

Mountain Bits & Bytes

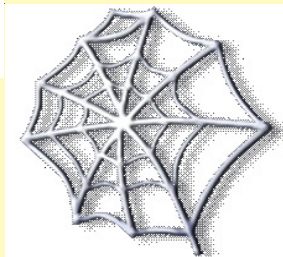
The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol. 10 Issue #7
July 2010

Do not forget to check out our new and improved website, mcug.org. And don't forget to thank all of the website team and especially Randy Gehring, our webmaster for all of their hard and excellent work.



WIDE



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Happy Fourth of July, all you MCUG persons:

I hope you all enjoyed Chief Van Horn's Genealogy presentation as much as I did. Your MCUG Board of Directors would like to hear from the membership regarding what kind of programs you would like us to have. Also, if any of you have a special interest, or knowledge, perhaps you would consider giving a presentation.

This month's special program will be a PICNIC to be held at the Georgia Mountain Fairground Pavilion, next to the Rhododendron Garden. There will be "MCUG" signs posted to direct you. More explicit directions are on our website, mcug.org.

Your club will be providing the Bar_B_Que sandwiches, baked beans, and cole slaw, along with beverages, ice, napkins, plates, flatware, etc. You are asked to bring a side dish, either a vegetable dish or dessert to round out the meal.

Spouses and any guests you wish to bring are invited. We just need to know how many will be in your group.

We will raffle a wireless keyboard and mouse. Tickets are \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00. Tickets will still be available for purchase at the picnic. We will also have several door prizes, including a fruit basket.

As a preview, the August meeting will be about "Virtual Box" by Webmaster, Randy Gehring.

Rea Williams, MCUG President

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MCUG Monthly Meeting Schedule

The regular monthly meeting of the Mountain Computer User Group (MCUG) is held on the second Monday of every month, at 7 p.m., in the Wilson Lecture Hall (Room 201) of the Goolsby Building on the campus of Young Harris College in Young Harris, GA. All regular monthly meetings and SIGs are open to everyone regardless of membership status.

MCUG Membership

Annual dues are \$20 and extend membership privileges to two (2) members of a household. Membership privileges include: special discounts on vendor products, access to products for evaluation and review, and association with a great bunch of people.

Affiliation

The Mountain Computer User Group is a member of APCUG, a nonprofit international organization dedicated to promoting communications between PC user groups and the computer industry.

Group Purpose

The Mountain Computer User Group is a nonprofit, tax-exempt educational organization without corporate or vendor affiliation. Its purpose is the encouragement and advancement of computer information and knowledge through "users helping users".

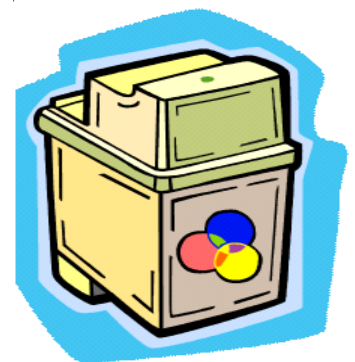
Make Your Ink Cartridges Last Longer

by: Kathryn Dawson

The speed at which technology progresses is so fast it can be hard to keep up with new developments, changes and products. These days hardly anyone uses the traditional paper and pen to write things out, practically everything is done on the computer. An important addition to a good computer is a good quality printer, if you have to do a lot of printing out then you'll know how much money is spent on cartridges over the period of a year.

Purchasing a printer can be expensive enough, particularly if you want a product that produces high quality images or photos. You also have to take into consideration the cost of the ink cartridges too, a point that many people don't think about until their original cartridge runs out and they have to replace it. As these need to be replaced at regular intervals the total cost of buying the printer and suitable cartridges can be a lot more than you bargained for. Follow these guidelines and your printer and ink cartridges are guaranteed to last longer.

To save money and make your cartridges last longer then try and reduce the amount of printing you do, this is actually a very practical solution and if everyone took the time to study their completed document before pressing the print button there would be a lot of ink saved. If you need to print out a web page then cut and paste only the parts that are necessary and forget about the colourful pictures or images if you can.

