

Nybbles & Bytes



www.neopc.org

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A New Fiscal Year Before Us

This is the first issue of our 25th year of this publication (Volume 25, 1) and a number of changes are expected. We successfully elected a new "slate of officers" and next month this publication will be in the capable hands of a new editor, Dave Vydra. We welcome and anticipate some great new thoughts and activities due from the new "Team".

The Officers elected were: Lee Gerber, President; Jim McIntyre, 1st Vice President; George Sikula, 2nd Vice President; Lee Twitchell, 3rd Vice President; Ed Singler, Treasurer; Carol Romano, Secretary; Mario Romano, Member-at-large.

The Steering Committee will continue to meet on the first Thursday morning at 9:30 am at the Fairview Park Senior Center. If you would like to participate in this important guiding function of our club don't hesitate to join us at that time.

Our FORUM remains our continued enlightening activity to support members who are not able to attend the various workshops conducted throughout the area. It now consists of Topic areas pertaining to: "Fundamentals" hosted by Lee Gerber; "Photographic" hosted by Mike Volker; and "Stuff is Happening" hosted by Dave Vydra. We anticipate adding "Investment", "Music", "Ebooks", "Genealogy", "Astrology", and more depending on whether we can induce our members to Host the topic segments. If you have a special hobby or interest and are willing to become the host of the FORUM Topic area please let Dick Rose know and he will "fill you in" on what is involved.

Merriam-Webster's (Speaking) Spanish-English Dictionary BES-1890

Review by Elaine Szaniszlo

¡Hola! That means hello in Spanish. This electronic dictionary from Franklin Electronics is an essential tool for someone learning Spanish. (It would also be helpful for someone who speaks Spanish and wants to learn English.) It has over 5 million translations and 4,800 example phrases, according to the package. Grammar guides and verb conjugations can build confidence in speaking or writing the language. Pronunciation is an essential part of this hand-



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Through the Gates:

Enter to the Trove of Bills Treasures and Travails

A monthly column dedicated to revealing some of the unknown or lesser known features or foibles of the Microsoft line of products.

By: David A. Vydra

Portions of this column may have been garnered from several publicly available sources, verified and edited for content. Where an article is used in its entirety without editing, the author and source are acknowledged.

I wanted to run this in the last newsletter. However, because of time, space and whatever, it was not included. I am sure that you are all aware of the WGA initiative instituted by Microsoft several years ago. Since its inception, much of the illegal use of WindowsXP has diminished. There is a long list of PC Builders who are either no longer in business or are only installing Linux on their boxes. While we have not heard much from the WGA aspect prior to now because of the diminishing returns. And the proliferation of numerous work-a-rounds which have enabled reduced detection. With the cessation of sales for WindowsXP, the purveyors of illegal versions have jumped in to fill the breach. This is one of the reasons I have been fostering a "Check with me" agenda. If you need a new system and want it to have WindowsXP, check with me first. I have people! WGA has been reinvigorated to combat the newer onslaught. I found the next section in Microsoft's MSDN site. Notice how the new WindowsXP WGA resembles the current Vista version.

Update to WGA Notifications for Windows XP Professional (Excerpted from MSDN)

Starting this week, we will begin deployment of the latest version of WGA Notifications for Windows XP. In addition to the usual updates to validation that improve WGA's ability to detect the latest stolen or fake product keys and other attempts to circumvent product activation, this release will also include a couple of other significant updates.

Simplifying the installation and making it easy to stay up-to-date

In this release we're making it easier to install and stay up to date with the latest release of WGA Notifications. We've changed the installation experience and are again using the Windows Update install prompt we have used previously. There are a couple of reasons we're doing this now. One is that in recent research, customers (particularly the ones using genuine software - or at least that think they are) have told us that they would prefer the simplest, shortest way of installing. Our research has clearly shown that customers value the ability of Windows to alert them when they may have software that is not genuine, but they also

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want the ability to stay up to date with the least effort required on their part. The other reason is that hundreds of millions of installs of WGA Notifications have already taken place, and most customers are already aware of what the program is and just want the fastest and most seamless way to install and stay up-to-date. For this reason, in this release we've also added the ability for future updates to WGA Notifications to have both the validation logic, as well as new forms of notifications, installed without additional steps. This will only be the case for those who install this latest version or future versions of WGA Notifications.

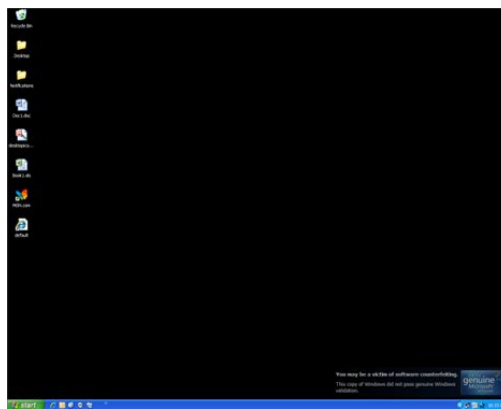
Another thing we're doing with this release is focusing on the product edition that is most often stolen. This will reduce the number of customers that will be offered the package. This release will be offered to the most pirated edition of Windows XP and therefore to users with the highest likelihood of having a non-genuine copy, those using Windows XP Pro. We're also offering it to those using editions based on Pro code such as Tablet and Windows Media Center, but plan to narrow the offering to Pro in future releases.

