
EXTONPC.ORG NEWS

Volume 25, Issue 05

May, 2010

THE EXTON PC COUNCIL www.ExtonPC.org

All meetings are free and open to the public == Bring a friend



Meetings Notice



We are limited to one meeting a month for 2010 by the library.

EPCC will have 10 main meetings in 2010, but there will be no meeting dates available in July and November.

All meetings will be held at 6:30 pm on the first Monday of the month (except September which will be the second Monday because of the holiday).❖

< - - Next Meeting - - >

May 3: Double-Feature Windows 7 & Internet Radio With Nate Rosenthal

Are you curious about Windows 7? Come to our May meeting where Nate Rosenthal, a long-time EPCC member will report on his experiences with the latest version of the Windows operating system. He has used it on two different systems from the time it was released in October, 2009.

(Also, please see featured article by TuneUp for Windows 7 Clean-Installation, pp. 4-5)❖

Movie Maker and DVD Maker With Jack Stretch

Jack Stretch will give a live demonstration in using Movie Maker and DVD Maker to produce Photo and Video movies. You won't believe how simple and straightforward it is! Bring friends and family!❖

< - - Future Meetings - - >

May 12 Board meeting

June 7 Browsing the Browsers With Jim McKittrick

A few years back, there was much discussion about the rivalry between Internet Explorer and Firefox. While the skirmishes have died down, there is no clear winner.

Today, there are several fine contenders for favorite browser. At the June 7, 2010 EPCC meeting Jim McKittrick will discuss the browser options, including Internet Explorer, Firefox, Opera, Chrome, and if time permits, some good but lesser known programs.

Points covered will be differences, similarities, and quirks of the browser options. ❖

June 9 Board meeting

July No Monday Meeting and No Board meeting

August 2
Free Software-Overview

Everyone uses their computer and the internet differently and have particular programs and tools that are favorites. Some of the membership has provided a list of their commonly used ones and many of these are free. Furthermore almost all functions these days can be performed with free software. At the August meeting we will explore some of these free programs showing where to get them and how to use them. You may never have to buy software again. ❖

August 11
Board meeting

September 8
Board meeting

September 13
Protecting Yourself Against Identity Theft

There are many ways that your personal information may be accessed by people who shouldn't have it. On a computer, some of these are not having adequate firewall, antivirus, and antispyware software running, your having chosen guessable passwords, your revealing too much on social sites, using public networks to transmit personal data, installing software from unknown sources, and succumbing to e-mail scams. Off of a computer, there is tossing information in the trash, revealing too much to unknown callers on the telephone, etc. At this presentation, tactics for dealing with these issues will be discussed for protecting yourself against Identity Theft. ❖

October 4
Watch this newsletter for more information❖

October 13
Board meeting

November
No Monday Meeting

November 10
Board meeting

December 6
Watch newsletter for more information❖

December
No Board meeting

Presentation meetings - Struble Room
Board meetings - Board Room
Meetings start at 6:30 pm.

10 Simple Google Search Tricks
New York Times, April 2, 2010

By **SIMON MACKIE** of GigaOm

I'm always amazed that more people don't know the little tricks you can use to get more out of a simple Google search. Here are 10 of my favorites.

1. **Use the "site:" operator to limit searches to a particular site.** I use this one all the time, and it's particularly handy because many site's built-in search tools don't return the results you're looking for (and some sites don't even have a search feature). If I'm looking for WWD posts about GTD, for example, I could try this search: GTD site:webworkerdaily.com.
2. **Use Google as a spelling aid.** As Rob Hacker — the WWD reader I

profiled last week — pointed out, entering a word into Google is a quick way to see if you have the right spelling. If it's incorrect, Google will suggest the correct spelling instead. Additionally, if you want to get a definition of a word, you can use the "define:" operator to return definitions from various dictionaries (for example, [define: parasymphathetic](#)).

3. **Use Google as a calculator.** Google has a built-in calculator — try entering a calculation like $110 * (654/8 + 3)$. Yes, your computer also has a calculator, but if you spend most of your day inside a browser, typing your calculation into the browser's search box is quicker than firing up your calculator app.
4. **Find out what time it is anywhere in the world.** This one's really handy if you want to make sure that you're not phoning someone in the middle of the night. Just search for "time" and then the name of the city. For example, try: [time San Francisco](#)
5. **Get quick currency conversions.** Google can also do currency conversion, for example: [100 pounds in dollars](#). It only has the more mainstream currencies, though — if you're trying to see how many Peruvian nuevos soles your dollars might buy, you'll be out of luck.
6. **Use the OR operator.** This can be useful if you're looking at researching a topic but you're not sure which keywords will return the information you need. It can be particularly handy in conjunction with the "site:" operator. For example, you could try this search: [GTD or "getting things done" site:webworkerdaily.com](#)
7. **Exclude specific terms with the – operator.** You can narrow your

searches using this operator. For example, if you're looking for information about American Idol but don't want anything about Simon Cowell, you could try: ["american idol" -cowell](#)

8. **Search for specific document types.** Google can search the web for specific types of files using the "filetype:" operator. If you're looking for PowerPoint files about GTD, for example, you could try: [GTD filetype:ppt](#)
9. **Search within numerical ranges using the .. operator.** Say, for example, you want to look for information about Olympic events that took place in the 1950's, you could use this search: [Olympics 1950..1960](#)
10. **Area code lookup.** Need to know where a phone number is located? Google will let you know where it is, and show you a map of the area, too. For example: [415](#)

What are your favorite Google search tricks?

