



Nybbles & Bytes



www.neopc.org

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Happy Birthday America

We hope everyone will have a safe
and enjoyable holiday!

Easy on the beer and hot dogs.

Watch the children.

The Presidents Desk -



President's Message

By Lee Gerber

Fire up the grill and enjoy the 4th of July. Set your computers aside and get out into the fresh air and sunshine.

Hopefully you've all taken advantage of the NEOPC Club's Christmas in July and signed up for another year of good meetings and entertainment. Hopefully too, you're getting some good information about your computer's health and security from the great cadre of helpers we have in this group.

Anyone who has a comment or suggestion regarding our club please sign up with Yahoo and use the NEOPC Yahoo group to submit your comment or question. Our Web site took a hit with that server crash at BrightNet, but we should be back in business soon. Until our Web site is back please use the Yahoo Groups.

Editors Note: The site is up and appears to be good as old.



Through the Gates:

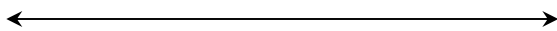
Enter to the Trove of Bills Treasures and Travails

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

Next month we will be delving deep into Windows7. I am busy gathering as much of the available data as I can. Meanwhile, you might consider looking into pre-purchasing Windows7. Microsoft is offering 50% off prices until July 11, 2009. For customers in the U.S., Canada and Japan, starting on June 26, will be able to pre-order a copy of Windows 7 for delivery on October 22 of either Home Premium or Windows 7 Professional," said Brad Brooks, vice president for Windows consumer marketing. For Home Premium in the U.S., pricing will be \$49.99, and the Professional version will be \$99.99.

Those figures represent a reduction of between 50% and 58% from the standard list prices for the upgrade editions of Windows 7 Home Premium and Professional. Orders can be placed with participating retailers, such as Best Buy and Amazon.com, or at Microsoft's own online store.



Bada Bing!

Microsoft made Bing, its new "decision engine," publicly available on June 2nd. with a background image of hot air balloons lifting off in the countryside on the Bing homepage.

It's a fitting image given Microsoft's desire to lift search off what it considers the ground level. In a speech last week at the unveiling of Bing, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer called current search one-dimensional and said Bing will help people "find information quickly and use the information they've found to accomplish tasks."

The software giant plans to do this by categorizing results according to best match and not popularity, and also

by pulling related searches and information that's buried in a site onto the results page. Microsoft vows to display more information on the page in a more organized way than the competition (i.e. Google).

Google is a dominant force in search, with a market share of 64%, according to April search rankings.

If Microsoft has any chance of reducing Google's lead, it will be through Bing's organization of information and images on the results pages and by helping people find local restaurants, book flights, and shop for a digital camera or find treatments for the flu better than Google.

Also, aggressive marketing will help. Microsoft plans to invest close to \$100 million in an advertising campaign for Bing.

But what are the specific features on which Microsoft is banking its search, excuse me, "decision" future? Here are five features that Microsoft hopes will make Bing a household verb.

Explorer Pane

To show more information on the results page, Microsoft uses what's called an Explorer Pane in Bing. It's a navigation menu that runs down the left hand column of the page that offers different categories depending on your search. For example, if your search word is "Boston", in addition to the list of links on the main page, automated categories appear in the Explorer Pane such as Map, Tourism, Attractions, Restaurants, Weather and Images. If the search term is "Barack Obama", the categories under the Explorer Pane are Images, Biography, Family, Library, Interview and Timeline.

Underneath these so-called Quick Tabs in the Explorer Pane are subcategories "Related Searches" and a "Search History" of your most recent search terms.

Categorized Search Results

Another feature meant to keep searches organized is Bing's categorized search results, which takes the categories from the Explorer Pane and uses them as headings to break up the search results on the center page into groups.

A search for Barack Obama returns images across the top accompanied by what Bing thinks are the most relevant links below. These links are not sorted or categorized. But the links below that are grouped into sections with the headers Barack Obama's Biography, Barack Obama's Family, Barack Obama's Library, Barack Obama's Inter-

(Continued on page 3)

view, Barack Obama's Timeline. These headers are clickable and link to additional sites related to the subject.

Quick Previews/Hover

When you hover the mouse over a small orange dot to the right of links on a results page, a box appears with a text-based summary of what's on that site. The preview box may also include links to other parts of the site or at least a "Go to this Page" link.

Here, Microsoft aims to speed up access to the information people want. Microsoft's research has shown that 42% of searches require refinement, and 25% of clicks are the back button.

New Video Search

The user interface for Bing's Video search has been tweaked to simplify the grouping of videos from content providers such as Hulu and YouTube.

