



# NEWSLETTER

*The Best Accessory  
for your PC!*

## MAIN MEETINGS

**West Side.....Tuesday, January 20**

CollegeAmerica, 6533 N Black Canyon Hwy, Phoenix

**East Side..Wednesday, January 21**

University of Advancing Technologies  
2625 W Baseline Rd, Tempe  
(one block west of Fry's Electronics)

**Fountain Hills .Thurs. January 22**

Fountain Hills Library, 12901 N La Montana Drive,  
Fountain Hills

**Presentation this month is :**

**Layers, Nodes and Web 2.0**

**Next Months Presentation:**

**Check our Website at [www.PhoenixPCUG.org](http://www.PhoenixPCUG.org)  
to verify subject matter and time changes**

**ALL meetings!**

### **Phoenix PC Users Group**

#### **Steering Committee**

President: Dean Botchuck  
Vice-President: David Yamamoto  
Secretary: Chuck Lewis  
Treasurer: Lo Hardman

**Also**

**Members who are present at the  
6:00 P.M. West Side meeting**

#### **Staff Members**

Membership Coordinator: Chuck Lewis  
Webmaster: Hank Pearson  
Fountain Hills Coordinator: Tj  
East Side Coordinator: Marion Smith  
West Side Coordinator: Bill Aulepp  
Public Relations: Tj  
Newsletter Publisher: Steve Semon  
Newsletter Editor: Bill Aulepp  
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**Steering Committee meets at 6:00 P.M.  
before the West Side meeting each Month**

# JUST IN FROM OUR MEMBERS

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Thanks to Hank Pearson for the Thunderbird presentation last month. This month's presentation will continue some thoughts on Hank's theme of web-based, portable applications. Looks like we will see more of this application technique in the future. Also, we will be looking at how using Layers can expand the functionality of software applications. Here is some suggested reading on web-based software:

[www.paulgraham.com](http://www.paulgraham.com)

Click on "essays" then "web2.0"  
Also maybe "Microsoft is Dead"

The Executive Board was reelected by the members at the West Side General meeting last December. Also, the annual Dues of 36 Dollars were accepted. Hopefully all members will have their Dues paid by the end of January so the Board can assemble a budget for 2009.

The East Side Meeting issue has been resolved. We are meeting in the theater, as usual.

Our Merger Committee is scheduled to start talks with the ASCLi group this month. We should have some merger proposals to discuss in our General Meetings in the next few months.

Wikipedia has recently put up a request for donations. I use Wiki frequently So, I made a donation. I personally feel that supporting opensource, free applications and websites will greatly promote competition and result in a better computer world in the future.

Members Ask articles in the Newsletter needs your questions! Submit some questions to

[President@PhoenixPCUG.org](mailto:President@PhoenixPCUG.org).

There are no stupid questions here!

I am sure, by now, you are getting tired of my presentations. It would be great if each of our members would give a little "Show and Tell" on their favorite project or software. Maybe tell us about your favorite topic or something you think we should know! Think about it....do it!

Hope you all have a great New Year!

*Dean Botchuck*

## FROM OUR EDITOR

We greet the New Year with new people and a renewed spirit.

The Website which Tj built nurtured for us will now be supervised by Hank Pearson. Thanks Tj for a wonderful job and welcome aboard Hank .

Bruce Jacobs did a fantastic job for years as Editor of the Newsletter and now a new team will follow in his footsteps. Steve Semon will take over as Publisher. Steve was one of the original members of our club and he will as Publisher provide us with fresh material we have not had access to up until now. Steve and I both encourage members to provide input with articles and ideas.

I will edit the Paper and supervise the printing and mailing. I also from time to time will do articles at the entry level. Please let me know if there are any subjects you wish to have covered.

This month we have an article by Constance Brown, President, Canton Ohio Alliance Massillon Users Group, reviewing "Magicjack" a USB device. Plug it into your PC and plug your phone into its standard telephone jack . The results is a phone service that is amazing and almost free.

I have been using the Magicjack for about 6 months now and it works as well as my Vonage line, Read the article.

*Bill Aulepp*

### SIGS (SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS)

#### GENERAL INTEREST:

Chuck Lewis leads this SIG.

Meets: TBA See Web Site

#### DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY:

Bill Funk leads this SIG

Meets: Wed JAN 28th 6:00 PM

At CollegeAmerica

#### DIGITAL VIDEO:

David Yamamoto leads this SIG.

Meets: After Photography Sig

# CES, CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW

BY DAVID YAMAMOTO

I have attended this event for many years. Being based in Phoenix I drive up to Kingman, AZ and stay at one of the many modestly priced motels. The purpose of this is to avoid the crowded Las Vegas hotels and premium room prices.

