



Jester's Computer Services NEWS

November 2009

Special points of interest:

- GET THE SCOOP ON WINDOWS 7!
- SAVE ON ONE-ON-ONE CLASSES GIFT CERTIFICATES
- HOW TO PREVENT VIRUSES
- FAN US ON FACEBOOK!

Inside this issue:

- HOW TO ABSOLUTELY PREVENT VIRUSES 2
- FIRST THINGS FIRST 2
- BECOME OUR FAN ON FACEBOOK 2
- NO ETERNAL LIFE FOR FLASHDRIVES 2

Volume 1 Issue 5

Windows 7 is now available!

The much anticipated operating system is available now! Windows 7 looks somewhat like Vista but don't let that fool you. Windows 7 is a completely new operating system with a completely new engine behind it. Some new features include "snap-in" which allows a user to easily display two windows side by side, and taskbar shortcuts which is similar to the quick launch feature but allows you to "pin" any program to your taskbar. Windows 7 also makes it easy to find documents by creating "libraries" which group all documents, pictures and videos to make finding files you cant find but know you put in there "somewhere" easier. Here is what you need to consider when deciding if upgrading is right for you and how to go about it.



Windows Vista Users:

If you have Windows Vista you have the option to either upgrade your operating system or perform a clean install of windows. When deciding to upgrade this will allow you to leave all files and programs intact. The downside to upgrading to Windows 7 is that the approximated time to perform an upgrade is said to be 20 hours or more. This will vary depending on how many programs are installed and how much data you have stored on the hard drive. Keep in mind that a fresh installation is always the best option if you can bare to have to transfer your files and manually re-install your programs. This also gives you the opportunity to re-install only the programs that you are sure you are going to use.

Windows XP Users:

If you are currently using Windows XP there are no upgrade options available. You will have to perform a fresh installation of Windows 7. Because there are no upgrade options this means that you will have to transfer any data you wish to save to an external source, and reinstall any programs you wish to use. This process can be time consuming but again a fresh install is always better anyway. It is best to sort through your data and delete anything you do not want to transfer to the new operating system. This will cut down on the amount of time it takes you to copy your data. You can burn CDS, DVDS, or use an external hard drive or flash drive to save your data. You will want to verify that the data is there after copying to ensure that you do not loose any important files.

Give the gift of learning and save!

For a limited time only we are offering a discounted rate for our one-on-one classes. If you buy a gift certificate for a class you will receive a one hour (in store) session for just \$25.00. Alternatively you can purchase an in home one hour session for \$35.00. This offer is only available for gift certificate purchases. Stop in today to give the gift of learning. Offer expires 12/24/2009 (Regular rates are \$35 in store and \$45 in home)



Side Note: First things first!

Many of today's computers do NOT come with recovery CDs. Instead they allow you to make CDs to restore the computer. If you fail to create the disks and your hard drive fails you will need to contact your manufacturer and request the media which can take a few days and can cost between \$30-\$50.

Become our
FAN on
Facebook
(click here)



facebook



How do you absolutely prevent viruses?

The only way to 100% guarantee that your computer will remain virus free is to NOT connect to the internet and never insert any kind of removable media in your computer, plain and simple. The internet is a virus haven and not even the best antivirus can protect your computer. Some ask "why spend the money if it doesn't make a difference?" The truth is you would be much, much worse off if you had no defense system at all. Most antivirus programs do a pretty good job at keeping the trash out but there are things you can do and should do to minimize your exposure to viruses. Also remember that even if you are careful the other people using your computer may not be. Make sure they know the guidelines to keep your computer happy and healthy!

Here are a few things you can do:

1. If you don't need it don't download it. For example "to use this free service download our toolbar" most things that are free really come at some price. Many websites that advertise free cartoon drawings and require a toolbar to be installed are installing malware onto your computer.
2. Keep it simple. We all love to customize and make our computers our own but keep in mind that the screensaver that you just "have to have" could be a virus. Celebrity search results contain tons of malware because they are targeting a large audience.
3. If your not sure GOOGLE it. If you go to a website and you find it necessary to download something do your research first. A simple search could save you money and time.
4. Look for red flags! If you are trying to watch a video online for example and something pops up telling you that you need to install a video player, remember that computers come with most of the basic software you need to watch videos etc. If you think you might actually need it go to the companies own website. DO NOT run any kind of update or installer from an un-trusted website.
5. Make sure your updates are really updates from the real program. If you get something saying you need to update your real player for example. The best way to update a program is by going to the program and checking for updates. Usually you can find "check for updates" in the tools or help menu. If you cant find the check for updates button, you can check the programs version number under "about" and then look online to see what the latest version available is.
6. If you have a virus program that scans emails you need to use your email on the computer and not on the internet to use it. Many free email servers allow you to use POP3, or IMAP to use your email in a program such as outlook, thunderbird, or windows mail. These include Gmail, Comcast, Embarq and others.
7. Another thing you can do is to close your internet browser when your not using it. Many websites do not check the contents of advertisements that they sell on their pages. These advertisements sometimes contain scripts that can run on your computer, and download unwanted content.
8. Read prompts carefully. Many of the unwanted installers that attempt to download to our computer use tricky wording to get you to click yes instead of no. Pay close attention and re-read the prompts to ensure your making the right choice. If your not sure right click on the program on your taskbar and choose close and don't go back to that webpage!

NO ETERNAL LIFE FOR FLASH DRIVES

As you probably know by now (if you read our newsletters) hard drives are not a permanent safe place to store important data. Its always important to backup your files onto a secondary drive or other media device. The same rings true for flash drives. While not containing moving parts lengthens the life of the devices they will not last forever. Flash drives have about 10,000 uses, meaning each time you plug and unplug the device that's one use. Even if you haven't used your flash drive 10,000 times data can still become corrupt due to a faulty USB port or damaged files. Its also important to eject your flash drive properly to ensure that data is not being written when removing the media. To properly un-mount your flash drive you need to click the little "safely remove hardware" arrow by your clock. This will give you a list of all USB devices and by clicking the device you want to un-mount it will either tell you that it is "safe to remove" or that the drive is in use.