Increasing the effectiveness of notifications and aligning experiences across Windows XP and Windows

Vista

With this update to WGA Notifications in Windows XP, we've implemented a couple of related features that draw on the notifications experience we designed for Windows Vista SP1. After installing this version of WGA Notifications on a copy of Windows XP that fails the validation, most users will discover on their next logon that their desktop has changed to a plain black background from whatever was there previously (see below).

The desktop background can be reset to anything else in the usual ways, but every 60 minutes it will change back to the plain black background. This will continue to happen until that copy of Windows is genuine.

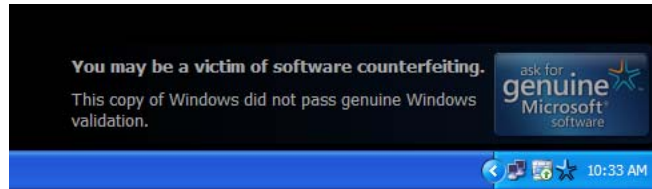


Also, the user will see the addition of what we call the "persistent desktop notification." This notification is similar to a watermark but works a bit differently. The image (see below) appears over the

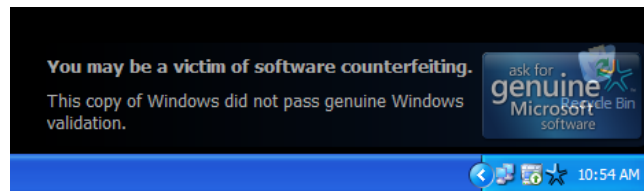
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system tray and is non-interactive in the sense that you can't click on it or do anything



The notification is, however, translucent and also can be clicked through and objects underneath it can be interacted with. In the screenshot here you can see (below) that the Recycle Bin appears underneath our logo. In this case, the Recycle Bin can be selected and moved about or right-clicked. The notification appears above any object on the desktop, but underneath open windows or applications. One of the reasons we've implemented the plain black background is to emphasize this new persistent desktop notification. As with the plain black background, the notification will continue to appear until that copy of Windows is genuine.



As with previous releases, if a copy of Windows fails validation, notifications will appear above the system tray regularly - and we will continue to have the pre-logon message, the logon interrupt message and the messages that appear from the system tray. We've updated the information on our site to reflect these changes.

I'm excited about how this release balances our goals of providing a great experience to those who have genuine Windows and at the same time creating a compelling experience for those who have non-genuine copies to get genuine Windows. As usual I welcome your feedback about this latest release and the program overall. Thanks for reading!

Published Tuesday, August 26, 2008 10:24 AM by: alexkoc.blogs.msdn.com

MSRT – Malicious Software Removal Tool

You have seen this as an update every Patch Tuesday. Hopefully, you have downloaded it so that it might do its thing. If you have not done so, shame on you. This is one really good feature from the folks at Microsoft. Consider the following provided by Kaspersky:

- ◆ Updated every month -- Patch Tuesday
- ◆ Performs automated disinfections of malware families on fully patched Windows machines.

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- ◆ Latest version includes signatures for 140+ different malware families.
- ◆ 2H07: MSRT removed malware from 15.8 million computers worldwide – 80% increase over 1H07.
- ◆ Total number of disinfections in 2H07 rose to 42.2 million, an increase of ~120% over 1H07.
- ◆ In 2H07, the MSRT cleaned about 8 computers for every 1,000 executions (1 out of every 123 computers on which it ran each month).
- ◆ There was a Trojan or a Trojan downloader (crimeware) on more than half of those machines.
- ◆ Over 90% of all e-mail sent over the Internet is spam. The majority of these e-mails are lures for malware.

If, for one reason or other, you have not been using the MSRT it is time to do so.

Opening Documents

When you want to open and edit a saved document there are several ways to accomplish this. No doubt, you have your favorite method. Let us say that you have opened a Word document. Then, you want to insert a portion of an Excel Spreadsheet into this document. What is your normal method? Open Excel then the file you need? Open Windows Explorer or My Documents to find the file and open it? Why not just open it from Word? The how-to is a fairly easy procedure. As well as are many other tasks.

You can navigate to the file in Word's Open dialog box and simply right-click it to display a shortcut menu. From there, you can perform most any function you would do using Windows Explorer. To open a file created in another application, such as an Excel or PDF file. Simply right-click the file, click "Open With", and then chooses the appropriate application. Word will open the selected file in a new window.

Another example, do you need to copy a file to a CD or floppy? Simply right-click it and send it to the appropriate device. Do you want to move all your files to a new folder? Click the Create New Folder button on the Open dialog box toolbar, enter a name for the folder, and then drag or cut and paste your file to it.