The Show is at the Las Vegas Convention Center (seems over 40 acres) and spills over to the Hilton Hotel, north of the LVCC and Sands Hotel nearby. When you walk in to the Center and look around, one has a new feeling for the word enormous. I recommend getting on to the CES website, <http://www.cesweb.org>, and doing some homework before you go to the show. I search & find map of the exhibits I want so I can go directly to the companies I want to visit. There is so much there, one can never cover it all. Maybe next year some of the members would be interested in joining with me for the 2010 Show. We could pool rooms and transportation. Also see <http://www.twice.com/ces2009>

Here are the Shows top 10 news items as listed on the CES website:

- [CES 2009: ViewSonic Debuts Web-Centric PCs](#)
- [More Than 110K Attended CES 2009](#)
- [Blu-ray Sales Made Market Strides In 2008](#)
- [CES 2009: FCC's Martin Says Keep Feb. 17 DTV Deadline](#)
- [CES 2009: JVC Enters Blu-ray Player, Combo Market](#)
- [CES 2009: Skype To Roll Out New SW Interface](#)
- [CES 2009: Tru2way Moving Slowly Forward](#)
- [CES 2009: Adrenaline Debuts Slot-Phones Headphones](#)
- [CES 2009: MARTA 'Renews Vows' At](#)

## [Member Meeting](#)

### [CES 2009: Retail Reaction Mixed To DTV Delay](#)

The following is a flavor of what the 2009 Show had to offer:

The overall impression is that small is in. Laptops, projectors, and most other PC related products will be smaller in physical size with greater abilities. Many PC items are going wireless for printing, networking, transmitting video, projecting. No more snarled bunch of connecting wires.

One area that is growing is the SSD Solid State Drives which are getting faster and go up to 512 Gigs now.

I did not see this but I heard that Video will come to Automobiles this year at a cost. AT&T CruiseCast will provide 22 channels of live and delayed programming to cars at a fee of \$1,299 for the receiver and a low-profile antenna (measuring about a square foot and 4 inches thick), a set-top box for video screens and an RF remote. The service fee will cost \$28/month.

Windows 7 and Microsoft going ahead - Apple not as aggressive?

Google "Windows 7 beta" - include PC Mag, CNET, CES, etc. Early reviews are good, Steve Ballmer very positive about it. We'll keep you updated. Apple's Macworld did not feature Steve Jobs, who has a health problem, and perhaps may pull out from next years Macworld.

## Small Projectors

Toshiba has projectors galore - small, wireless, multi-featured, etc. Imagine a projector the size of a deck of cards as one model - for 3-5 people viewing in a subdued lit room with images from a notebook, cell phone or pda. Or, a wireless model that

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# WHATS ON AND WHERE

## CALENDAR

Check our website for room and time information and to check for last minute changes

### January 2009

**Tuesday, January 20** ..... West 6:00 PM.  
**Layers, Nodes and Web 2.0** .....CollegeAmerica  
**Wednesday, January 21** ..... East 6:30 PM  
**Layers, Nodes and Web 2.0** ..... UAT  
**Thursday, January 22** ..... Fountain Hills 6:30 PM.  
**Layers, Nodes and Web 2.0** ..... Library  
**Wed, January 28** Photo SIG 6:00 PM..... CollegeAmerica

### February 2009

**Tuesday, February 17** ..... West 6:00 PM.  
 TBD ..... CollegeAmerica  
**Wednesday, February 18** ..... East 6:30 PM.  
 TBD ..... UAT  
**Thursday, February 19** ..... Fountain Hills 6:30 PM.  
 TBD ..... Library  
**Wednesday, February 25** ..... Photo SIG 6:00 PM.  
 TBD ..... CollegeAmerica  
**TBD** ..... General SIG 6:00 PM.  
 TBD ..... Fountain Hills Library

# FIREFOX 3 EXTENSIONS

## Free Extensions for Firefox 3

Some members have asked that we include articles at an entry level as well as the more advanced ones. Here is an area that discusses a feature that while at an entry level is useful to all areas of expertise.

These downloads are well-worth checking into if your browser is Firefox 3. Take your favorite links anywhere, check if the website is safe, optimize the browser's performance, manage your downloads better, and more. The best feature is they are all free. An easy way to download the extensions is going to the cnet download site.

<http://www.download.com/>

## McAfee SiteAdvisor

From [McAfee](#):

McAfee SiteAdvisor helps protect you from all kinds of Web-based security threats including spyware, adware, spam, viruses, browser exploits, phishing, online fraud and identity theft. Our automated testers continually patrol the Web to browse sites, download files, and sign-up for things with e-mail addresses. As you search, browse, download or register online, SiteAdvisor's safety ratings help you stay safe and in control.

## Tab Scope

Frequently find yourself lost in a sea of tabs? The Tab Scope Firefox extension is a handy little life raft that will help you find your way back to your home page. You could click through all your open tabs until you stumble on the right one, or you could add Tab Scope, which displays a thumbnail of a given tab whenever you mouse over it. You can adjust the size of the image, and reload a page without even clicking back into it.

## FireTune

FireTune speeds up Firefox by helping you quickly and easily tweak the browser's registry, so that it's optimized for your system, whether it's a smoking Core i7 rig with a blistering-fast broadband connection, or a decade-old Dell that connects via dialup. One click creates a backup of your configuration; choose your combination of fast or slow computer and fast or slow connection, and click the "Tune it!" button. Relaunch Firefox, and your browser will be optimized for maximum performance on your PC.

## Download Statusbar

This handy browser extension lets you keep track of and control your downloads right from the Firefox browser. Rather than opening a separate download window, Download Statusbar puts a small bar at the bottom of your browser that displays data about your ongoing downloads, including time until completion and speed. Right-clicking brings up a menu that lets you pause or cancel a download, or launch an installer before deleting it from your system.

