

# Nybbles & Bytes



[www.neopc.org](http://www.neopc.org)

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## The Presidents Desk -



President's Message

*By Lee Gerber:*

Well, the flowers are planted and the summer stuff has been pulled out of the shed. The snow blower and shovels are put away.

Hope you all had a great Memorial Day. And, had lots of hot dogs or steaks, your favorite beverage, plus some great weather.

The economic down turn has created some great prices in the electronic market. If you're in the position of wanting or needing new computer equipment check our affiliate's page for current pricing and availability.

Don't forget to attend our general meeting on the 10th. Mike Volker always puts on a great presentation and answers your photography questions.



## Letter from the Editor -

David A. Vydra



Gosh! It is June! It seems like we got here rather quickly. Half the year is gone. I, for one, am looking forward to what is coming in the second half. There will be the unveiling of Windows 7<sup>®</sup> sometime during the fourth quarter. But, as cool as this will be, there is something even cooler on the horizon; the latest from the revived Hubble Telescope. I don't think we have seen anything yet. Once they are incorporated into the "World Wide Telescope" (more in my column) I am sure the views will be even more fantastic than the current.

How about a space walk to the Klingon Empire? Well, not quite, but a small enhancement to your security. Drop by: <http://www.sophos.com/klingon-anti-virus/> and let the Klingon AV scan your system for malware. While you are there, take a peek at the video. Learn to sing YMCA in Klingon. While this is strictly novel and intended to pander to the Tribbles in us, the download and scan is all business. One more rung on the security ladder we all need. Besides, the cool Trekkie factor cannot be overlooked. Enjoy!

About the time you are reading this, Microsoft will be releasing its new search engine. They named it "Bing"! Will it replace Google? Most likely it will not, at least not in the initial release form. But, from what I have seen in the press, it will certainly be worth a gander and test drive.

*(continued on Page 2)*

(Letter from Editor continued)

Microsoft unveils its new search engine which previously had been code-named Kumo. Bing is designed to organize results and display particularly relevant information on the search page for certain types of queries. Despite Google's lead in search-engine market share, Microsoft hopes that a new and improved search experience will translate into a greater piece of the online search pie. Bing results drill down into what the search engine views as particularly actionably relevant for a particular search query. It also displays results on the search page, negating the need to click on a link to view particularly relevant information. For example, entering a particular product would yield results that sub-categorize by price and brand; typing in "airfare to France" could produce ticket prices. Related search terms are displayed on the left side of the screen. Microsoft is aiming higher than results organization, however, highlighting Bing's "intuitive tools to help customers make better decisions," according to the company, and "focusing initially on four key vertical areas: making a purchase decision, planning a trip, researching a health condition or finding a local business."

Lets all start the summer right: Barbecue!



## ***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**

### **Microsoft does not update everything!**

Microsoft Update is not all inclusive. Sure, it does security updates wherever required. And, there are numerous elective updates. But, this is only for the OS's, Office applications and some of the underlying architecture like .Net and SQL Server Express. I did not know this either! I only discovered this because of the repairs to the Hubble Telescope. The "World Wide Telescope" would surly be getting some newer and increasingly more fantastic views. With that in mind, I checked the version I had installed and checked for any updates. Sure enough, there was one. Consequently, I also checked the status of "Virtual Earth" and "Virtual Earth 3D". Both had updates. Know I know, even if the product is from Microsoft, updates are not necessarily automatic. If the stars and the universe are your thing, I highly recommend downloading "WWT".

### **Internet Explorer 8: Let's talk about a few things you may not be aware of.**

Microsoft, for a change, did much right with Internet Explorer 8, and one of them was the way it made most of IE8's niftiest features easily accessible. You won't have to explore the menus very deeply to find new features. I will do my best to bring them to your attention. However, it will be very beneficial to explore. Open the menus and poke about. There are also new buttons on the same line as the "Tabs" which are designed to give you more flexibility. And, I certainly hope that you have completed the upgrade to IE8. Hopefully, without any major hiccups.

