

# ComputerEdge™ Online — 06/26/09



## This issue: Windows 7 Is Coming!

A look at Windows 7 and what it has to offer. Due out this fall, will Windows 7 be an improvement or more of the same?

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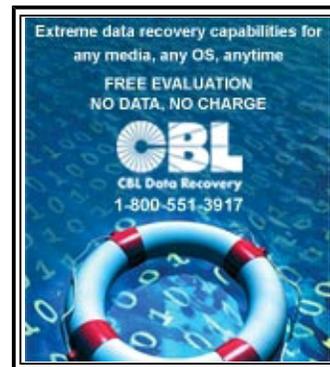
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## Digital Dave

“Digital Dave answers your tech questions.” by *Digital Dave*

A reader wants his Vista laptop to stop shutting down for automatic updates; a reader is having trouble accessing the Services tab in Windows Task Manager in XP; Dave addresses the topic of changing the title bar at the very top of the IE window.

Dear Digital Dave,

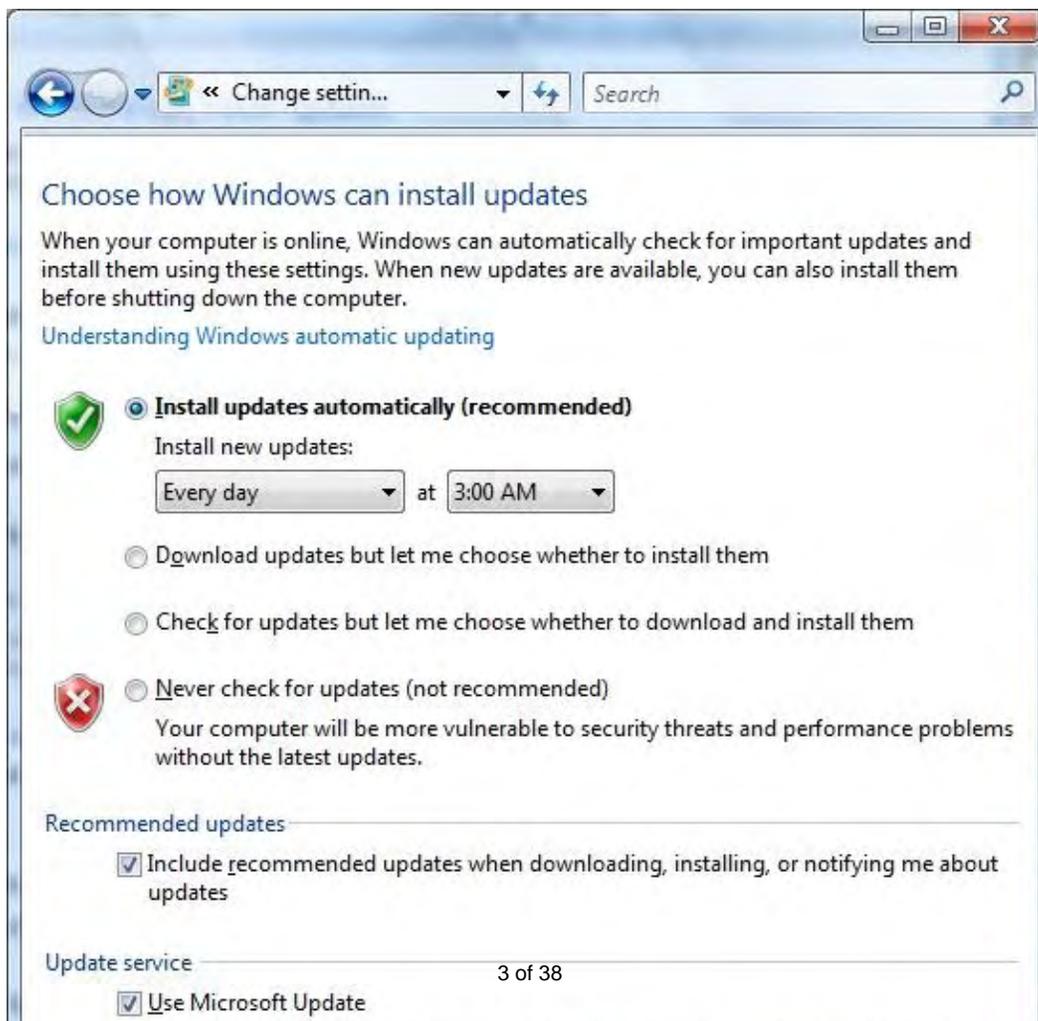
I bought a new laptop with Vista on it. On many occasions when I am on the Internet, Vista does an automatic update. It then shuts the laptop down and restarts it. If I want to continue on the Internet, I have to go through the process of logging on again. How can I change this to have it update and shut down after I am off the Internet?