## Read It Later

Like its name implies, Read It Later is a Firefox extension that lets you easily mark Web pages for later perusal. It adds a book icon to the upper right corner of your browser, where your reading list is located. To add a page you want to check out later, just click the checkmark next to the bookmark star on the right side of the page's URL field. You can also save the pages for offline viewing so you can read them on your commute. It's a great way to keep from missing something that might be important, without cluttering up your bookmarks folder with items you're likely to look at only once.

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# MEMBERS ASK

## MEMBERS ASK

### Question:

#### YouTube video capture ?

Software is available that will capture video of anything that appears on the computer's screen. Most of those applications will capture selected areas or full screen and with sound. Last month the freeware application 'Jing' was mentioned as a possibility. I downloaded it and captured some YouTube videos with success.

However, in my opinion, Jing is not my first choice. Setup was not as complete as I would like. I did not find a way to control the playing video

while in capture mode. Playback was far too jerky for my taste. Video picture quality was acceptable but, only captured in .SWF format which not all players will recognize. In all fairness, I did not spend a lot of time with Jing. Its FREE so give it a shot, it may work fine for you.

Snagit is very popular and a very versatile screen capture application. Many recommend it for video capture. I have three computers so the "one license one user" limitation does not appeal to me.

I have another favorite capture app. It only does video capture. I like it because it is simple and to the point. When requested, a small control window always resides on top of the screen and can be positioned anywhere. Video is saved in either MPEG-2 or Windows Media 9 format and in the folder of my choice. Files can be manually named or be auto named by the application. I have a choice of full screen or selected capture area. Also, I have control of the movie that is playing.

The software is called 'WMcapture' and is

a free 'trial' download. It does not totally expire however, after the expiration date, a crawler appears reminding me to buy it. The full version is 40 Dollars. I opted for the full version to obtain the functionality and I think if you do much movie capture, it is worth it. Be careful, wmrecorder and wmcapture are two different programs. Downloads can be bundled with three other video related programs. Check them out at [www.wmrecorder.com](http://www.wmrecorder.com)

WMcapture's setup window is fairly extensive. Variable frame rate is available, Audio and Video can be turned off separately. Auto stop is adjustable. WMcapture's control panel features are: settings, get window, show capture area markers, audio volume level, record, play, view and has a volume level meter. While in capture mode, a small window displays running capture file data.

When not in full screen mode, a pair of red and blue drag marker buttons allow adjustment of the capture window area. The video play buttons can be exposed to provide continuous control of the playing Video.

To capture a video, click on the 'home' button if it does NOT display 'show markers'. Click on the 'get window' button and the red and blue markers appear on the screen. Play the movie and drag both of those markers to frame the capture area desired. When ready, click on the green 'record' button. It turns into a flashing red 'stop' button. Click the stop when done and then you may have to wait a few seconds for the video to finalize. The 'play' button will preview the captured movie. The 'view' button calls up a playlist of your videos.

**Most of these applications will capture selected areas or full screen with sound.**

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## CES, CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW

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several PC's can control by switching between them or one PC controlling several projectors at once - amazing! 3000 lumens and stylish (Apple-like) appearance.

### Charging mat

Power Mat - charges cell phones, laptops, mp3 players, etc - wirelessly by placing the devices on the mat and attaching a small adapter to the device. Plans are to go to market this year. More info later.

### 3D Video

nVidia demonstrated a Guitar Hero type game with 3D viewable with their 3D glasses of a large 40 or 50 inch flat panel display. Very impressive, realistic. Other companies were also demonstrating their 3D items also.

### Acronis type synchronizing HD backup and gizmo

I was very impressed with the CMS ABSplus & BounceBack Pro combo. This is a gem, a sleeper of a product at CES. PC & Mac versions, laptop & desktop versions available. More info to come.

"CMS Products manufactures the ABSplus, the fastest, easiest, most efficient way to create a full system backup of your entire PC or notebook. The CMS ABSplus is the only external hard drive bundled with our own BounceBack Professional software. BounceBack Pro allows any user to completely restore an entire system, even from a catastrophic hard drive crash, in only minutes without having to rebuild their system, without even a Windows CD - Bare Metal Restore Made Easy."

Solid State Drives, SSD - no defrag needed 512 GB announced by ASUS for a new notebook running the beta Windows 7. Toshiba informed me that these drives do not require defrag. The data is stored randomly

and defrag utilities won't work with SSD's. Advantages - very low power, fast data retrieval, improving write speed, shock resistance.

Dual drives in Laptops can use 32 and 64 Vista. Toshiba and a few other companies are featuring dual drive laptops. Toshiba laptops can boot from either drive - so you can experiment with Vista 64 bit, and also continue to use 32 bit Vista or XP - all software versions included in the laptop pricing. The 2nd drive bay can use a hard drive, a SSD, DVD/CD drive or other items as they evolve.

### Wireless picture frames

Just in passing, I saw these frames that apparently can be updated with pictures (maybe videos) from your PC.

Well that gives a quick impression of what CES can offer. The Show even had Gadgets for Senior Citizens - a new area, health products, etc. Worth checking. So hope to see you there next year.

*David Yamamoto*

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## MEMBERS ASK

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I downloaded a number of free video savers but, can't say I really liked any of them. I like to browse [www.zdnet.com](http://www.zdnet.com). Look under downloads for software, free and otherwise. Speaking of zdnet, lots of stuff there. If you are a member, you can receive emails of important happenings in the computer world. I find them informative.

