

The Byte-Line – a Newsletter

By Michael Van Ert, The Computer Guy!

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New e-Book! - I just finished writing a new version of my e-book "How to Make Your PC Run Faster 2010 "and I give you more instructions on how to make your computer run faster than ever before. I show you how to clean up your computer's software, how to get rid of programs you no longer use and how to tweak the registry for lasting performance.

This is in the illustrated e-book and I have endeavoured to make it as easy as possible for even the beginner computer user to be able to do this.

I have priced this e-book at a very affordable level, just \$8.00! I know that even at this price some people are going to want help and that's why I am offering to do everything in this e-book for you for just \$38.00. This can be done remotely no matter where you live as long as you have high speed Internet access.

So if you're tired of your computer running slowly please e-mail me, mike@mvanert.com and tell me whether you want the e-book or you would like me to do the work for you. I know you'll be satisfied with the results. I am so certain of the outcome I am willing to give you a 100% money back guarantee for either the e-book or for my work if you're not satisfied, no questions asked. Got a friend? Pass this on to them too and your name will be entered into a random draw for an 8GB USB memory stick.

Five Win7 Features –

1. Did you know that with Windows 7 Pro or Ultimate that you can download and install a free copy of Windows XP? This is called Windows Virtual PC and it's a great program to have for running those old legacy programs. I know I have a couple of programs that are old and won't run on Windows 7 but I can't seem to let them go and with Windows 7 Pro or ultimate and using Windows virtual PC I don't have to. Windows XP in a virtual mode runs just like Windows XP of the standing alone variety with the bonus being you have access to all the files on your Windows 7 machine and any other files on your network. If those old legacy apps were keeping you from trading up to Windows 7 well you don't have to wait; get Windows Pro or Windows Ultimate and you can continue to run those old legacy apps while enjoying the speed and new features of the newest version of Windows, Windows 7.
2. Windows 7 is another great new feature called jump list. Jump list gives you the option to view a list of all your recently opened documents even if the program itself is not open. Right click on

the programs icon and you will see a list of files that you recently have opened under that program. What a timesaver!

3. Another new feature in Windows 7 is the Problem Steps Recorder. This is a diagnostic tool that when turned on allows you to record a problem that you're having with your computer and one that can be forwarded to your favourite techie for his or hers analysis. You can even add comments to the recording. The whole thing is formatted in HTML and then placed in a compressed folder on your desktop that is easily sent to your techie.
4. For those of you who burn ISO files Windows 7 has a new ISO burner software package. It's extremely easy to create a new disc from an existing iso file. This is in addition to the native ability to burn CDs carried forward from Windows XP and Vista.
5. Windows 7 finally has a monitor calibration software program built right into it. This is for those of us who love to have accurate colors on our screens, we no longer have to go search for third-party software which I found always be difficult to get.

Five XP Tips –

1. There are times when I need every bit of real estate on my screen that I can get. Did you know that if you press F11 you will maximize your screen hiding all the icons, all the toolbars allowing you to see a full screen of that picture of your granddaughter or that movie that you really like? Just remember a simple little tip - press F11 and you get a full screen viewing.
2. Do you know about the quick launch bar in Windows XP? By default the quick launch bar is hidden from view. In order to view it you need to point your mouse at the toolbar, right click the mouse button and choose “unlock the toolbar”. Repeat the same procedure only this time you're going to choose toolbars and choose quick launch. The first quick launch icons you will see will be the Internet Explorer icon and the desktop icon. To place other programs on the quick launch bar click on the start button and navigate to the program menus. Left click on the icon for the program you want to place on the bar and drag it to the quick launch bar let go and it will be there. You can also add files and folders by dragging them from the Explorer down to the bar.
3. Windows 7 debate organizing files and folders really easy and logical by using their libraries command. In Windows XP it's a little bit cruder but it can still be done. Open a folder that has several different subfolders and different files, right click on an empty space in the window content pane making sure that you point to “arrange icons by” and then choose “show in groups”. As I said, it's not as elegant as Windows 7 but it does get the job done.
4. You can change the way your icons display in Windows Explorer. At the top of the Explorer menu click on “view” and then choose “details”. Now you can place a checkmark in any of the unchecked options of how your icon will be displayed. After you've made your choice click on “okay” and then exit the window. When you next click on “view” and then “arrange icons by” your selection will appear in the menu.
5. Did you know that there are various files and folders that are hidden you from you by default? If you'd like to see those open up Windows Explorer choose “select tools” and “folder options”. Now click on the “view” tab and scroll down to the “event settings” and fine “show hidden files and folders”. And click “apply” and when you're done close off Windows Explorer.

Favourite Web Sites – Bing Travel



When I know I'm going to be traveling I always use the Internet to book airline flights, make hotel reservations and arrange for automobiles. I have used a lot of different sites including Expedia, Travelocity, Flight Network, Vayama, Trip Advisor and more and including the airlines own websites. They all have their good and bad points, some allow you to search for airfare alone some allow you search for airfare and hotel deals while still others allowing you to do a combined search for airlines, hotels and car rates. They all allow you to pick your dates and your travel times and everything else to make traveling easier. Do you want Row C, seat 23? Sure, with a click of a mouse it is yours.

