

Mountain Computer User Group
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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".

Tom's Tip of the Month

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR ADDRESS BOOK!

I learned a computer trick today that's really ingenious in its simplicity. As you may know, when/if a worm virus gets into your computer it heads straight for your e-mail address book, and sends itself to everyone in there, thus infecting all your friends and associates.

This trick won't keep the virus from getting into your computer, but it will stop it from using your address book to spread further, and it will alert you to the fact that the worm has gotten into your system.

First, open your address book and click on 'new contact,' just as you would do if you were adding a new friend to your list of e-mail addresses.

In the window where you would type your friend's first name, type in 'A'.

For the screen name or e-mail address, type 'AAAAAAAA@AAA.AAA'.

Now, here's what you've done and why it works:

The 'name' 'A' will be placed at the top of your address book as entry #1.

This will be where the worm will start in an effort to send itself to all your friends.

But, when it tries to send itself to AAAAAAAA@AAA.AAA, it will be undeliverable because of the phony e-mail address you entered. If the first attempt fails (which it will because of the phony address), the worm goes no further and your friends will not be infected.

Here's the second great advantage of this method:

If an e-mail cannot be delivered, you will be notified of this in your In Box almost immediately. Hence, if you ever get an e-mail telling you that an e-mail addressed to AAAAAAAA@AAA.AAAA could not be delivered, you know right away that you have the worm virus in your system. You can then take steps to get rid of it!

How Can I Create User-Friendly E-mail People Will Be Happy to Read?

Written by Gabe Goldberg, Computers and Publishing, Inc.

Tiplet (at) gabegold.com

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What could be simpler than sending email? You type, someone (sometimes many someones!) reads. But aren't there some people whose email you enjoy reading and some whose notes are annoying or even painful to slog through?

~~Simple tips will make reading a favorite correspondent~~

High on the list of musts is trimming what you quote when replying. That is, remove (highlight with mouse and press Delete key) all text that isn't essential, isn't related to your reply. Especially remove repeated mailing list information and old sig(nature) files from the bottom of your reply. When this basic housekeeping isn't done, after a few back-and-forth exchanges, notes can grow to hundreds of lines, making it hard to find whatever is added each time. It's especially bad on discussion mailing lists.

Opinions differ on how best to add reply text. I usually put it at the top of my notes, so it's the first thing seen when the note is opened.

But if a discussion is complex, I'll interleave my typing between paragraphs I answer. When done consistently, both these techniques create a log of what's been said, easily reviewed from bottom (oldest material) to top (newest). Some people add replies at bottom but I find that a bit confusing.

When writing to multiple people, distinguish between people receiving the note for action/reply (listed in To field) and those getting it for information only (CC, Courtesy Copy or Carbon Copy).

If you're sending to more than just a few people, especially if they're not a close-knit group, list addressees in the BCC (Blind Courtesy Copy) field. This has important advantages: It hides addressees, keeping them confidential and preventing them from being captured by spammers, and it keeps your note from being bloated and hard to read.

Most email software allows you to specify which field (To, CC, BCC) an addressee should appear in; choices are often in pulldown lists at the top of the email composition window.

If you're one of several addressees (listed in To or CC) think carefully before you Reply All. Be sure that everyone needs to see your reply before sending it. ALWAYS double check To and CC lists before clicking Send.

Before you Reply All, ensure that you ARE on the note's To or CC list. If you're not, you received a blind copy — so addressees don't know you did. If you Reply All you may embarrass the original sender and yourself.

Don't use ALL capital letters — that's considered shouting.

Stay calm; out-of-control ranting is called "flaming" and is never popular. If you're responding to something irritating or worrisome, let your note sit overnight before sending it. You may feel calmer the next day. Sometimes it's useful to have someone review such a note for you before it's sent.

Remember that the Internet never forgets — and once you send an email you never know and can't control where it ends up.

For more tips, Google <http://www.google.com/search?q=email+etiquette> email etiquette. A top hit <http://www.emailreplies.com/> Emailreplies.com gives 32 concise rules for sending effective email replies.

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Windows XP and Windows 7

If you thought Microsoft was going to dump Windows XP completely, think again.

Windows 7 is approaching its official release date not too long from now, and this week Microsoft unveiled one of the "secret" technologies that will ship with Windows 7 Professional, Enterprise and Ultimate.

Called XP Mode or XPM for short, the new feature essentially virtualizes the legacy Windows XP operating environment within Windows 7. That is, users will be able to install all applications that were previously only fully working with Windows XP, on their Windows 7 desktop without having to resort to a dual-boot solution.