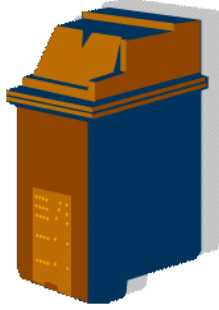


Coloured graphics are going to use a lot more ink than black text so if that is sufficient for your needs then cut away the images and save yourself a lot of ink over a period of time. Generally brand printers have a print preview option, this means you can have a good look at the print version before actually printing it out spotting any mistakes, typing errors or poor layout and thus reducing the number of printed copies.

At the end of the working day turn your printer off

as you would any other piece of electrical equipment. All the time the printer is switched to on its print heads are exposed to the air which dries the ink in the nozzles up over time and this affects the quality of the printing. Turning the printer off will make your printer last for longer. If you don't print on a regular basis then it's advised to run a small printing test weekly to evade the inkjet cartridges from drying out and increase how long they last.

Extreme room temperatures are also not good for printer inkjet cartridges, try to avoid keeping them in rooms or areas that are far too hot or cold as this will also cause them to dry up. Ensure the room temperature is a normal as possible.



If you do a search on the internet you'll find software applications intended to reduce the utilization of your inkjet cartridges. Download Ecofont, a font that saves around 20% of the ink or toner in comparison to standard fonts. It's free to download and the site has easy to follow instructions on how to install it on Windows XP and Vista, Mac OS X, and Linux. You'll still get good quality printout copies but by using a reduced amount of ink even during high resolution printing.

Ink cartridges can be used over and over again, if you are concerned about the environment then there are printing companies online who will take back your used cartridges and recycle them. Look for suppliers who display the recycling logo on their website and help reduce the number of spent cartridges that get thrown into landfills every year.

Remanufacturing, in other words recycling, is simply a process by which cartridges get cleaned, serviced, refilled, tested and repackaged, they provide a cheaper option to customers but the standard of quality is just as good as the original.

Inkjet cartridges can easily be bought online, a much faster and often cheaper option than ordering from high street stores. Online you

are guaranteed large discounts and delivery to the door. If you need to order cartridges regularly, for example Epson stylus ink cartridge or HP Photosmart c4180 ink, then you'll get an even better discount on bulk orders. Do some research online first as there are lots of websites with various offers, find one that has been established for a while and is trustworthy and reliable and guarantees quality printing products.

Kathryn Dawson writes articles for Cartridge Shop, <http://www.cartridgeshop.co.uk/> a UK provider of a range of inkjet cartridges from leading manufacturers. <http://www.cartridgeshop.co.uk/Catalog/2223/HP-Photosmart-C4180-Printer-Ink-Cartridges.html> Explore a full range of epon stylus ink cartridges available or browse special deals and offers on HP Photosmart C4180 ink.

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- Customer: "I got DSL, but it's not working."
- Tech Support: "What kind of modem do you have?"
- Customer: "Ummm, I dont know. It's built into my laptop."
- Tech Support: "Ok, did you receive the modem package we sent out?"
- Customer: "Modem package??"
- Tech Support: "Well, it looks like the modem was shipped to (address), Pennsylvania."
- Customer: "I don't live in Pennsylvania. I live in New York."
- Tech Support: "Huh. Do you know this Pennsylvania address?"
- Customer: "Yes, that's my Mom's house."
- Tech Support: "Ok, this DSL phone number you gave me — is that your mother's number?"
- Customer: "Yes, they told me in order for me to have DSL, I need to have your company's phone service. My mother has it, so I gave them her telephone number."

Tom's Tip of the Month

Five Tips For Laptop Care

1) Invest in a padded case complete with a zipper or buckle. Keep it closed up when not in use, in order to avoid dust and dirt seeping in. Toting the fragile laptop around in a backpack, or even worse, no container at all, is inviting damage.

