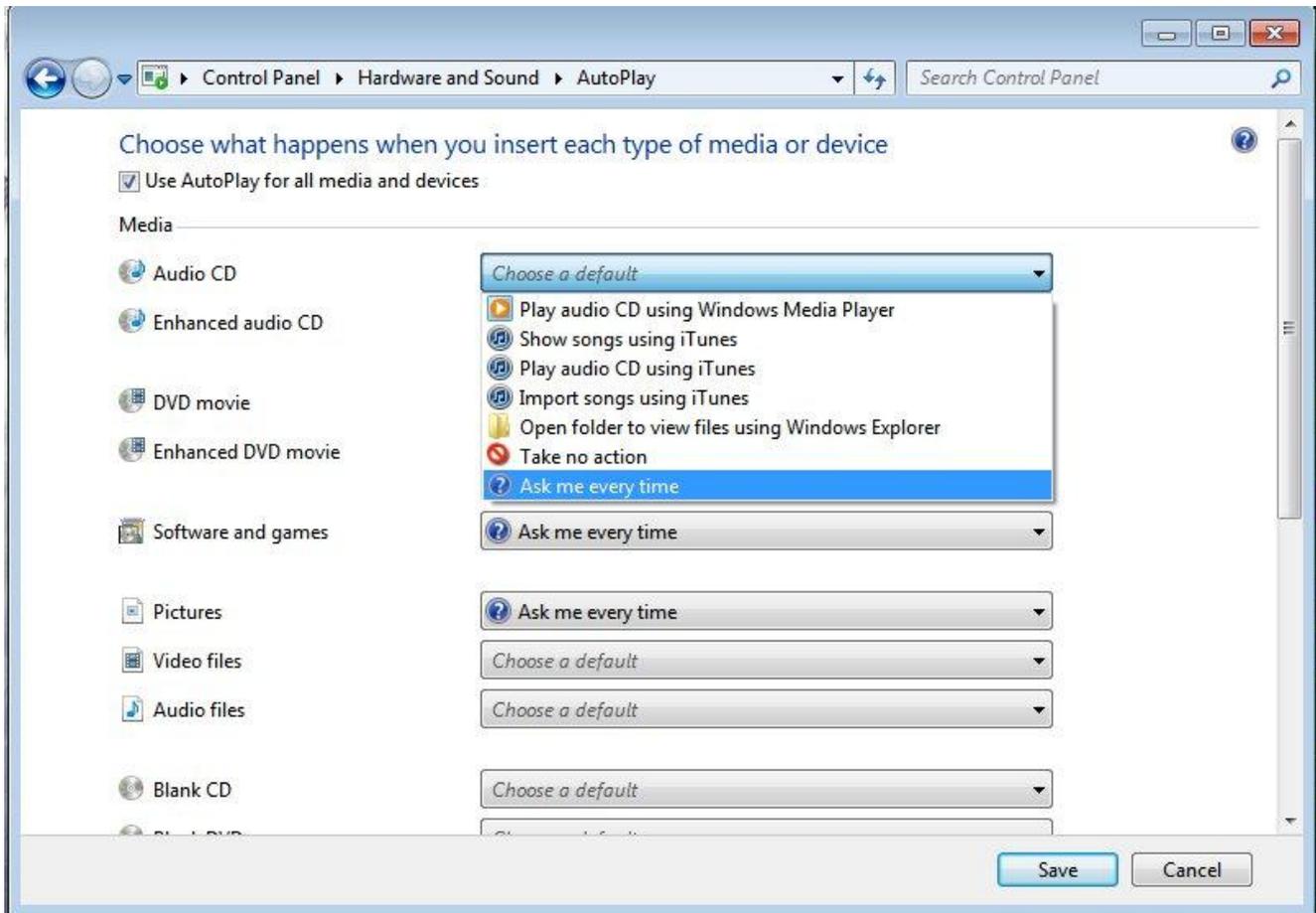
While we are discussing defaults, you can also select what happens when you insert a disc in your DVD drive. Use the sequence *Start ® Control Panel ® Programs ® Change AutoPlay settings*. The screen-shot below shows the result of selecting the *Choose a default button* in the Audio CD line.



My PC is set up to take no action, but I could pick any action on the list.

By setting the defaults you can adapt your Windows 7 computer to your own preferences and make it easier and faster to use.

BUY YOUR INK at :
cfcs.InkRaiser.com



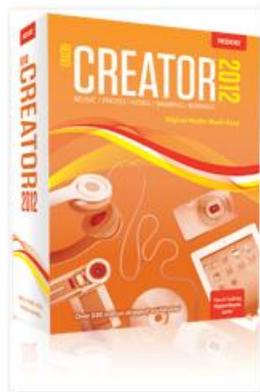
Software Review – Roxio Creator 2012

By Mark Mattson, Editor,
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It's been a while since this program suite was last reviewed in these pages. In fact, it was when the software was known as Easy Media Creator, and version 7.5 was the subject of the review. This was around 2005, and Gene Meeks did a great job with that review.