Bob Todd  
Conifer, CO

Dear Bob,

There are settings in Vista that allow you to control when and how Windows will update. Many Windows updates require a restart of the computer. Unless you set it up otherwise, in the default mode Windows does this automatically.

To change the settings, type "update" (or just "up") into the Start Search field of the Start Menu. Windows Update will appear at the top of the list. Select it. In the new window, select "Change settings" from the navigation menu on the left side. You will see a window similar to Figure 1.



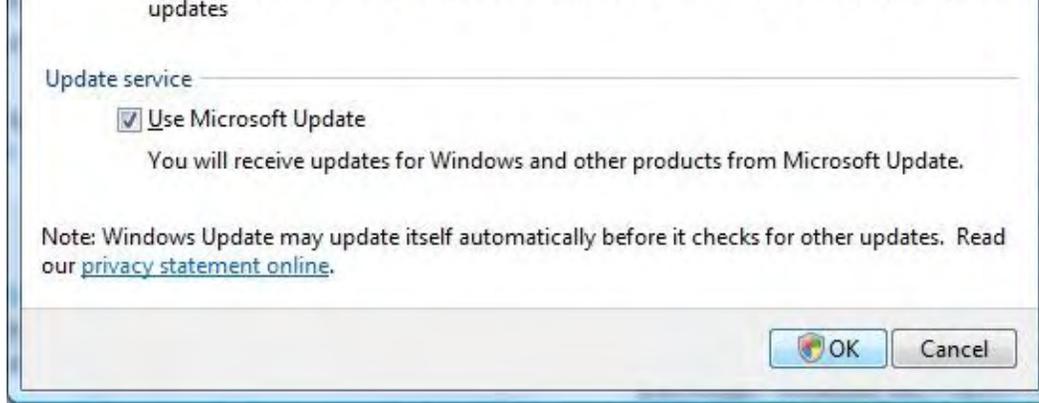


Figure 1. Windows Update Settings windows in Windows Vista.

For your situation, you may want to select "Download updates but let me choose whether to install them." In this mode the updates will be downloaded, but there will be no installation process unless you initiate it. This will prevent a reboot while you are connected to the Internet.

The default of downloading in the middle of the night with automatic installation is for people who leave their computers on all night and have a 24/7 Internet connection.

Digital Dave

*Dear Digital Dave*

*You referred to the Services tab in Task Manager to determine program setup information. My OS is XP with SP3, and there is no Services tab. Any thoughts on why not, and how I can get it?*

*Thank you,*

*Richard Hardy  
San Diego*

Dear Richard,

I should have clarified that point. The Services tab was not added to the Task Manager until Windows Vista. However, you can access the services in XP via the Control Panel under Administrative Tools/Services.

In many ways, the Services window (also available in Vista) is better than the Services tab in Windows Task Manager. It allows more options managing and setting up the programs. To get control of a particular program in Services, highlight it, right-click and select Properties (or select Properties from the Action menu). This will open a window for configuring the numerous options.

Digital Dave

## Digital Dave's Tip

Last week, I answered a question about changing menu bars in Internet Explorer—at least, I thought it was about menu bars. However, it was pointed out that the question could be about the title bar at the very top of the IE window, which gives the title of the Web page with the words "Windows Internet Explorer." To clear up any confusion—mostly mine—I will now address this second question.

The information bar at the top of Internet Explorer is called the title bar. It leads off with the Internet Explorer logo. Next is the title of the Web page being displayed. The last bit, by default, consists of the words "Windows Internet Explorer."

The title of the Web page is embedded in the HTML code of the page that you're visiting. If you were to look at the source code, you would see that the page title is enclosed in the <title> tag. For example, <title>My Web Page</title> would place the words "My Web Page" just to the right of the IE logo on the top title bar—if the tags are coded in the loaded Web page. If the page does not use the <title> tags, then the title will default to the address (URL) of the Web page.

The last part of the title bar is the "Windows Internet Explorer" label. This is the default value for IE, but it can be changed to whatever you like. This is done by editing the Registry.

Note: I don't recommend that you attempt this unless you're comfortable working with the Windows Registry. A misstep could cause

you problems. Be sure to create a restore point before starting.

Now that I've given you all the appropriate warnings, this is a good opportunity for you to become a little more familiar with the inner workings of Windows. It is actually a fairly simple procedure with little risk—unless you start fooling with other settings. I will detail each step as we go along. (This procedure also works in Windows 7.)