*Dean Botchuck*

# PERFORMING BETTER SEARCHES

## Performing Better Searches

By Sharon Housley, VP, NotePage managing Marketing for FeedForAll  
www.feedforall.com  
Sharon (at) notepage.com

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Performing and perfecting search engine results can save web surfers lots of time and energy. Understanding the nuances of searching allows researchers to immediately drill down and locate the information they are seeking, without having to wade through a myriad of irrelevant search results in the process. The increasing complexity of search engines has made understanding search engines a necessity for those who spend any amount of time online. The following search tips are standards that will work in most of the major search engines.

### How To Find What You Are Looking For?

As the popularity of the Internet grows, more and more results are returned for even the most obscure search phrases. In order to save time, web surfers need to increase their search relevancy. It is advisable to use multiple search terms to produce better search results. Searchers should use specific words and phrases to find what they're are looking for, while filtering out irrelevant and unwanted results.

In searching, more usually means less. Using more keywords in a search will help qualify the search and make it more specific to what you are looking for. It is all about striking a balance; more search terms will reduce the number of search

results, but those results will be more accurate. Remember that you can always refine the search further if there are too many results returned in the initial search.

### Capitalization Is Irrelevant

The major search engines ignore capitalization. Upper case and lower case search phrases will deliver the same results.

### Order Matters

Keep in mind that the order in which the terms are entered into the search box will affect the search results. The most important terms should appear first in the list of search words.

### Word Stemming

Major search engines will provide results that use word stemming. Word stemming includes variants of the terms that were searched for. For example, searching on the term fish in a major search engine will generate organic search results that also contain the terms fishing, fishes, and fisher.

### Exact

Using quotations around a search phrase will generate search results that contain only that specific search phrase, exactly as it was entered. For example, searching on the exact phrase "rocking horse" in a major search engine will only generate search results that contain the phrase rocking horse. The results will not include any results that contain "horse rocking" -- even though both terms appear, they do not appear in the proper order for an exact match.

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# BROADSIDES

## Broadsides

by Ron Broadhurst, Space Coast PC Users Group, Inc., Florida  
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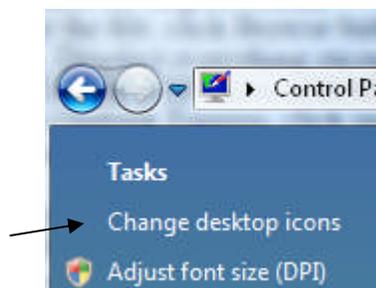
These ideas are compiled from years of accumulations from various magazines, books, on-line sites, and my own personal experience. I claim neither originality nor ownership to any of its contents. My only intent is to share the various "tips", "tricks", & "hints" in hopes of helping & maybe enhancing your computing experiences. They are all intended for anyone who uses a PC. It is for beginners as well as advanced users. Enjoy and use as you will.

Ron Broadhurst

## I ACCIDENTALLY DELETED MY RECYCLE BIN IN VISTA - HOW DO I GET IT BACK?



Go to Control Panel and click on the Personalization options:



Click Change desktop icons and you'll get this handy little dialog box: Click the Recycle Bin checkbox as highlighted below, click OK, and your Recycle Bin should reappear on the desktop.

## PRINTING E-MAIL ADDRESSES IN OUTLOOK EXPRESS

### TO PRINT YOUR Email Addresses:

Print each name and address on one line: Open OUTLOOK EXPRESS click on File, Export, Address Book, Select Text File (Comma Separated Values) and click the Export button.

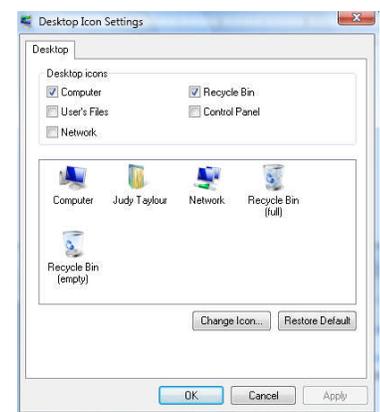
Name the file, click Browse button to save in Desktop. and at the bottom line, SAVE it in Text File (\*.txt), click Next, Deselect everything except NAME and Email Address then click Finish. Click on the Text File and Print it.

## OUTLOOK EXPRESS ADDRESS BOOK BACK-UP

From Outlook Express, click on Tools/ Address Book, then File / Export / Address Book

Choose a storage location and give it a file name. Click save e-MAIL SHORTCUT / RIGHT click on the Desktop and choose NEW then SHORTCUT.

In the Command line type  
mailto:yourfriend@whatever.whatever  
For example  
mailto:yourfriend@cfl.rr.com  
Then click Finish and you have a short-cut to your E-mail friend. Double click and your e-mail opens up ready to go.



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# PERFORMING BETTER SEARCHES

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## Do Not Include

Adding a (-) negative/minus sign before a search term will filter the results so that they contain the first term but not the negated word. For example, entering the search phrase horses -rocking into a major search engine will return search results about horses but not about rocking horses.

## Must Include

If you want search results that only include a specific word, just type a (+) plus sign in front of a search term. The results produced will always contain that term. For example, conducting a search horse + carousel will result in all search results that contain carousel, and may include horse as well.

