

# The Byte-Line – a Newsletter

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By Michael Van Ert, The Computer Guy!

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**NOTE: Be Sure to Read the last article, very important!**

**What's New in Computers** – *A brief rundown of what's news in the computer world last month*

## **Windows 7 Family Pack starting to sell out**

Supplies were very limited to begin with and now stores are beginning to report they are very short on supply. When they're gone, that's it. This is one of the biggest bargains Microsoft has ever offered to its users and if you have more than two computers in your household you can save money by buying this 3 pack.

## **Netbook Upgrades Coming**

In the next few months we'll be seeing improvements in the hottest selling segment of computers, the netbook. These little things are by far the fastest selling computers today. In January there will be faster processors (1.83 as opposed to current 1.3) and better video graphics introduced by Intel. AMD is also expected to introduce improvements to their line-up too. You can expect to find the new netbooks to consume even less power boosting battery life so that 10 hour battery life will soon be the norm.

## **Bing gains Ground**

Microsoft's search engine Bing has gained share against Google this past month. While it isn't pushing Google around it certainly has the search giant's attention. Have you tried Bing yet?

## **Windows 7 Gains Market Share**

Windows 7 is predicted to surpass Apples OSX market share by the beginning of 2010. There are already reports that Windows 7 has surpassed OSX in usage based on the number of Win 7 machines

accessing certain web sites. (Yes, they know who you are, or, at least what operating system is visiting a web site!).

### **Facebook Announces Advisory Board**

The new safety board consist of five internet safety organizations that will be tasked with consulting with Facebook in an effort to protect its users.

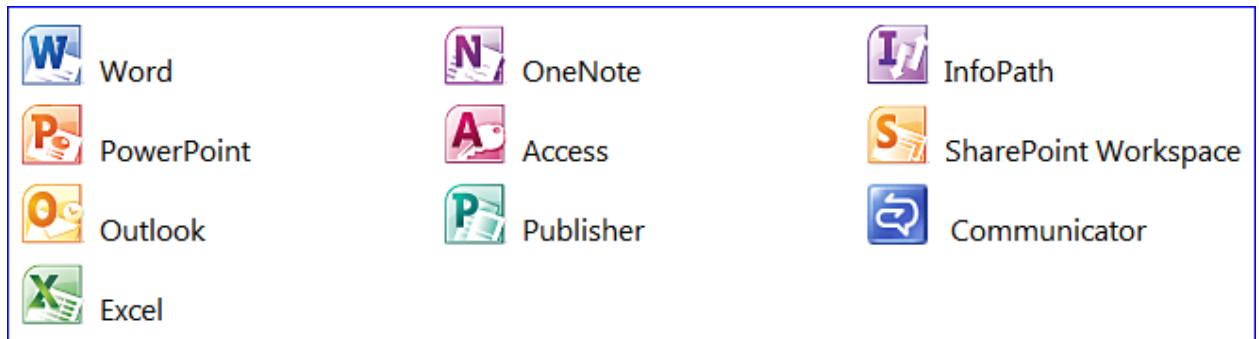
"We believe that the only way to keep kids safe online is for everyone who wants to protect them to work together," Elliot Schrage, Facebook's vice president of global communications and public policy, said in a statement.

The five organizations on the advisory board are Common Sense Media, ConnectSafely, WiredSafety, Childnet International, and The Family Online Safety Institute.

### **What's New in Software – Office 2010, Beta**

Microsoft has released its newest version of Office to the public on November 18<sup>th</sup>. You can download a copy here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/office/2010/en/download-office-professional-plus/default.aspx>



I've downloaded a copy myself and have tried it out briefly. The biggest change is in Outlook and it is a change for the good. If you haven't used or seen Office 2007 then you'll see a huge change from Office 2003 and Office XP.

Another big change is the file format. The native format goes from having a .doc, .xls, .pps, etc format to a .docx, .xlsx, .ppsx format (Word, Excel & PowerPoint extensions). This can cause confusion and frustration if you send files created in the new format to those who are

using older copies of Office. There are, however, free readers from Microsoft so that people can read (but not alter) those files. You can get those at

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=941b3470-3ae9-4aee-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&displaylang=en>

When installing the beta you have a choice of replacing your existing version of Office or keeping it. If you keep it I found some problems after uninstalling the beta in that it didn't clean up completely.

For a very good overview of Office 2010 go to Paul Thurrott's web site at [http://www.winsupersite.com/office/o2010\\_beta.asp](http://www.winsupersite.com/office/o2010_beta.asp) and take a look.

### **Favourite Web Sites – Howcast**

[Howcast.com](http://www.howcast.com) <http://www.howcast.com>, is a great web site to learn how to do something. It uses images, text, and videos showing you everything from making French Baguette to reusing party hose.