If you need to print a copy of two or more files, press the Ctrl key while clicking each of the files you want to print; then, right-click the selection and choose Print. Word will open all the documents and send them to the printer automatically.

To create a new document containing the contents of an existing document in your list, follow these steps:

Right-click the document containing the information you want in the new one, click New, click OK and then close the Open dialog box. Word creates a new document containing the information from the original document, which you can then edit and save as a new document. Sure beats that old Copy and Paste method.

I have portions of an Excel file which will be used in my next column and used the procedure described above. It is nice to learn something new every once in awhile.

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Merriam-Webster's (Speaking) Spanish-English Dictionary BES-1890 (Continued)

held device. Look up a word and you get the meaning and hear it pronounced as well. Other features are a calculator, a metric converter, and a currency converter. This computer is very portable, weighing less than 2 pounds. Dimensions are approximately 6" x 4" x 1".

This device would be a unique and welcome gift. Hearing the words pronounced is a big plus. Any course (or book) suggests keeping a dictionary handy. This electronic version makes looking up a word quicker than using a book. It takes only seconds to find a word, with the added benefit of hearing the pronunciation. It won't take the place of a language course, however, or a book of study.

Learning exercises and games are also built in. **Hangman**, a well-known game, is a lot of fun and helps one to learn how Spanish words are constructed. Other games are **Conjumania** (practice in conjugating verbs), **Word Auction** (sort of like "Wheel of Fortune"), and several others. You can even select the skill level for the games.

One of the few negatives is the instruction "book," which is a sheet 14-1/2" x 20", printed on both sides. Imagine how small the font is! (I copied, cut and pasted the instructions on 8-1/2 x 11 sheets and then enlarged the sheets.) The "book" is provided in both languages. Another downside is the screen is not brightly backlit and difficult to see in low light.

This dictionary uses 2 AAA batteries (not included). Retail price is \$119.95 at the Franklin website franklin.com but Amazon.com shows it for under \$60.00 new.



Coming Events

Event_Date	Event
10/00	SENIOR CENTER WORKSHOPS - AN OCTOBER SCHEDULE HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE SENIORS CLASS WORKSHOP PAGE - CHECK FOR CLASSES OF INTEREST.
10/08	NORTHEAST OHIO PC CLUB (NEOPC) - GENERAL MEETING - PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY, 27333 CENTER RIDGE ROAD, WESTLAKE, OH. 6:30 PM SOCIAL (PASTRIES AND BEVERAGES); 7:00 PM CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS; 7:15 PM MAIN PROGRAM FOR THE EVENING WILL BE "E-BOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS" BY MATT WEAVER. MATT'S TALK IS A OVERVIEW OF ALL THINGS IN EBOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS INCLUDING TECHNOLOGIES, TRENDS AND DIGITAL RIGHT MANAGEMENT ISSUES. HE SHOWS WHERE TO FIND FREE EBOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS, AND DISCUSSES THE LIBRARY OFFERINGS; 8:30 PM RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZES.
10/14	*** COMPUTER FUNDAMENTALS OPEN FORUM *** MORNING SESSION. NORTHEAST OHIO PC CLUB (NEOPC) - 9:30AM FAIRVIEW PARK SENIOR CENTER - FUNDAMENTALS OF COMPUTER USE - ANY AND ALL TOPICS DISCUSSED - BRING A QUESTION, BRING A TOPIC - GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME - ALWAYS COFFEE - FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH.
10/16	LADIES ONLY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP AT WESTLAKE PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 3:30 P.M. THE LIBRARY IS LOCATED AT 27333 CENTER RIDGE ROAD, WESTLAKE, OHIO. ALL LADIES ARE INVITED, WHETHER OR NOT MEMBERS OF NEOPC. COME WITH YOUR QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS ABOUT SOFTWARE YOU HAVE.
10/23	SENIOR CENTER COMPUTER CLASS ORIENTATION MEETING - CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY THE NORTHEAST OHIO PC CLUB (NEOPC) AND THE COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP (CAGG) - OCTOBER 23RD, 10:00 AM, FAIRVIEW PARK SENIOR CENTER, 20769 LORAIN RD. EACH MONTH WE CONDUCT A CLASS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESCRIBING OUR CLASS CURRICULUM, WHEREIN NEW PARTICIPANTS DETERMINE WHICH CLASSES THEY WISH TO BE INVITED TO ATTEND. THIS IS A REQUISITE FOR ALL CLASS PARTICIPATION. THESE CLASSES ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL SENIOR CITIZENS REGARDLESS OF THE VICINITY THEY RESIDE. THEY NEED NOT BE MEMBERS OF NEOPC OR CAGG.
10/28	NORTHEAST OHIO PC CLUB ***FUNDAMENTALS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP*** (SIG). FAIRVIEW PARK LIBRARY (LOWER LEVEL) 7:00 - 8:30PM. FUNDAMENTALS OF COMPUTER USE - ANY AND ALL TOPICS DISCUSSED - BRING A QUESTION, BRING A TOPIC - GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME - FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH.

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