## Similar Words

Adding a (~) tilde character in front of a search word will generate search results that not only include the specified search term, but will also include all words considered to be related to the original search term. For example, using the search term ~soda will result in organic search engine results that not only include soda, but also include pepsi, pop, cola, coke, bottle, and soft drink.

## Either Or

Adding an OR parameter between two search terms will result in search listings that include either the first or the second word in the search results. For example, searching on the terms soda OR bottle will generate search results that may contain both terms soda bottle or it will produce

results that contain either soda or bottle but not both in the same search listings.

## Advanced Searches And Segmented Searches

Many search engines allow you to specify the type of content you wish to search in. For example, you can often search just news articles, just blogs, or just images. If you are looking for a specific type of media, segmenting your search can be helpful. Searches can be conducted to locate

**Web surfers can save large amounts of time and energy by optimizing their search techniques with these helpful tips.**

webpages that contain a specific language, or a specific file type (ie. pdf, rss, etc). Simply use the search

engine's advanced search option and select the content, language, file type, etc to filter your search results.

## Search Meta Words

Meta keyword searches give search engines special instructions. When the meta search words are used, a specific type of search is conducted. Here are some of the most common meta search terms...

**define:** When define: is used at the beginning of a search word or phrase, the search engine results will be a definition of the word or phrase.

**site:** When site: is entered in the search box, followed by a domain, the search engine locates all documents within a specific domain and all of its subdomains. This is an easy way to get a rough idea of the number of pages indexed on a domain.

**link:** When link: is used and followed by a URL, the search results will include all the web pages that are indexed by the search

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# WINDOWS 7

Windows 7 is coming soon  
By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS  
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sandy (at) compukiss.com

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If you ask 100 people their impressions of the Microsoft Vista operating system, 95 of them will tell you that Vista is no good, even if they have never seen or used it.

It is obvious that public opinion of Vista is in the mud. Microsoft made some major blunders when they introduced Vista. There were not enough drivers ready, so many printers, scanners, and other peripherals were incompatible. There was no noticeable speed increase over Windows XP. Vista requires much additional memory and more hardware, so it was often impossible to upgrade current Windows XP computers. Also, Microsoft did not woo the press as they did when they introduced Windows XP, so Vista got a lot of awful publicity. Vista is not a bad operating system, but Vista has gotten a bad name. Microsoft has lost the battle and they know it. So they are working on a new Windows operating system.

Microsoft hopes to make a clean break with previous Windows operating systems with this new version of Windows. They are especially distancing the new operating system from the "wicked" Vista operating system. This is obvious in the name they have chosen for the new OS. They are

not using year names like Windows 2000. They are not using what they refer to as inspirational names, like XP or Vista. Instead, they will go back to their original numerical naming convention. There was a Windows 1, Windows 2, and Windows 3. Now there is to be a new operating system called "Windows 7".

If you have been following the versions of Windows as they have been introduced, you will find it difficult to comprehend that this next version is actually the seventh version of Windows, but Microsoft says that it is, so that is that. It's Windows 7.

**Windows 7 will have a smaller storage footprint and will use less memory. This will allow it to run on the new small Netbooks that are now running Windows XP or Unix because Windows Vista cannot run on their small solid state drives.**

More important than the name, however, is the fact that Microsoft cannot afford another misstep. They must make this operating system faster and better than Vista. Microsoft has already showed off Windows 7 at some developer's conferences and has made some announcements and promises.

Windows 7 will be built on the Vista base, so peripherals that work with Vista, which now includes most printers, scanners, and other devices, will also work with Windows 7.

Windows 7 will have a smaller storage footprint and will use less memory. This will allow it to run on the new small Netbooks that are now running Windows XP or Unix because Windows Vista cannot run on their small solid state drives.

Windows 7 will boot up and shut down faster. It will have improved battery life on  
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## WINDOWS 7



## BROADSIDES

## WINDOWS 7

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laptops. It is also promised to have an easier-to-use interface and to be easier to network in a home environment.

Although Microsoft is officially targeting January 2010 for the launch of Windows 7, logic indicates that they will have Windows 7 ready for next year's holiday selling season.



This holiday season you'll find some great prices on computers running Microsoft Vista. If all goes well, when the holiday season rolls around in 2009, the stores will be filled with computers running the next version of Windows, Windows 7. Microsoft has made mistakes before, but I think they will do everything they possibly can to make Windows 7 a winner. So if you are looking to buy a new PC, this year will be a good time to buy, but, if you can wait, next year may be even better.

How to Submit Commercial Advertisements  
Send commercial ad copy and payments to:

Submit camera-ready black and white copy.  
Copy will not be returned unless return postage is prepaid. Single insertion ad rates are as follows:

Full Page (7.5" by 10.0")	\$50.00
Half Page (7.5" by 5.0")	\$25.00
Quarter Page (3.75" by 5.0")	\$16.00
Business Cards (2.0" by 3.5")	\$ 5.00 (minimum of 3 months prepaid)

## BROADSIDES

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## CONTROL PANEL SHORTCUTS

If you're tired of multiple clicks to get to your floppy drive, CD-ROM drive, D-Drive, E-Drive or to the Control Panel, you can put a shortcut on your desktop for instant access.