Copyright 2010 GigaOm. All Rights Reserved.
GigaOm is an independent blog network.

(Contributed by Joe Holzman) ❖

Cisco unveils Flip Video SlideHD mini camcorder; full touchscreen - \$279.99
April 13th, 2010 - Posted by Andrew Nusca @ 5:56 am

[Cisco on Tuesday announced](#) the Flip SlideHD, a new miniature camcorder optimized to view, rather than simply capture, video footage.

The SlideHD's new form factor adds several refinements to optimize video playback, including a flat front face (to rest flat on a table), a slide-up, 3-inch widescreen capacitive touch display that runs the length

of the device, built-in speakers in the display and touch strip to cycle thru videos.

Inside, you'll find 16GB of storage - allowing up to four hours of HD video or 12 hours of content. The SlideHD is preloaded with FlipShare software (PC or Mac) for easy transfer of video content. And the SlideHD capitalizes on the ability to leave video content on the device for viewing.

Here's a spec rundown:

- Screen: 3-inch wide transfective touch screen
- Video Resolution: High Definition; 1280×720 (30fps)
- Video Format: H.264, MP4
- Battery: Internal Li-ion rechargeable
- Battery Life: Up to two hours
- TV Output: HDMI Widescreen
- Zoom: 2x digital
- Audio: Stereo speakers, headset jack
- Memory 16GB
- Recording Time: Up to four hours
- Color; White/Silver

(Contributed by Charlie Eisenfelder) ❖

Upgrading to Windows 7? Choose a Clean Installation

By Tibor Schiemann,
President and Managing Partner, TuneUp

Ever since Microsoft launched Windows 7, there's been a lot of discussion about the best way of installing the new operating system: the clean install or the upgrade option. Short of buying a new computer with Windows 7 pre-installed, the upgrade may seem like the easiest choice, however, the clean install option proves to be the most efficient in terms of PC performance and responsiveness.

With a clean install, users have to save their files, wipe their hard disk, and install Windows 7 on an empty hard disk. Then

they have to reinstall their programs, and set up everything the way they want it. With an upgrade, users have to insert the Windows 7 disc and let it automatically update their running Vista system, keeping all of their preexisting files and settings. However, if users are running Windows XP, they are out of luck since Microsoft does not allow the in-place upgrade to Windows 7.

The clean install option provides the smoothest transition to Windows 7. It prevents any old applications or settings from ruining your new Windows 7 installation. There is no doubt that the upgrade install is the most hassle-free solution since users just have to insert the Windows 7 disc and let it do all of the work. However, upgrading will actually leave junk on your PC, like orphaned Vista files and unnecessary applications, which aren't of any use to Windows 7 and slow down your computer. By wiping the hard disk and starting fresh, users are able to rid their computer of all of the unnecessary files and data from the older operating system to optimize their Windows 7 performance.

When testing the difference in performance for Windows 7 between the upgrade and the clean install methods, TuneUp found that, with a clean install, Windows 7 takes only about half the time to boot up and performed 10–30 percent faster than Vista or the 7 upgrade. Specifically, these tests found that it took over two minutes to boot up a PC using the original Vista Home Premium system, 23 seconds less using an upgrade install of Windows 7, and 53 seconds less when using a clean install of Windows 7. That's a thirty-second difference between the upgrade and clean install of Windows 7. So for those who get frustrated with slow response times, laggy applications, and long start-up times, this can make a huge difference.

It was clear in other tests as well that the clean install provides much faster response

times. In shutting down your PC, the clean install performed nearly 20 percent faster than the upgrade install and almost 50 percent faster than Vista. When measuring application performance, the clean install took 27 percent less time when starting Outlook and 33 percent less time when opening Internet Explorer, compared to the upgrade. Additionally, when looking at processor performance, the Windows 7 upgrade took more than a minute longer than the clean install to compress an 11.09 GB file into a ZIP file. Based on these findings, the clean install certainly outperforms the upgrade when migrating to Microsoft's latest operating system.

If, for some reason, the clean install is not an option, then, to make the upgrade process as smooth as possible, the computer should be fully optimized and cleaned up by removing any unnecessary programs, defragmenting the hard disk, and saving all data. Although an upgrade moves all the programs and files over, it's always better to play it safe and backup any important files (mail, documents, music, etc.) to an external hard drive.