## 1. Select web page text with the keyboard

In older versions of IE it was often difficult or impossible to select exactly the text you wanted to copy into an e-mail or a document. When you dragged the mouse to select text, you often selected adjacent paragraphs or columns also, even though you didn't want them. IE8 finally solves this problem by imitating Firefox's "caret browsing" feature, in which you select text by moving the arrow keys. Just press F7, or Page Button + Caret browsing, (on the line with the page tab) and use the arrow keys or other navigation to find the place in the text where you want to start copying; hold down the Shift key and use the arrows or other navigation keys to extend the selection. Ctrl-C then copies the selected text to the clipboard. I really like this one!

## 2. Use Compatibility View

In the bad, not-so-old days before Internet Explorer followed Web standards as closely as it does now, many Web developers designed their sites to display correctly in Internet Explorer, using IE's proprietary layout methods. In IE8, these sites typically display with some elements overlapping others or with similar layout errors. Make those sites appear as their designers intended by using Page Button + Compatibility View or clicking on the button next to the address bar that looks like a torn page. You can make IE8 always display a site in Compatibility View by adding its address to Page Button + Compatibility View Settings.

Microsoft maintains a list of sites that need Compatibility View, and IE8 automatically switches to Compatibility View for sites on the list. You can tell if you're visiting one of those sites: Compatibility View will be grayed out on the Page menu. If you don't want IE8 to turn on Compatibility View automatically, go to Page Button + Compatibility View Settings and clear the check box next to Include updated website lists from Microsoft. The list is updated monthly, and you can find the current list (in Excel format) by searching the Web for "Windows Internet Explorer 8 Compatibility View List." The download page should be near the top of the list of hits.

## 3. InPrivate Browsing

InPrivate Browsing lets you surf the Web without storing traces of your visits on your own computer in the form of cookies, history items, or cached pages. When you're browsing privately, a blue "InPrivate" icon appears in the address bar.

## 4. InPrivate Filtering.

This prevents Web pages from displaying ads that have also been shown on other sites you've visited, ads that may have tracked your prior browsing to continue their assault on you. You can use Safety | InPrivate Filtering to turn on this feature for the current page, but you're better off using Safety | InPrivate Filtering Settings and choosing Automatically Block. The same settings dialog lets you set the threshold for the number of sites in your browsing history in which a specific item has appeared; the default is 10, so any item that appears on 10 or more sites gets blocked. I've changed that setting to 3, the lowest available setting, to increase my privacy as much as possible.

## 5. Add more accelerators

To add accelerators, use Tools | Manage Add-Ons; click on Accelerators, then Find More Accelerators. From the same Manage Add-Ons dialog you can also right-click on any installed accelerator and disable or remove it.

## 6. Block Ads with InPrivate Filtering and Third-Party Filters

This can be done. However, adding third party filters requires a bit of registry editing. So, that is not something I want to get into at this time.

## 7. Try out Suggested Sites

IE8's Suggested Sites feature offers links to sites that may interest you, based on your browsing history. This can be turned on when you are installing IE8. Conversely, if you bypassed this on installation, you switch this feature on, using Tools | Suggested Sites, IE8 sends a list of the addresses you visit to Microsoft, and Microsoft sends back a list of suggestions. You view the suggestions by clicking the Favorites toolbar and choosing See Suggested Sites. Personally, I am not fond of sending my browsing history to Microsoft, and I found in testing that the suggestions tend to be sites I know about already. But if you're exploring some new and unfamiliar subject, it may be worth turning this feature on while you visit sites that cover the subject. You can always turn it off.

## 8. Customize the toolbars

Every experienced Windows user knows the mantra "right-click everywhere." When you right-click in the toolbar or tab bar in IE8, you can find options that make the browser look and work the way you want it, not the way Microsoft thinks you want it. For example, right-click in the Favorites toolbar, choose Customize Title Widths, and switch from the default Long Titles setting to either Short Titles, which displays the first few letters of the name of each link in the Favorites bar, or to Icons Only, which does what it says. Either of these settings packs more items into the Favorites bar than the Long Titles setting.