Open MyComputer, RIGHT click on the icon for your floppy drive, CDROM drive, E or D-Drive or whatever you want and then select "Create Shortcut". This will place an icon on your desktop for instant access to what you chose.

You can use this technique for any Folder you access frequently by putting the shortcut on your desktop. Now, your desktop becomes your opera

tions center with quick access to any application, folder, or file on your PC.

## SHORTCUT FOR SHORTCUT

You can assign a Keyboard key combination to any Shortcut. If you RIGHT click on any shortcut icon and choose Properties, you can then type Ctrl+any letter to assign the key combination that will open your Program. It should be a unique key and something you will remember. e.g. S for solitaire. This would be of great help if you wanted to go to another program when you cannot see your Desktop.

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# REVIEW-MAGICJACK

## Review - magicJack

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Do any of you recall the poem by Rosemary and Stephen Vincent Benet stating that no place on earth is more than 60 hours away? The authors were awed by the idea that distance was no longer measured in months but in hours. What would they think now that people have circled the world in spaceships and repaired orbiting space stations? On the other hand, my friends who boarded the plane last month found that it can take 60 hours and more to arrive at a destination in our own hemisphere -- if it happens to be Bolivia!

What does travel have to do with computers? Most trips begin with a call to a travel agent or visiting a travel web site to check prices and availability of flights. Then a flight is booked and paid online either by the purchaser or an agent. An e-ticket is sent to the traveler who then checks in via a computer terminal at the airport. Computerized controls are used to guide the plane.

Computers, computers everywhere. Great when they work. Annoying when they don't! They are here to stay and will be performing more and more of our communications. Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could travel internationally and communicate with folk back home without paying those ridiculous international calling fees! How about staying in touch with friends

who do not live in the USA? Guess what! You CAN!!

Several of us in CAMUG have phone service using VOIP (voice over Internet Protocol). Last week I ordered something immediately after hearing about it. I have been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to test it and now I can hardly wait to share it. Perhaps some of you have seen the ads for the magicJack. What is it? Well, let me quote from PC Magazine online: "So simple it's almost perfect, the magicJack is the best home voice-over-IP gadget I've seen to date. Excellent call quality, a workable set of calling features, and an amazing price make this little box the VoIP wonder to beat."

Yes, in two minutes a little USB device about 2 inches by 1 inch by 5/8 inches that I plugged into the powered hub that I run through my USB port was giving me the capability of placing my calls via the Internet. I called Canada and Colorado, spending about 1/12 hours on the phone.

It worked well except when I looked up information on the internet at the same time.

I talked to customer service and they said I can connect to the powered hub that runs directly to my router. I will have to restart the modem, most likely. That means that I don't have to have the computer turned on to make calls, just like my current VoIP service. This is great.

What do I like about the magicJack?

The price. The gadget is \$40, and that includes one year of service! The renewal service price is \$20! Not \$200. Just \$20. In fact, we paid \$60 for five years!

The price. Calls are free to US & Canada and reasonable to other parts of the world.

# REVIEW-MAGICJACK

*(Continued from page 13)*

Bolivia ranges from 12-14 cents. Guatemala was a little less. I didn't check farther.

**The price.** Register your magicJack with a US phone number and travel anywhere in the world. Place calls back to the US or Canada and the call is free! Purchase a magicJack and register it with a number in the USA, send it to your friends elsewhere in the world, and they can call to any place in the US or Canada for free -- almost. Remember, you receive one year of service with the device.

**Convenience.** You can use the magicJack with any computer, not just the one you registered.

**Convenience.** The magicJack is so small that it will travel extremely easily.

**Convenience.** You can use the magicJack to place calls over Wi-Fi, cable, or DSL. Even light high speed is fine as it requires only 80 kbps of bandwidth.

**Services.** You get all of them: voicemail delivered to you via email and also available by calling your number and entering your pass code, conference calling, 3-way calling, caller ID, do not disturb - have I forgotten anything?

**Quality.** The quality compares with other VoIP services. The calls pass over a private network.

**Customer Service.** Customer service was good, but busy. The online chat took a little time as the service person moved between customers. But it was good. He didn't have time to tell me about the Outlook add-on, so I am still waiting to discover what that is. Customer service apparently is improving, based on evaluations I read.

The US News and World Report had an interesting article online dated September 27 about the magicJack. Here is a part of it.

"The colorful and wealthy Borislow, who also raises, races, and wagers on racehorses, has launched magicJack fast out of the gate. The startup has sold more than 400,000 devices just six months after its official unveiling. It's selling about 7,000 a day, the company says, adding twice as many net new accounts over the period as Vonage, an Internet phoning pioneer. MagicJack's appeal is not only the price, which falls to just \$20 for a second year of calls, but sound quality that's consistently good. And it's flat simple to install and use."

**Who is the inventor behind the magicJack?** Dan Borislow. Here is information about him taken directly from the magicJack web site.

Dan Borislow is the founder of YMAX Communications Corporation, a modern phone company with the largest competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) network in the U.S, and inventor of the magicJackTM.

Borislow has been in the telecommunications industry for over twenty years and is recognized in the industry for pioneering the development of breakthrough technologies. He previously held the position of CEO and founder of publicly-held Tel-Save, Inc. At Tel-Save, Borislow revolutionized low-cost long-distance for more than four million America Online (AOL) customers. While with Tel-Save, he saved customers over 40% on their phone bills and also received the prestigious J.D. Power and Associates Award for Customer Satisfaction.