Fast forward to the present. This review will introduce you to Roxio Creator 2012, the latest and greatest in this long-running suite line.

Long running indeed - the first version of this software



was bundled with my very first CD-R burner, which I bought in 1994. I have tried several other burning applications over the years, but always come back to this one, as it's an old and trusted friend.

Originally owned and sold by Adaptec, it has had a couple owners over the years, the most recent of which is Corel (as of late 2011).

Please note that there are two versions of Creator available: the standard (reviewed here) and the PRO version. The PRO version offers all the features of the standard edition, and adds additional features to enhance your projects even more. You can find out more about that version on the Roxio website at www.roxio.com.

As the software has evolved, so has the size of the package. The version I used in 1994 came on a single CD-ROM disc. Subsequent versions grew to two CDs, and then moved to DVD discs when the capacity limits of CDs were reached. Indeed, Creator 2012 is so large, the download files were two 1GB archives. As the version I obtained for review came as an electronic download, I cannot tell you if the physical boxed version comes on one or two DVDs. No matter what, the package is large.

If you have a slow Internet connection, you may want to opt for physical delivery.

Installation can take a bit of time to perform, especially if your machine is slower. On a dual-core 2.6 GHz system running Windows 7 here, it took about 20 minutes to install the applications package, and an additional 15 minutes for the Content files (backgrounds, music tracks, etc.). Installation is not difficult. Just answer a few questions in the Installer, and you're off and running.

So what can you do with the software?

The most basic feature of the package allows you to burn data, pictures, audio files and documents (or any other files you have on your system) to removable optical media, such as CDs, DVDs and now Blu-Ray discs. This allows you to free up hard drive space, especially if you have smaller drives in your machine. Rather than taking up space on your drives, the data can be stored on removable discs, and restored when needed.

But you can do so much more with it than just offloading files to discs.

There is basic file backup and recovery tools included in the package, giving you the ability to save your important files to disc, and restore them when needed. Please note however, that this is NOT a full-featured system backup application. For those functions, you would need the PRO version, or an external application.

With the explosion of mobile devices into the digital lifestyle, you can share and produce content for iPod, iPad, iPhone and other supported devices without the need for an external program. You can convert from one file format to another, and then output it to your selected device.

If you enjoy listening to music, you can create compilations of your favorite tracks, convert files to digital audio, and burn them to disc...or again, output to your mobile device.

Do you like to share your home movies with others, or create unique video content to share? You can do so with Creator 2012 as well. Capture video streams, convert them to DivX or DVD movies, or even to 3D features. If you want to (or need to) produce Hi-def video, you have that ability also, using the optional Blu-ray plug-in available from the Roxio store (this plug-in is part of the PRO

package, and therefore only needs to be bought if you buy the standard version). NOTE: If you just need to burn data to Blu-ray discs, you do not need the plug-in. Blu-ray burning is available as an option when creating data discs. But to burn movies to Blu-ray, you DO need the plug-in.

Working with photos? There is an assortment of features in the suite for you as well. You can create slideshows complete with music to share, do basic image editing and enhancements, and so much more. When you're done, you can output them to DVD to watch on your TV, share with others, or even upload them to Facebook (as you can also do with your video projects to upload to YouTube).

Do you like to record television programs on a TiVo unit? There is now support for these devices included in the suite. You can record your programs to disc, or even transfer them to mobile devices to take on the road with you.

Once you have your project completed and ready to share, dress up those boring looking DVDs and CDs with a custom label that you can create using the included application designed just for that purpose. Add your photos, backgrounds and text to complete your project.

There are many more features to the software; you can find a complete list on the Roxio website.

With all this horsepower under the hood of the software, the system you run it on needs to be capable of running it as well. If not, then you will be unable to perform some of the tasks you may want or need to.

The following list is taken from the Roxio website. Please note that updates to the programs may add new requirements not listed here.