2) Keep your machine away from extreme temperatures. Tossing it into the trunk of a car in mid-summer is not a good idea. Freezing temperatures and humidity can also be detrimental to the longevity of a notebook

3) Close its lid and turn it off when not in use. Dust can settle quickly on the keyboard and enter the other openings, as well, creating havoc with the electrical system. Be sure to clean it off as necessary, but keeping it closed up and put away will greatly aid in keeping it spic and span and functioning properly.

4) Watch the food and drink. If you are sipping tea or soda and eating your lunch while working on your notebook, set yourself up to be as stable as possible. Arrange the items you are working on, including your computer and your food items, upon a solid surface such as a desk or table. This will offer optimum chance of successfully carrying out multi-tasking endeavors.

5) Take laptops to the beach with extreme care. The idea of doing your work or carrying out email correspondence while on vacation can be an inviting idea, but do so with extreme caution. Did you know that many digital cameras, electronic devices and computers die on the beach? Blowing sand can be the kiss of death to the fragile makeup of an electronic device. Sand is even worse than household dust because of its gritty nature. The beach's sand knows how to mysteriously embed itself into everything that appears along its shoreline—shoes, hair, picnic lunches and most devastating of all - your computer.

BITS & PCs

FOR SALE

1M USB A to Mini-B 2.0 cable

3 feet long \$2.00

Vipre AntiVirus software

Antivirus and Anti Spyware

\$2.00 each (Eight copies available)

DVI-D to DVI-D cable

Connect your DVI-D LCD, Plasma TV, or HDTV to your DVI-D computer 10 feet.

\$2.00 each (2 available)

Cassette Adapter Universal for MP3

\$2.00 each (2 available)

Belden USB Parallel Printer Adapter Cable

\$2.00 (3 available)

Ink Jet Cartridges

HP-51645A

\$1.00 each (2 available)

IEEE 1284 Printer Cable 10 feet long

(DB25 male to Centronics36 male)

\$2.00

Above prices are negotiable

Email Rea Williams @ reaw@brmemc.net or
Tom Allen @ bunkerhilltom@brmemc.net

For Sale, Kodak Carousel Slide Projector w/
12 carousel slide holders & large screen.
\$75.00

Call George @ [\(706\)379-0663](tel:(706)379-0663)

Everyday Computer Security Advice

Back up your data to removable memory. Copy your data so that everything you care about is stored in at least two places. Your hard disk might crash, or your computer might be damaged or stolen. If you have a CD or DVD burner, burn a backup disc frequently. Or you can use an online backup service such as Carbonite or Mozell.

Understand that electronic mail and web pages can be forged and snooped easily. Do not assume that a mail message was sent by the person named in the "From" field. If you get mail that appears to be from a bank, Ebay, MVP, or PayPal, asking you to go to a website and fill in your personal info, it is probably a scam.

Don't run or install any programs from unknown sites. You would think this is obvious, but many people are too trusting, or don't understand that clicking on an email attachment often will initiate a worm, virus or other damaging application. People get an email message claiming to be a picture, or whatever, and click on it, and their machines go to the blue screen syndrome.

Avoid reading email with Outlook or browsing with Internet Explorer.

Windows users should avoid using Microsoft Outlook. It has had many documented security holes where a hacker will send a message that takes advantage of a bug in Outlook to install a virus on your machine, even if you don't open the message. There are plenty of other good free mail-reading programs such as Thunderbird or Chrome; use one of them instead.

Use a firewall if you have a cable or DSL line. Get a combination NAT and firewall box, which should cost less than \$50. Even if you have only one computer, a router/firewall helps isolate

your machine from the outside, kind of like a surge protector



Use passwords sensibly. Use passwords to protect valuable assets. Do not use the same login ID and password for lots of different services, especially if they have a credit card attached. If your access to one service gets cracked, or shoulder surfed, or eavesdropped, you do not want the attacker to be able to get into all your other accounts.