*(Continued on page 15)*

## REVIEW-MAGICJACK §

## NEED A RIDE ?

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After a brief attempt at retirement Borislow returned to the telecom industry and invented the magicJack. By eliminating the expense of local and long distance phone charges - and saving the average customer around \$1000 a year - magicJack is positioned to be the fastest growing telecom company in the world; Borislow likes to call it .Telecom Revolution Part II..

Borislow received his Bachelor of Arts degree and honorary doctorate degrees from Widener University. He is an avid soccer player, dedicated deep sea fisherman, enjoys watching sports and has a Thoroughbred Horse Breeding Business...

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## BETTER SEARCHES

*Continued from page 10)*

engine which contain links to the specified URL.

**inurl:** When **inurl:** is used, followed by a keyword or phrase, the search results will include links to web pages that contain the specific keyword or phrase in the urls themselves.

**intitle:** When **intitle:** is searched on in conjunction with a keyword or phrase, the search engine locates search results that contain the specified keyword or phrase in the web page title.

Web surfers can save large amounts of time and energy by optimizing their search techniques with these helpful tips.

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Sharon Housley manages marketing for FeedForAll <http://www.feedforall.com> software for creating, editing, publishing RSS feeds and podcasts. She also does marketing for RecordForAll <http://www.recordforall.com> audio recording and editing software.

### *Need a Ride?*

#### **PPCUG's Ride Sharing Program**

Bill Aulepp, long time group member has volunteered to coordinate member communication for those who need rides and those who can provide them.

To join the program for either side, email Bill at [bill@alepp.com](mailto:bill@alepp.com) Provide your name, your address, a way to contact you, and whether you can give or provide a ride.

Bill will gather the information from everyone who responds and connect up drivers with riders. It will be the responsibility of the individual members to organize the actual rides, dates, and pick up information.

#### **Able to Provide a Ride?**

Are you willing to pick up, transport and drive another member to one meeting a month? As an added bonus, any driver participating will receive one extra raffle ticket each time they drive a member to a meeting.

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## FIREFOX 3 EXTENSIONS

*(Continued from page 5)*

### **Foxmarks Bookmark Synchronizer**

If you've ever lost a killer list of Firefox bookmarks when your computer crashed, or wished you had access to your bookmarks on another computer or even on your phone, Foxmarks is for you. This free browser extension backs up your link list to the Web and syncs it automatically with any Firefox browser you use that has the extension installed. The Foxmarks site was recently optimized for cell-phone access, so no matter where you are, your list of essential links will just be a couple clicks away.

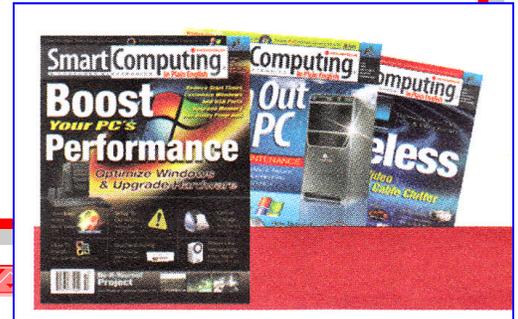
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Submissions to the "News" should be in MS Word, RTF or unformatted text.

Articles, photos, screen shots may be e-mailed over the Internet directly to the editor at:

[editor@PhoenixPCUG.org](mailto:editor@PhoenixPCUG.org)

Please include the author's name, address, phone number and e-mail address on the first lines of the article.

All materials submitted will be considered for inclusion in the "News", but the Editor reserves the right to edit as necessary, to maintain standards of literacy, grammar, and length requirements. No materials will be returned unless arrangements are made made in advance.