Just recently I have come across Bing travel and I have found a new favourite. I like the way it's laid out and I like that I can see a historical prediction for whether or not the air fares will go up or down at the time I want to travel. It also will save my searches without even asking. You can tell it to search other travel sites within Bing too. Check it out yourself by going to www.Bing.com/travel/.

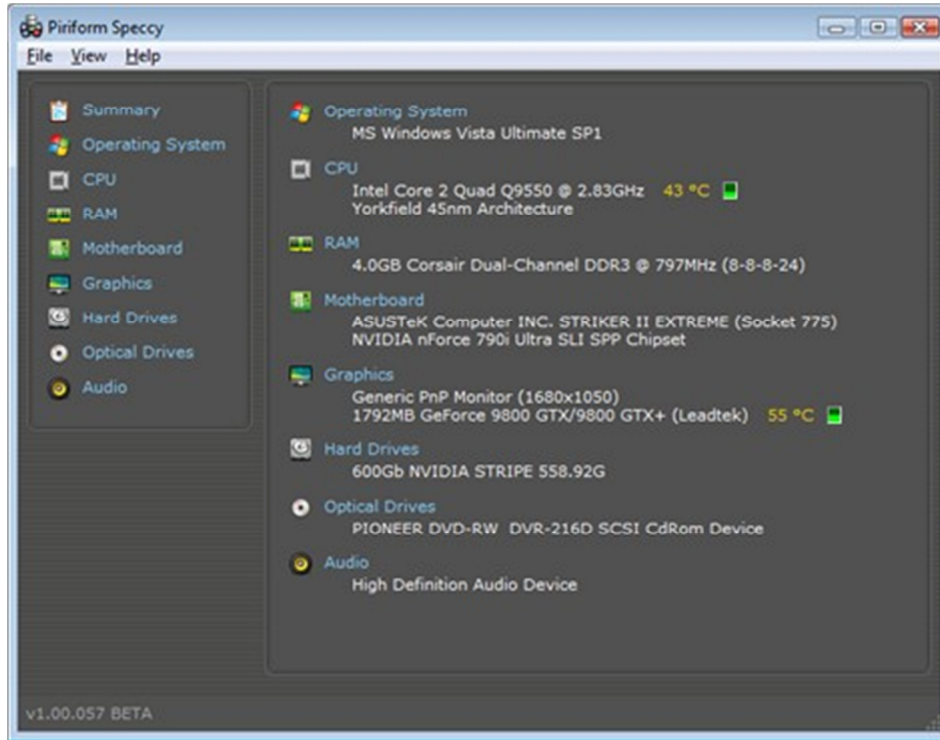
“How-To's" (Software) – My Top Five Word 2010 Tips

1. Save, save, save often and early. The first thing I do before I type a thing into a new Word document is to give it a name and save it – make sure you do it too!
2. Replace. I use Word's Replace feature a lot especially for forms I have created when an otherwise great form has had something change (like an address or phone number) in it by selecting “Find and Replace” (Home tab) I can insert the old values under Find What and the new value under Replace With and in one click all instances of the old information are quickly updated with the new. Great stuff!
3. Remove Formatting. There are a lot of times when I've pasted information from one source to a Word document (like from my browser) and the format is different. By choosing the Home tab and Select > Select All I can quickly capture the whole document leaving the only thing to be done is to click on Style and Clear Formatting.
4. Footnotes. Quick and easy, under the References tab it's the third choice from the left just place your cursor where you want to show the footnote and click.¹
5. Text effects. I like to spice up my documents every once in a while as long as it doesn't detract from the message. Word 2010 makes this **easy with** their new text effect feature, just click the button, choose your effect and start typing.

Freeware Software Review – Speccy

Have you ever wish you had a quick way to find out what your computer is made of? What hard drive it has to meet at how big is it? How much memory do you have what speed is it all these questions and many many more are quickly and easily answered by program called Speccy. This software is made by the same people who make CCleaner, Defraggler, and Recuva. You can download the program here <http://www.piriform.com/speccy>. You can see a screen shot of it here:

¹ It's that easy!



The details are easily saved in html format and the program goes into extensive detail about the hardware in your computer. This makes it easy to determine whether or not your system can be upgraded and to what degree. The information is very useful when it comes to selling your system too.

What's New in Hardware - Six Core CPU's

Both AMD & Intel have introduced their newest megalith CPU's, code named Thuban for AMD (3.2GHz Phenom II X6 1090T and 2.8GHz Phenom II X6 1055T) and Intel's code named Gulftown (Core i7-970 3.2 GHz and the Core i7-950 3.06 GHz). Intel was the first to release these 6 core processors and they are the most expensive of the two companies. Reviewers have all determined that Intel's cpu's are the fastest but they also say the AMD's cpu's give the best "bang for the buck" at almost half the price of Intel's processors.

Who, if anyone, at the consumer level would want one of these? Photo enthusiast and videographers will all benefit from using the 6 cores giving fast encoding times and higher quality output.

You can get full technical reviews of AMD's hexacore CPU here: <http://tinyurl.com/36ngxgx> and Intel's offering here: <http://tinyurl.com/24mt6fe>.

I don't know more than a handful of people or companies that would benefit from this type of speed amongst my clients. Having said that, if you want speed and power these processors are the way to go.

That's it for this month. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbours to join The Byte Line and to all my US members have a Safe & Happy 4th!

Michael Van Ert

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