The traditional top-line Menu Bar and the new Command Bar (the one at the right above the main window where the home page house is) duplicate many of these functions. Right-click in the menu area, and uncheck one of these to see if you can manage without it. Feel free to experiment. If you turn off the Menu Bar, you still access its commands by pressing the traditional keyboard shortcuts that open items on the top-line menu: Alt-F for File, Alt-E for Edit, Alt-V for View—or just Alt to open the Menu bar.

## 9. Explore the status bar

This is one worth familiarizing your self with. It first began with IE6 I believe. Tired of drilling down through IE's menu structure to find the feature you need? Try clicking in different places on the status bar at the foot of the window to find quick access to some otherwise hard-to-find controls. You'll have to explore this for yourself, because the various square-shaped regions in the status bar aren't labeled. But you'll find that a click in one region brings up a menu that lets you turn the pop-up blocker on and off, while a click in another region lets you check a suspicious-looking Web site to see if Microsoft has marked it as unsafe. Other regions in the status bar let you access the Zoom feature quickly, or check or change the status of InPrivate Filtering.

*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.*

### Question:

What is the difference between Analog TV with a weak signal and Digital TV with an equally weak signal?

### Answer:

Analog will have snow and okay audio. Digital is pixilated with little or no sound. This is progress.

## Members Podium -

All Members



## RoboForm

*Submitted by: David Vydra*

If you checked out the Maxthon browser last month, you ran into RoboForm. I have personally used RoboForm for more than 7 years. With the multitude of Passcards I have both business and personal my only option was the Pro version. One payment was all it took and the updates keep flowing. Login security is all over the map for web sites. Pass word restrictions are varied from site to site. Using RoboForm avoids the three largest pit falls for password security. First, there is no need to have Windows remember any password. Second, there is no need to have a web site remember your login. (This is generally a cookie stored on your computer anyway.) These are both sufficiently easy to discover. Third, one password for every web site is very, very bad for security. Besides, not every site will allow the one you want to use. So, there will have to be some variety. But, with RoboForm, all your data is encrypted and if properly set, will allow for the use of one password to access all its functions.

RoboForm allows you to:

- Manage your passwords and Log In automatically.
- Fill long registration and checkout forms with one click.
- Encrypt your passwords to achieve complete security.
- Generate random passwords to maximize password strength.
- Fight Phishing by entering passwords only on matching web sites.
- Defeat Keyloggers by not using the keyboard to type passwords.
- Back up your passwords and copy them between computers.
- Synchronize passwords between computers using GoodSync.

Free Version Features:

Passcards (Passwords and Logins) (Limited to 10 in the Free Version after 30 days)

Identities (Multiple Sets of Personal Information) (Limited to 2 in the Free Version after 30 days)

Remembers your passwords and Logs you in automatically.

Fills long registration and checkout forms from identity with one click.

Encrypts your saved Passcards to achieve complete security. You can print out an unencrypted copy if necessary.

24/7 Online Support



## Coming Events

June 2009

<b>Event_Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>06/09</b>	<b>*** 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.</b>
<b>06/10</b>	<b>Northeast Ohio PC Club (NEOPC)- General Meeting - at Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, OH. 6:30pm Social (pastries and beverages); 7:00pm Club announcements; 7:15 pm main program " Adobe Elements" by Mike Volker. Mikes talk is on digital Photos and techniques using Adobe Elements Software; 8:30pm Raffle and Door Prizes.</b>
<b>06/17</b>	<b>June 17, 2009 PLEASE NOTE: THE MEETING DATES FOR THIS GROUP HAVE BEEN CHANGED FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY. 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. This is our last meeting until September. Have a great summer!</b>
<b>06/23</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>06/25</b>	<b>Final day to submit your article for inclusion in the next "Members Podium" column for the June 2009 issue of Nybbles &amp; Bytes. We had no entries for the month of May. Be sure to send your article to <a href="mailto:info@neopc.net">info@neopc.net</a> and include the phrase "Members Podium" in the Subject line.</b>