Install a virus checker and keep its definitions up-to-date, especially if you are using Windows. You should have a virus checker program, even though fast spreading viruses can hit you before you update. Windows users also need to obtain and use "adware" and "spyware" checkers. On a Mac, a virus checker can protect you from viruses in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files.

Install security patches from your software providers regularly. This is important, because many machines get infected by viruses that exploit holes for which patches have been available for months. Once again, though, you can't count solely on these patches for security, because the patches come out *after* the holes are found.

Finally, consider using a Mac. Macintoshes have far fewer security problems.

* * * * *

It was Swiss journalist and commentator Ester Dyson who made the following sage observation: "The internet is like alcohol in some sense. It accentuates what you would do anyway. If you want to be a loner, you can do more alone. If you want to connect, it makes it easier to connect.

From The DealsGuy For July 2010 by Bob (The Cheapskate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

We worked Pittcon <<http://www.pittcon.org>>, the Annual Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy, which is mostly about laboratory products and services. Pittcon began as a small conference held annually in Pittsburgh, PA and was originally called The Pittsburgh Conference. Since it's a one-of-a-kind event, it gradually became larger than originally anticipated so it was necessary to move it to larger facilities and to hold it in other locations. The name was changed to Pittcon, but it's still referred to as The Pittsburgh Conference. Next year The Pittsburgh Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA.

This 61st annual conference offered almost 2000 booths, as well as many educational and informative breakout sessions during show days. I didn't learn the attendance, but attendees were numerous and the Expo had interesting booths. I often asked questions concerning what a booth was about and the booth people were great about filling me in. I found the products and services fascinating.

The NADA (National Automobile Dealers Association) show <<http://www.nada.org/TrainingEvents/Convention/>> was also interesting (and large) and I met attendees from many other countries, which surprised me. I saw some great female sales people working the booths, but the female attendees tended to call them "Bimbos." I don't know why because even though they were scantily clad they seemed to be friendly and knowledgeable when giving their presentation. <G>

*How My Reimage Repair Went

Using Reimage to bring my computer back to its original condition was an experience. The first time I started the repair, it got deep into downloading over 770 files and all of a sudden, my computer warned that the CPU was overheating. I didn't see any way to pause it, so I forced the computer to shut down. After a few days, I tried running Reimage again. It got almost all of the way through the downloading, but the session was interrupted for unknown reasons. When you start a Reimage Repair, it goes through examining your entire hard drive and operating system for

viruses, malware, and all the bad stuff, as well as any corrupted files in your operating system, and replaces them with the correct ones.

A few days later, I gave it another try and it went through the many downloads, which took well over an hour, but one of the problems I wanted repaired was the proper shutdown of my computer, which hadn't been happening. I had to finish the shutdown myself, so it failed to reboot when the repair was completed, which was necessary to finish the session and I was left with a Reimage "we'll soon be finished" screen each time I started my computer.

I sent a message to Reimage tech support concerning the failed repair and they responded telling me to run it again in safe mode. When I tried it in safe mode, it couldn't access the Internet, so nothing could be done. Then they said it was necessary to schedule a remote session to attempt the repair from their end. A week later, I had scheduled a remote session and the tech sent me an e-mail prior to the scheduled time with a "LogMeIn" link to use for my session. Their tech worked over an hour and downloaded "autoruns" (Sysinternals) from the Microsoft Web site and installed it. Eventually the machine started shutting down saying it would be downloading 60 updates, but when it finished doing that, it failed to shut off. I never found out why all the updates because I try to keep them up to date.

I received an e-mail saying the session had been interrupted and I needed to reschedule a new session. I finally scheduled a new session a week later and the tech worked almost two hours and finally told me he had decided that the failing shutdown was being caused by my firewall, Online Armor. When he disabled it, he could restart the computer successfully, but when it was activated, the restart failed because the computer failed to shut down. I was convinced and so far the shutdown is working and my firewall is disabled, so that's where I stand now. He suggested that reinstalling it might help. I'm not sure if I'll try that, but the peculiar part is that I have been using OnLine Armor successfully for over two years, but the problems started after I installed Internet Explorer 8 recently. What is the connection? Tonight, I noticed that I was unable to launch MS Access so I'm wondering what's wrong with that now. It wants to install when I launch it.