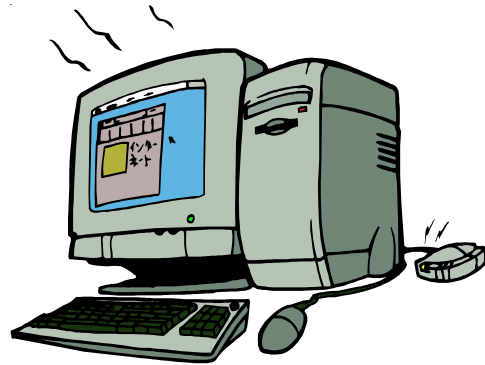
Indeed, Windows 7 comes with "compatibility mode" but XPM isn't the same. XPM is actually built on the same platform as Microsoft's Virtual PC 7 product. This isn't the same as running an XP environment through a hypervisor. It was previously believed that XPM would be a Hyper-V client for Windows 7, but it is not.

However, XPM will utilize virtualization technologies in recent processors from both AMD and Intel, such as Intel's VT.

Users will be able to install a Windows XP application, and launch it seamlessly on the same Windows 7 desktop, along side Windows 7 versions of the same application, without actually affecting the core operating system. This fact alone, allows Microsoft to continue to support Windows XP in a virtualized environment, thereby giving legacy support without actually building loads of legacy code into Windows 7. This not only improves Windows 7's stability and speed, but also security.

At this time, Microsoft is claiming that XPM provides near perfect Windows XP compatibility within Windows 7.

Microsoft will include a full license of Windows XP SP3 with every copy of Windows 7 Professional, Enterprise and Ultimate for use with XPM.



Here's A Special Announcement From Microsoft

Microsoft is currently readying its download servers for Office 2007 Service Pack 2.

Service Pack 2 includes some significant changes, including built-in ability to save as ODF & PDF formats, improvements to Outlook's performance and calendar reliability and significant bug fixes for charts in core Office applications. It is also a rollup of all fixes that have previously been released for Office 2007 products.

The company has published a support article detailing the various fixes and improvements contained in the SP2 update. According to the document there are improvements in the following areas, to name but a few:

- * Outlook responsiveness
- * More reliable Outlook calendar updates
- * Search reliability
- * RSS improvements in Outlook
- * Better .pdf/.xps output fidelity
- * Improves the charting mechanism in Excel 2007
- * Provides faster file resaves in PowerPoint 2007



Here's A Roundup of 2009 Security Suites from PC Magazine

COMPARISON OF SECURITY SUITES

Products are listed from best to worst by overall rating
RED denotes Editors' Choice

Product	Overall	Firewall	Antivirus	Antispyware	Performance	Antispan	Privacy	Parental Control	Backup	Tune-up	Price	3-pack
Norton Internet Security 2009	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.0	1.0	4.0	2.0	n	n	\$69.99	\$69.99
Trend Micro Internet Security Pro 2009	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.5	n	Y	\$69.95	\$69.95
ZoneAlarm Internet Security 2009	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	2.5	4.0	4.0	1.0	n	n	\$49.95	\$69.95
BitDefender Internet Security 2009	3.5	3.5	4.0	3.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	1.0	Y	Y	\$69.95	\$79.95
Kaspersky Internet Security 2009	3.5	4.5	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.5	2.0	1.5	n	n	\$79.95	\$79.95
Panda Global Protection 2009	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	1.5	1.5	Y	Y	\$69.95	\$89.95
Comodo Internet Security	2.5	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n	n	\$0.00	\$0.00
F-Secure Internet Security 2009	2.5	3.0	3.5	2.5	2.0	1.5	n/a	1.5	n	n	\$75.90	\$79.90
McAfee Total Protection	2.5	2.5	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.5	1.0	1.0	Y	Y	\$79.99	\$79.99
TrustPort PC Security 2009	2.5	2.0	3.5	3.0	2.0	1.0	n/a	1.0	n	n	\$33.70	\$71.00
Webroot Internet Security Essentials	2.5	1.5	4.0	4.5	2.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	Y	Y	\$59.95	\$59.95
CA Internet Security Suite Plus 2009	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.0	3.0	2.0	Y	n	\$79.99	\$79.99

N/A: Not applicable—The product does not have this feature. Features highlighted in yellow are less important.

Mountain Computer User Group June 2009 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <i>George Donegan</i>
7	8 <i>MCUG Meeting 6:00 Q & A 7:00 Program</i>	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>FLAG DAY</i>	15	16	17	18 <i>Richard Schneider, Susan Scott</i>	19	20
21 <i>FATHER'S DAY</i>	22	23	24 <i>Larry Jones</i>	25	26 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	27
28	29	30 <i>Bill Pearce</i>				



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6/2/??	John and Kathy Morris	?? yrs.
6/12/1971	Bob and Betty Greenhaw	38 yrs.
6/14/1958	John and Virginia Scherer	51yrs.
6/17/1990	Susan Scott	19 yrs.
6/19/1982	Luc Nadeau	27 yrs.
6/21/1953	Clarence and Doris Sallee	56 yrs.
6/26/??	Elaine and Gene Vickers	?? yrs.