Minimum System Requirements:

Microsoft® 7 Home Premium, Professional or Ultimate (32- or 64-bit), Microsoft® Windows Vista™ SP2 (32- or 64-bit), Windows® XP SP3 (32-bit), Windows® XP SP2 (64-bit)

For data burning and copy, audio capture and editing: Intel® 1.6GHz Pentium 4 processor or AMD equivalent, 512MB RAM for windows XP and 1GB RAM for Windows Vista and Windows 7. For video editing and conversion and DVD playback Intel Pentium 4 2GHz pro-

cessor or AMD equivalent and 1GB RAM. Multi-core processor with at least 2GB RAM recommended

- 1024x768 DirectX 9.0c compatible graphics card with at least 16-bit color setting, sound card, DVD-ROM drive
 - ATI Stream® and CUDA™ acceleration only available with AMD ATI Stream and NVIDIA® CUDA enabled graphics cards
 - Hard drive with at least 3GB free space for the installation process. DVD and BD copy, video editing and authoring may require large amount of free disk space, up to 10's of GB
 - Windows Media Player version 10, 11 or 12
 - Internet Explorer 7, 8 or 9
 - Internet connection required for installation, registration, product updates and some features. Any Internet charges are the user's Responsibility.
 - QuickTime® player version 7 required for some functionality
 - iTunes® version 8 for some functionality
- TiVo® requires a TiVo® Series2™, Series3™, TiVo HD DVR or other TiVoToGo™ compatible DVR connected to your home network and TiVo Desktop. Does not work with DirecTV® provided TiVo DVRs. See www.tivo.com for more information.

For video capture: OHCI compliant IEEE 1394 FireWire card for use with DV camera or Roxio Video Capture USB for analog sources

- Blu-ray authoring requires an additional plug-in which can be purchased at www.roxio.com
- Setting up of media access server capability requires and always on PC connected to a wired network

3D

- 3D glasses and other 3D hardware is the user's responsibility
 - 3D video input formats: over/under full and half height, side-by-side full and half width, anaglyph red/cyan, RealD, Fuji FinePix REAL 3D
- 3D video output formats: anaglyph red/cyan, side-by-side and full and half-width, over/under full and half height, RealD

Input Formats:

- Video: AVI, DV, HDV, DV-AVI, MKV, MPEG-1/2/4, MPEG2-HD, DVD-Video, IFO/VOB, XviD, DVR-MS, TiVo, ASF, MOV, WMV, QuickTime, 3GP, MPEG2 Transport Stream, AVC (H.264), AVCHD

- Audio: Audio CD, MP3, WAV, WMA, Dolby® Digital AC-3, AAC, Ogg Vorbis, FLAC, M4A, MP4, Playlists (WPL, ASX, M3U, PLS, XSPF)
- Image: MPO, JPG, PNG, TIFF, BMP, GIF

Output Formats:

- Video: AVI, DV-AVI, HDV, MPEG-1/2/4, MPEG2-HD, , WMV, WMV HD, AVC (H.264), MP4, 3GP
 - Audio: MP3, WAV, WMA, Dolby Digital AC-3, Ogg Vorbis, FLAC, MPEG-1/2, M4A, M4B AAC, Playlists (M3U, PLS, XSPF, WPL)
 - Image: JPG, PNG, TIFF, BMP, GIF
- Video disc formats: DVD, Video CD(VCD), Super Video CD (SVCD), Mini DVD

Recordable Formats:

CD-R/RW, DVD+R/RW, DVD-R/RW, DVD-R DL, DVD+R DL, DVD-RAM, BD-R/RE, BD-R/RE DL

Disc image formats: read ISO, C2D, BIN/CUE and GI; write ISO and GI

As can be seen from the above list, it takes quite a bit to enable execution of certain operations. If your machine is more than three years old, it MAY not have enough under the hood to run parts of the suite. Such is my case and my two 'antique' machines. To do this review, I had to put it on my wife's newly built computer, which definitely meets the specs.

Most of what I have used the suite for has been to off-load files from my systems, and burn it to disc for archival storage. Starting out in the 90's with CDs, it progressed to DVDs into the 80's and beyond, and now to Blu-ray discs, for increased storage capacity. Being that Tanya and I are both photographers, the 25 and 50 GB capacities of Blu-ray media will be important as we migrate image files to disc for a secondary backup of our work. At present, to burn both our image libraries to DVD would mean burning about 200 4.7GB DVD discs. Using Blu-ray, this is cut down to around 50 BD-R discs (25 GB capacity each).

Before doing the archiving, however, I need to investigate the system further. Burning a test BD-R disc took about 1.5 hours for a full 25 GB disc, and an additional 45 minutes for verification. The writer was only burning at 1x speed, while the discs I used were rated for 6x recording. Evidently I need to upgrade the burner's firmware, or check the settings in the software.

Another area of investigation concerns the creation of DVD movies. During testing, I noticed some audio drop-outs during playback of the compilations I assembled into a DVD movie. Referring to the Roxio forums brought forth some tips and tricks to try to resolve this. After applying some of those recommendations, I now have the dropouts minimized, but they still occur randomly. I will need to further test this, using different media, and perhaps trying the DVDs on different players than my own home machine.