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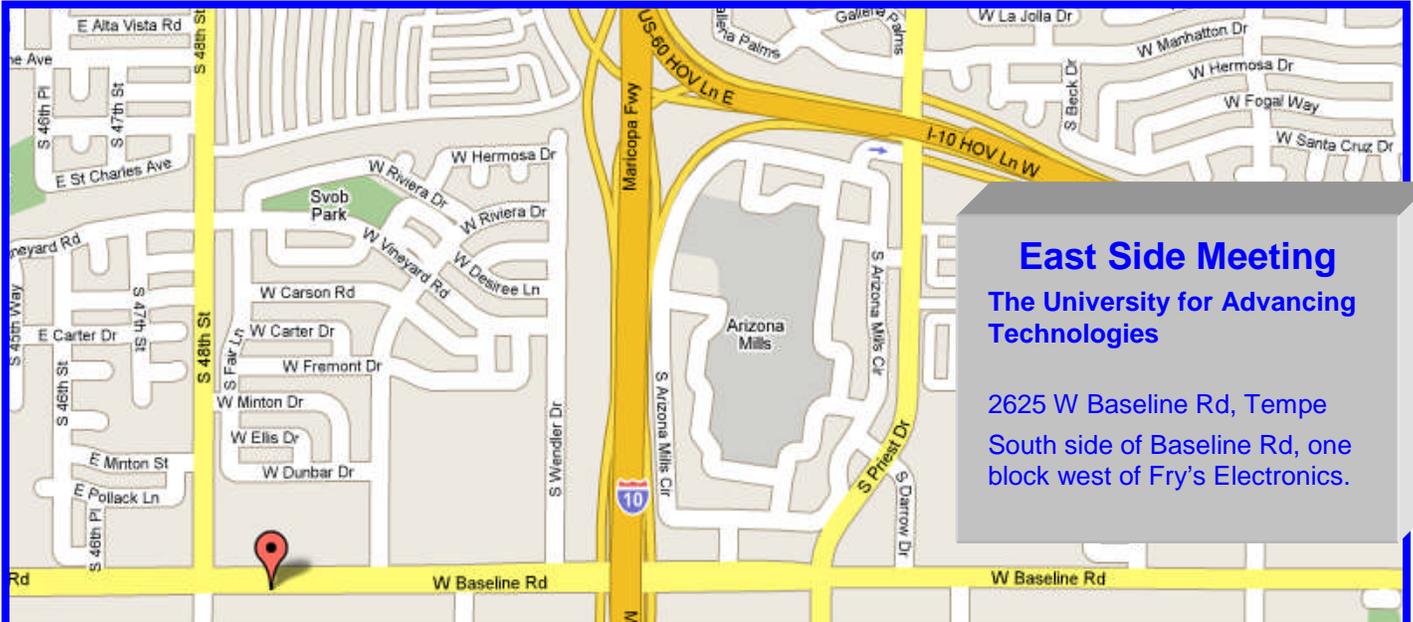
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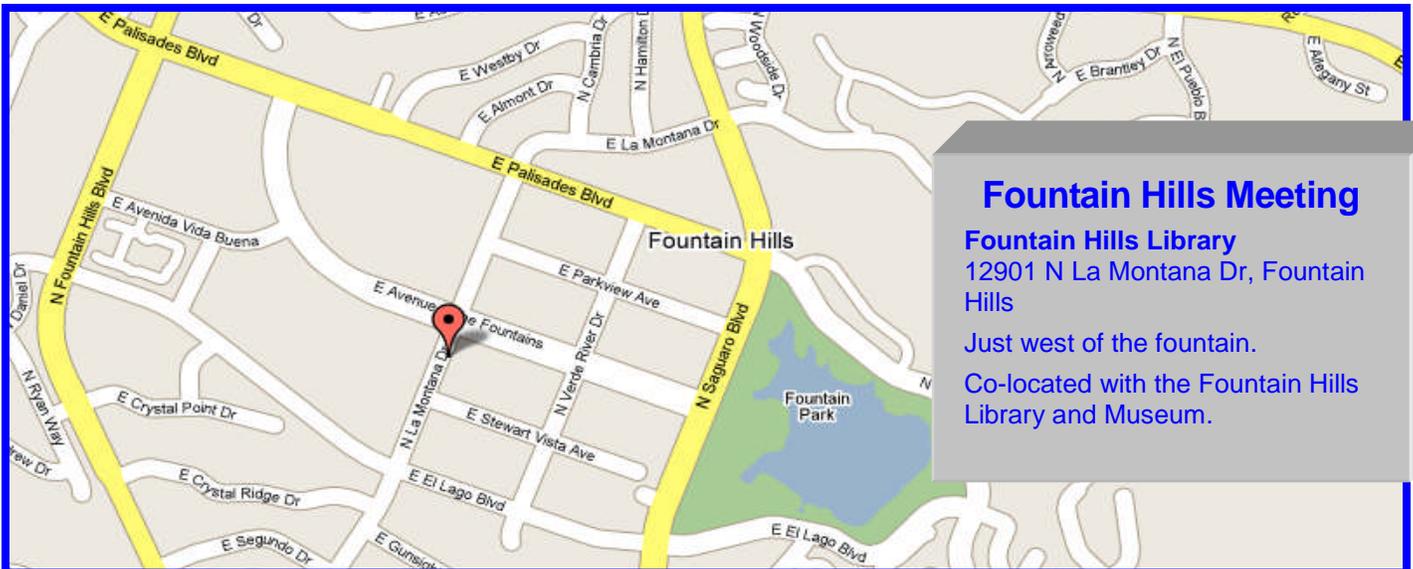
# HOW TO GET THERE



**West Side Meeting**  
**College America Room 2**  
 6533 N Black Canyon Hwy  
 Phoenix  
 Turn right (east) on McLellan Blvd.  
 Immediately turn right (south) into parking lot..



**East Side Meeting**  
**The University for Advancing Technologies**  
 2625 W Baseline Rd, Tempe  
 South side of Baseline Rd, one block west of Fry's Electronics.



**Fountain Hills Meeting**  
**Fountain Hills Library**  
 12901 N La Montana Dr, Fountain Hills  
 Just west of the fountain.  
 Co-located with the Fountain Hills Library and Museum.

# MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE

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Please note: We DO-NOT share phone numbers outside the club, and will generally only use your phone information, if we cannot contact you in timely fashion, via e-mail, or the club web-site

Release my address to vendors?  Yes  No Note: Phone numbers **will not** be listed.

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

- May the club share your e-mail address with other members only?  Yes  No
- With club approved vendors?  Yes  No
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- Receive Electronic newsletter ONLY  Yes  No

Mail this completed form with payment to:

**Phoenix PC Users Group**  
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