First, we need to load the program called regedit.exe. This can be done by selecting Run from the Start Menu, entering "regedit" then OK. (In Vista, typing "regedit" into the Start Search field and selecting the program from the list will have the same effect.) The regedit program offers a tree structure similar to the Windows Explorer folder structure. Be sure to follow the branches to the proper location, in this case:

HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER/Software/Microsoft/Internet Explorer/Main

As you do this, double check to ensure that you're on the HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER branch. Other HKEY branches could look identical after the top level. Once you have opened the branches down to Main, your window will look similar to Figure 2. You will be adding a new string value. You can either do this by right-clicking as shown, or from the Edit menu.

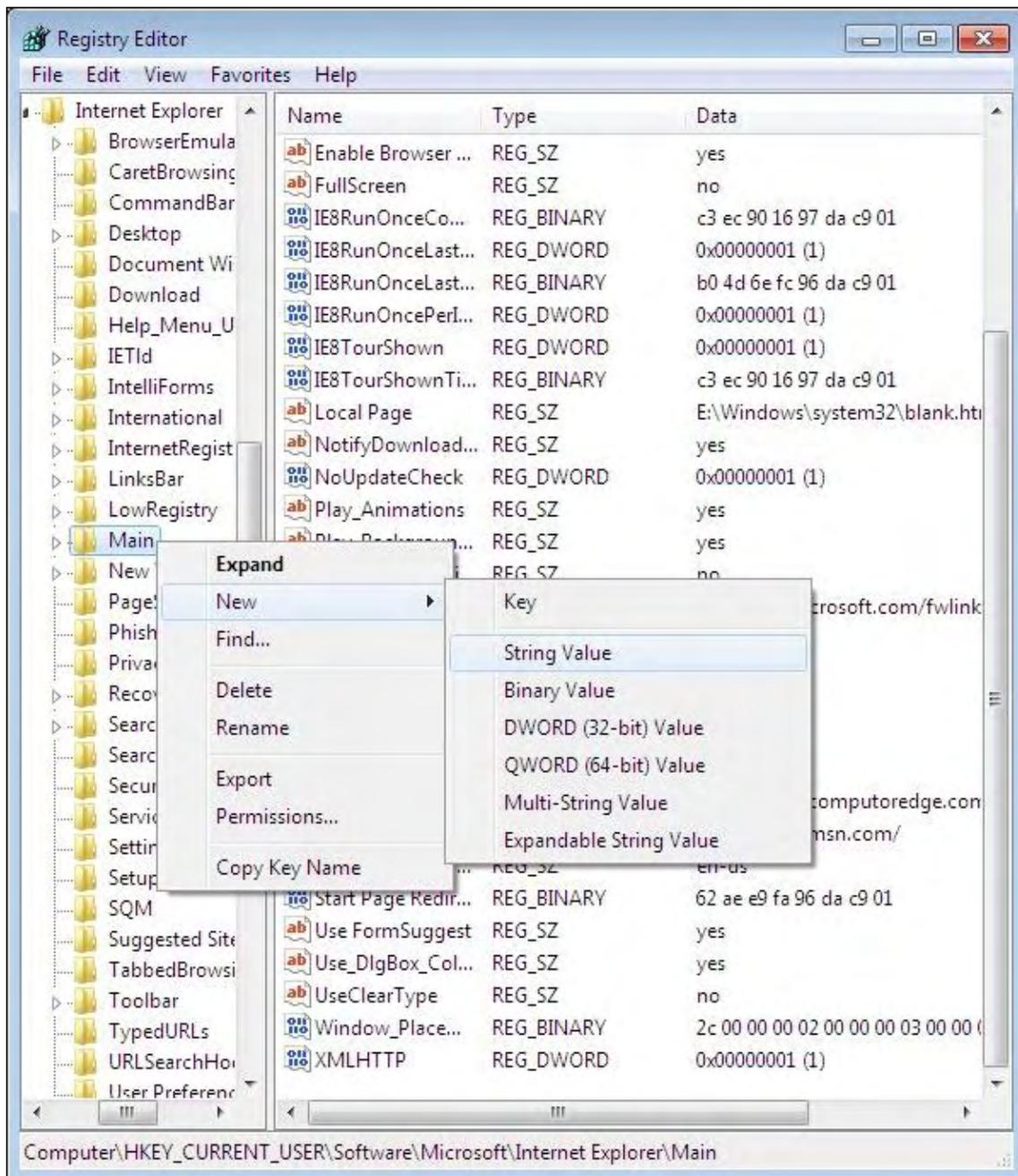


Figure 2. Regedit program opened with Main selected and the right-click menus open.

Once you select New/String Value, you will enter the words "Window Title" into the name field.

Next, to enter the value data (the words you want to add to the browser) into the newly created item named "Window Title," in the right-hand pane select that item, then either select "Modify..." from the Edit menu or right-click and select "Modify..." A windows similar to Figure 3 will open.