Reimage is located in Israel and the tech used perfect English in his sessions, which consisted of us communicating via LogMeIn. There is no telephone support. He was patient with my typing and sometimes had questions that he wanted answered in my own words.

During the session, he found Glary Utilities on my machine. I thought I had installed a full version downloaded from Giveawayoftheday.com, but I apparently had actually installed a trial. He asked if I would like him to install it for me and I readily agreed. How helpful is that! While the time duration for the repair was lengthy, I was satisfied to an extent. Not all of my problems were fixed, but my lack of adequate memory could be part of the problem. When I first built the computer, it was enough memory, but because of all the updates and other installed items, memory may be part of the problem. However, it uses Rambus, which is very expensive.

***How To Make Posters**

I was visiting a friend the other day and he was enlarging some photos to be used as posters. I ask what he was using and it's a free program called Easy Poster Printer that he read about. It's at <http://www.gdsoftware.dk>. He said it worked well for him. He made a beautiful poster while I watched. It was interesting how it divided the poster up into multiple pages so you could paste them together. That way you don't need to purchase one of those \$20,000 wide-carriage printers to make a large poster. If the above URL doesn't work, try http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid_83419-order_4/description.html, which is the PCWorld site.

***How Is Your Flash Drive Working?**

Browsing the results of a search the other day I noticed H2testw <http://wareseeker.com/free-h2testw-1.4/> and took a look. It's a test you can run to tell you that a flash drive does, or doesn't, work like it should. There are many places to download this test and it seems to have other uses, but H2testw 1.4 will test your Flash drive and tell you if there are any errors, and won't hurt your data.

Flash drives are a different type of storage that sometimes perplexes a user.

There have been articles on how long they last, but since they are new technology, who really knows for sure. I've seen numbers stating their dependability, but do you count the times you use yours? It wouldn't hurt to check occasionally to see if a Flash drive is working as it should because anything can fail at any time; especially when a user carries it in their pocket or hanging on their neck. After all, just reading the drive has little effect on it, but writing to it and bumping it against pocket items doesn't help. The product is free.

***Help For Your Downloads**



Downloading files can sometimes be a trying experience when things aren't going right, but here is a product that will help things along. FlashGet will help your download in many ways including the speed of the download. I'm told FlashGet is a popular download manager and it was suggested by a tech support person. It uses the MHT (Multi-server Hyper-threading Transportation) technique (OK, if they say so), supports various protocols, and has excellent document management features. FlashGet is freeware and said to be without any adware or spyware. Their Web site also says they accept donations. Check their information at <http://www.flashget.com>.

***Coral Deals**

From time to time, special offers are sent out by the Corel people and they usually expire before I could include them in my column. Perhaps you can get on their mailing list by calling their ordering number, 1-877-582-6735, to ask. (Mon- Fri, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm EST). Also, here is the URL <http://www.corel.com> for browsing.

That's it for this month. I'll have some more new product announcements on my Web site that didn't offer discounts. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click <bobclick at bellsouth dot net>. Visit my Web site at <http://www.dealsguy.com>

Mountain Computer User Group July 2010 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
Happy Independence Day!	4	5	6	7 Board Mtg Y H Library 10:00 am	8	9
	10	11	12 July Mtg 6:00 Annual Picnic	13 	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Deadline for August Newsletter Articles
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- Donna Generas July 4th
- Cheryl Gehring July 4th
- Judi Boulware July 13th
- Richard Lackey July 15th
- Carol Mast y 17th
- June Gottl y 18th
- Billie Bell y 21st
- Carolyn Fil y 21st
- Joseph Adams July 24th
- Karen Seagert July 26th



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

NONE FOR JULY !