Microsoft published the "Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor" to help in the migration process. This tool inspects the computer's hardware and software, and identifies what is going to work and what is not during the switch. For the things that aren't going to work, it also offers some useful advice.

The first step is to check if the computer is capable of running Windows 7. If the Upgrade Advisor mentions a possible incompatibility, the hardware or software manufacturer's Web site may have an updated driver or program patch that ensures Windows 7 compatibility. However, this situation is rare as nearly all of the hardware and software that worked with Windows Vista will work with Windows 7 since the underlying architecture did not significantly change.

So for those running Windows XP, all hope is not lost. Users of this operating system can use the Windows EasyTransfer assistant, which automatically moves any personal files, important settings in Windows and Office, browser favorites, and email to a DVD or an external hard disk. Then, once Windows 7 has been installed, all of the data loaded to the external device may be re-imported and used with the new operating system. However, all programs still need to be reinstalled, and EasyTransfer does not transfer any e-mail from Outlook Express. These settings would have to be backed up by hand.

The upgrade option of Windows 7 may sound like an easy time-saver; however, as the performance tests show, the clean install is an all-around better choice. It helps avoid transferring any mess or clutter from old operating systems and gives the computer a fresh start for increased performance and responsiveness. For more tips, check out <http://blog.tune-up.com/>.

Tibor Schiemann is president and managing partner of **TuneUp**, makers of the award-winning Windows optimization software suite, TuneUp Utilities. He has been developing software for a variety of computers and operating systems for nearly 20 years. For more information about TuneUp, please visit www.tune-up.com.

(Contributed by Mick Van Est) ❖



Need Computer Help?



Visit our Help Desk and Discussion Group at
<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/epcc/>

Contribute a Newsletter Article

All members are encouraged to submit articles or other items of interest for possible Newsletter publication.

The deadline for articles to appear in the next issue is the 1st Monday of the month. All articles are gladly accepted at anytime for our future publications.

When you send your contribution as an e-mail attachment, please save your text file in text (*.txt) or MS Word Format (*.doc); Images are to be saved in Jpeg Format. ❖

Please send to: Stephanie Varis

svaris@verizon.net 

Are you interested in Becoming a Guest Speaker?

We are greatly interested in bringing in new guest speakers! Please contact us and share! We appreciate your participation...

We are Seeking New Technology Interest Groups!

If you want to start a new interest group in computer technology, web, photography, film-making, etc., please contact us!

Who's Who at EPCC



Directors

Isabelle Bourrie	(484) 995-5012	ibourrie@voicenet.com
Bob Linaberry	(610) 873-0204	r155@verizon.net
Jim McKittrick	(610) 647-8188	JMcKit@ccil.org
Gabe Preston	(610) 436-0311	GabePreston@comcast.net
Salvatore Sano	(610) 269-5096	SalvatoreSano@yahoo.com
Michael Shephard	(601) 857-2193	joelisester@verizon.net

Program Contacts

Digital Imaging	Bob Linaberry	
Microsoft Windows	Doug Fairchild	(610) 696-8223 db64fair@verizon.net
Microsoft Publisher	Jack Stretch	(610) 363-6328 JLStretch@comcast.net
Microsoft Office/Works	Salvatore Sano	

Staff Positions

Newsletter Editor	Stephanie Varis	svaris@verizon.net
Newsletter Mailing	Sal Sano	
Communications	Charlie Eisenfelder	Caeilop@aol.com
Membership	Joseph Holzman	m28@verizon.net
Treasurer	Nate Rosenthal	(610) 970-5122 n2add@arrl.net
Webmaster	Bob Linaberry	
CHESCO Library Liaison	Diane Gring	

MEMBERSHIP 2010

***Thank you to those who have renewed.
We welcome New Members who joined us!
Please encourage family & friends to join...***

***Please see the Exton PC Council
membership form on the following page...***

Exton PC Council
310 North High Street
West Chester, PA 19380
<http://www.extonpc.org>

Place
Postage
Here



Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

Your Membership Is Welcome!

Non-members and former members are encouraged to join.
Please fill in the Membership Application below and mail it with your check now!

EXTON PC COUNCIL (EPCC) 2010 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Membership includes email notices, privilege to post on EPCC's Yahoo Groups, privilege to participate in special prize give away raffles at various meetings and affords additional benefits of special offers through the national APCUG (Association of Personal Computer User Groups).

New Member: \$25.00 _____ Renewal: \$20.00 _____ Date _____

Notice of downloadable ExtonPC.Org News will be emailed monthly – Add \$5.00 to above fees to receive copy by postal mail and mark here. _____ (To cover cost of postage and mailing)

Last Name: _____ First Name _____

If you are a current member and renewing, fill in all changes only below. Otherwise fill in all information.

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____ (Optional)

EMAIL (please update and print clearly): _____

Please pay at the next main meeting, or mail this form with your check made payable to EPCC.

Mail To: EPCC, 310 North High Street, West Chester, PA. 19380