Overall, the Creator 2012 suite is a powerful, highly useful package. There is not much you CAN'T do with it, and a lot you CAN. This package has matured as the years have gone by into one that no serious media creator should be without. Even though aimed at the home market, many small businesses looking to create rich media presentations and projects will find the power of

this software to more than meet their needs.

For further details on this version, or the PRO version, please go to the Roxio website at www.roxio.com. Roxio Creator 2012 is selling for \$79.99 after a \$20 mail-in rebate. The rebate also applies to the PRO version, if you decide to purchase the added power and features it offers. If you own Creator 2011, you qualify for a special upgrade price of \$69.99. However, you can't upgrade at this price from an older version. Remember, you can get delivery via electronic download, or a physical box. If your Internet connection is not a broadband one, opt for the box delivery. It will save you hours of downloading.

Would I recommend this package? Definitely YES. It has been a steady and reliable friend for almost 20 years, and not many others can come close to the features it offers.



Jonathan Sullivan from Refresh Computers spoke at our August meeting.

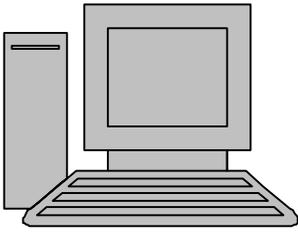


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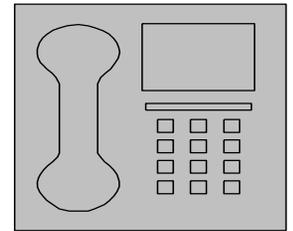
Have a Blast!

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY E-MAIL!

All meetings and speakers are subject to change, and late alterations are always possible. To keep completely on top of events, log on to CFCS.org and subscribe to our weekly e-mail update, the E-Blast!



HelpLine



HelpLine is a **free** service to members of CFCS only. The following volunteers have offered to field questions by **phone** or **via e-mail** with software and hardware problems listed below. Please be considerate of the volunteer you are calling.

As a **free** service, you should not be asked to pay for help or be solicited for products or services. If anything to the contrary occurs, please contact the HelpLine coordinator immediately. Their names will be removed from the list.

Additional volunteers are needed in some existing categories and for new categories. If you are interested, please contact the HelpLine coordinator at e-mail: helpline@cfcs.org

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September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Newsletter Copy Deadline
2	3	4	5 CFCS BoD Denny's Casselberry	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Access, Office, Security SIGs: New Horizons, 7pm	13	14	15
16 12:30 pm Windows SIG 2:00 pm General Meeting	17 iPhone SIG, Lee Rd. Jackson Hewitt 7 pm	18	19 Virtual Pho- to SIG. Details at cfcs.org	20	21	22
23	24	25 Tech SIG Denny's, Casselberry 7 pm	26	27	28	29
30						

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Newsletter Copy Deadline	2	3 CFCS BoD New Horizons, Lee Rd. 7 pm	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Access, Office, Security SIGs: New Horizons, 7pm Lee Rd.	11	12	13
14	15 iPhone SIG, Lee Rd. Jackson Hewitt 7 pm	16	17 Virtual Pho- to SIG. Details at cfcs.org	18	19	20
21 12:30 pm Windows SIG 2:00 pm General Meeting	22	23 Tech SIG Denny's, Casselberry 7 pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	All SIG meeting places are tentative, due to construction at both Denny's. Check eBlast or CFCS website for late breaking changes the day before any meeting!			

DIRECTIONS TO MONTHLY MEETING

Our meeting building is at the intersection of Lee Road and Turner Rd. The meeting is in the building behind the one on the corner of Lee and Turner. Turn North on Turner, left into the parking lot, and drive behind the office building in the rear of the parking lot. You will see a sign: **Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance**. Plenty of parking is nearby, and the meeting room is just inside, making it accessible for those with special mobility equipment.

SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS based on your starting point.

From I-4, exit at Lee Rd., drive East 1/2 mile to Turner Rd. and turn left onto Turner and left again into the first parking lot. Drive to the rear of the rearmost building and look for the Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance.

From Apopka/436 area, go south on 441 to

Lee Rd., Go about 2 miles, past I-4, then turn left onto Turner and left again into the first parking lot. Drive to the rear of the rearmost building and look for the Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance.

From the SouthWest, take John Young to Lee Rd. as above, turn left on Turner and left again into the first parking lot. Drive to the rear of the rearmost building and look for the Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance.

From Hwy 17-92, drive to Lee Rd, turn West, then go 8/10ths of a mile to Turner Rd. and turn right. Drive to the rear of the rearmost building and look for the Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance.

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