You'll see a few differences between Bing and Google when it comes to video. One is the layout. Bing video results spread across the page while Google's run down the left side. Click a small video icon in Bing -- small video icons in Bing start playing when you mouse over them. Google does not have this feature -- and the video plays in full across the top of the page. Google plays full videos on the right side of the page.

Also, Bing allows you to search for videos by length, screen size, resolution, and source, which includes content providers Hulu, YouTube, ESPN, MTV and of course MSN. Google does not provide this type of search for video.

Airfare and Hotel Search

Microsoft is using its 2008 acquisition of Farecast to try to surpass Google on airfare and hotel search. Farecast provides a tool that compares airfares by using an algorithm that recommends the best time to buy tickets. The Farecast technology is integrated with Bing search results so airfare deals are displayed on the page.

Farecast also works with hotel reservations and can be used to display hotel "deals" on the page when you search for hotels in a particular city. Microsoft says Bing, using the Farecast technology, estimates the going rate of a room at a certain hotel and compares it to the price being offered to figure out if it's a deal.

Strangely, while many like Bing, they are still gravitating back to Google. Hard to break the habit.

Members Podium -
All Members



Submitted by:

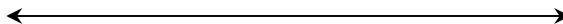
David Vydra

MailWasher Pro

Last month I recommended RoboForm. This month I would like to introduce you to MailWasher. I have been using it for many, many years and find that it is a great tool for catching spam and deleting email that I do not want. MailWasher Pro may be the answer to your time wasting junk mail problems! MailWasher Pro lets you safely preview and delete bad email before it gets to your computer - never download another spam email to your computer again! MailWasher Pro is a free download with a 30 day trial. If you should decide to purchase MailWasher Pro, there is a 6 month money back guarantee if by chance you do not find it satisfactory. The cost is currently \$39.95 for the latest version. MailWasher Pro works with almost all of the email types including many web mail versions. Unlimited email accounts. You can have as many email accounts as you want to check. Support for POP3, AOL, Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo mail, MSN and IMAP. If asked, I would give this an A+++ rating.

Coincidentally, I received this from Robert Vance of AP-CUG:

Get Firetrust's signature anti-spam program, MailWasher Pro, at a 50% discount with a free upgrade to their new version when it is available (about 2 months) as well as all future versions. www.firetrust.com / coupon code SWCC. This offer is good until May 1, 2010. They are also offering 50% off their other products which are currently being updated.



Fact!

In 1986 there were about 1,800 Active Threats detected. Today, Active Threats are detected at the rate of 2,000 per hour. By 2015 it is estimated this will be 10,000 per hour.



Coming Events

July 2009

<i>Event Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
07/08	NORTHEAST OHIO PC CLUB (NEOPC)- GENERAL MEETING, PORTER PUBLIC LIBRARY, 27333 CENTER RIDGE ROAD, WESTLAKE, OH. 6:30PM SOCIAL (PASTRIES AND BEVERAGES); 7:00PM CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS, 7:15PM MAIN PROGRAM " QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS " (Q & A) BY LEE GERBER AND DAVE VYDRA. PLEASE BRING QUESTIONS THAT YOU WANT ANSWERED; 8:30PM RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS. REMINDER-"XMAS IN JULY" IS TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR \$20 (FOR A \$5 SAVINGS).
07/14	*** 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.
07/25	FINAL DAY TO SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLE FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT "MEMBERS PODIUM" COLUMN FOR THE AUGUST, 2009 ISSUE OF NYBBLES & BYTES. BE SURE TO SEND YOUR ARTICLE TO INFO@NEOPC.NET AND INCLUDE THE PHRASE "MEMBERS PODIUM" IN THE SUBJECT LINE.
07/28	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.

NEOPC- General Meeting - Scheduled Presentations :

<u>Date</u>	<u>Programs</u>
July 8	"Q & A " with Lee Gerber and Dave Vydra. Xmas in July- Renewal NEOPC Membership and save \$5.
August 12	"Downloading and Recording Music" By Dennis Lewis. Dennis's talk includes discussion on Ipod, MP3, and audio systems.
September 9	"Digital Photography" by Todd Johnson. Todd's talk includes current software for Windows XP and Vista Operating Systems.
October 14	"Kindle and Ebook" By Shawn Walsh. Shawn's talk on the use of Kindle e-reader for ebooks.
November 11	"Genealogy" by John Dailey. John's talk includes a discussion of CAGG and GCGS Groups.
December 9	"How to Buy a Computer" by Tony Kurkov. Tony's talk is timely right before Christmas 2009.
<u>Proposed Programs:</u>	
January 2010	"2009 Income Tax Updates" by Ian Abbott. Ian's talk will help with Income tax preparation.
February 2010	"Skype" by Bruce Brockman/ YANTOTC. Bruce's talk includes the use of computers for communications for local and long distance phone calls.