All the articles and videos are submitted by readers, by the Howcast staff, by media partners and by trusted brands. All articles are free to watch and use. It is distributed a lot of different ways including mobile and cable partners including YouTube, Hulu, MySpace, Yahoo!, Comcast, Apple, TiVo and Verizon in the U.S.

I highly recommend visiting this web site to learn darn near everything.

### **“How-To's" (Software) – Using Windows 7 Jump List**

What is a Jump List? A Jump is a feature in Win 7 designed to make it easier for you to find files and tasks associated with a particular

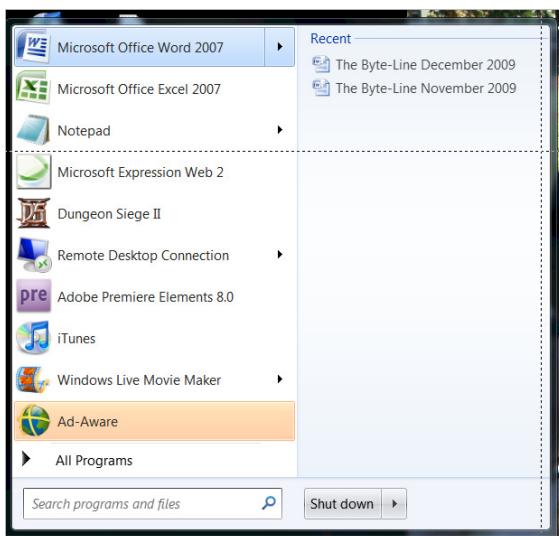


Figure 1

program. Jump List appear in two places, the Taskbar and the Start menu. Here's an example (Figure 1) of the Start Menu Jump List. This one you're most likely to be familiar with as it has appeared in Windows since Windows 95.

The next one is a sample of a Taskbar Jump List. It works and looks similar to the Start Jump List and it does the same thing, it makes it easier to find the most recently used files and commands associated with a particular program. To access it, you 'right click' on the Taskbar item and the list will pop open. Another way to access the Taskbar Jump List is to 'left' click on the item holding the button down while scrolling upwards. Very cool!

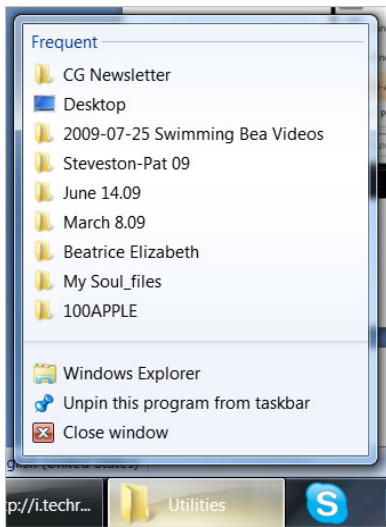


Figure 2

### Freeware Software Review – *File Hippo's Update Checker*

File Hippo, <http://www.filehippo.com/>, is a great place to find freeware applications for your computer. I use it all the time. It has 18 categories from drivers to developer tools and each category has up to 20 different programs. All the programs are safe from viruses, Trojans and spyware and all are legitimate programs. They are ranked by you, the user, by the number of times they are downloaded from this site.

Here's the thing with legitimate software, it's always being updated and because of that it is very difficult to keep up with the latest edition of your favourite program. That's where File Hippo's free Update Checker comes into play, it'll do it for you!

The download link is located at the top right of their web site. (see below).

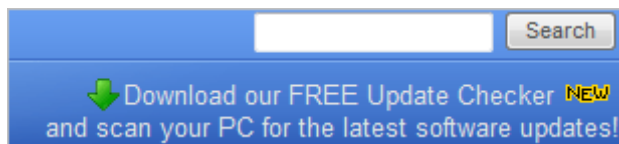


Figure 3

## One More thing...

I've recently updated my web site, <http://mvanert.com> using a web creation program called Word Press. This is a freeware program that once mastered creates great web sites quickly. It has a lot of templates to choose from and all can be modified.

The reason I bring this up is that I require everyone who has signed up for this newsletter to re-sign at my web site. You'll find the new signup link at the top right side of my web site. It looks like this (Figure 4):



Figure 4

I appreciate your taking the time to do this, it will make it easier for me in the months to come to get this newsletter and other information out to you in a more timely fashion.

That's all for this month, please feel free to send in your questions and I will answer two each month. Be sure to pass on this newsletter to friends and relatives. Ask them to subscribe, remember, it cost nothing to join and you can unsubscribe at any time simply by sending me an email with the word

'unsubscribe' in the subject box.

Note: While this newsletter will be sent to subscribers once a month I will be putting updates on my website all during the month. Feel free to visit it often <http://mvanert.com> .