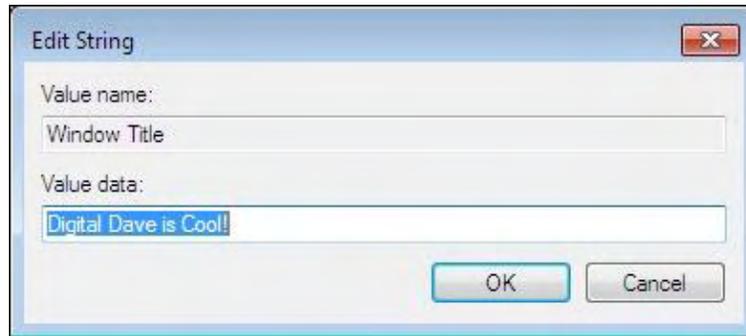


Figure 3. Regedit Edit String window.

Enter the new title for Internet Explorer and click OK. The next time you open IE, you should see your new title in the top bar, as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4. The "Digital Dave is Cool!" browser.

The title is highlighted in yellow. To change the title back to the default, do the same procedure, but delete the String Value item named "Computer Title" rather than adding it. (Highlight, right-click, select Delete.)

Digital Dave

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## Using Windows 7

“New features and a new look and feel.” by Jack Dunning

The Windows 7 rollout will soon be upon us. How will the look, feel and operation of Windows 7 differ from Vista and XP and affect how we work with our computers?

The pre-release versions of Windows 7 have been out for so long that there are a great number of reviews available on the Web. Most of these reviews either talk about performance (which is excellent, especially compared to Vista) or give a laundry list of Windows 7 features. Rather than rehash what others have said about Windows, I will discuss how the changes in functionality differ from Vista and may affect the way you work with your computer. This is not a complete review of Windows 7, but a discussion of the new look and feel of features I found to be the most useful.



“Wilfred thinks it may be time to give up on DOS and try Windows 7.”

As a matter of background, the overall tenor of the published reviews comes across as "Windows 7 is what Vista should have been all along." It's faster, loads more quickly, can be installed on a smaller (less memory) computer, and is less buggy. The look and feel is very similar to Windows Vista, yet the differences, although appearing to be small, can be significant. All in all, it's expected that Windows 7 will give Microsoft the boost it needs to recover from the hits it has taken with Vista.

I installed Windows 7 RC (Release Candidate) on my old Windows XP laptop. (For more information on installing this free edition of Windows 7, see "Why Wait for Windows 7?") This is the same computer that had problems with the built-in USB ports (see "USB2.0 4-Port NEC Cardbus"), and had a hard drive crash (see "Edgeward" dated September 5, 2008). While I did replace the drive, by that time I had already moved to a 64-bit Windows

Vista computer; therefore, the old computer wasn't getting much use anymore.

One of the problems I have encountered with Windows 7 has to do with software utilities and drivers. I couldn't get that old USB Bus Card working with Windows 7, and I haven't found on the Web any sign that the manufacturer has any intention of offering Windows 7 drivers. Admittedly, I haven't spent much time working on that issue.

I won't be saying anything about Windows Aero. My dated laptop doesn't have the capacity to run it. My experience with Vista tells me that Aero isn't much of a concern (at least not for me), although the fact that it won't run on my old laptop is an indication that any graphics-intensive program is likely to have trouble on this computer.

## Easier Troubleshooting

In Windows Vista, most troubleshooting is done either through searching the Help and Support feature in the Start Menu, or by doing a search on the Web. I was looking for similar support in Windows 7.

In the Windows 7 RC version, the Help and Support feature is not yet complete. Many of my queries of Help and Support came up empty. (I'm sure that there is an army of people at Microsoft who are furiously working on completing the Help and Support system right now.) However, I did find that the regular search in the control panel and the search in the Start Menu both offer context-sensitive help.

I stumbled upon this new help/suggestion feature in Windows 7. When I was searching for particular programs from the Start Menu, I noticed that "suggestions" would appear on the menu under the category Control Panel. Statements such as, "Show or hide inactive icons on the taskbar" would be offered in a link. This was also true for searches in the Control Panel itself. As an example, when I opened the Control Panel, I would get a view similar to the Vista Control Panel view (see Figure 1). (Notice the "View by:" drop-down menu near the upper-right-hand corner that will change the view to feature listings similar—although not the same—as the Classic XP view.)



Figure 1. Control Panel in Windows 7.

If you type in a search word in the search field in the upper-right-hand corner, then the Control Panel changes to lists of "suggestions" that may relate your search (see Figure 2). In this case, the word "start" was used, generating an extremely long list. Either changing the term or adding more words to narrow the search shortened the list.

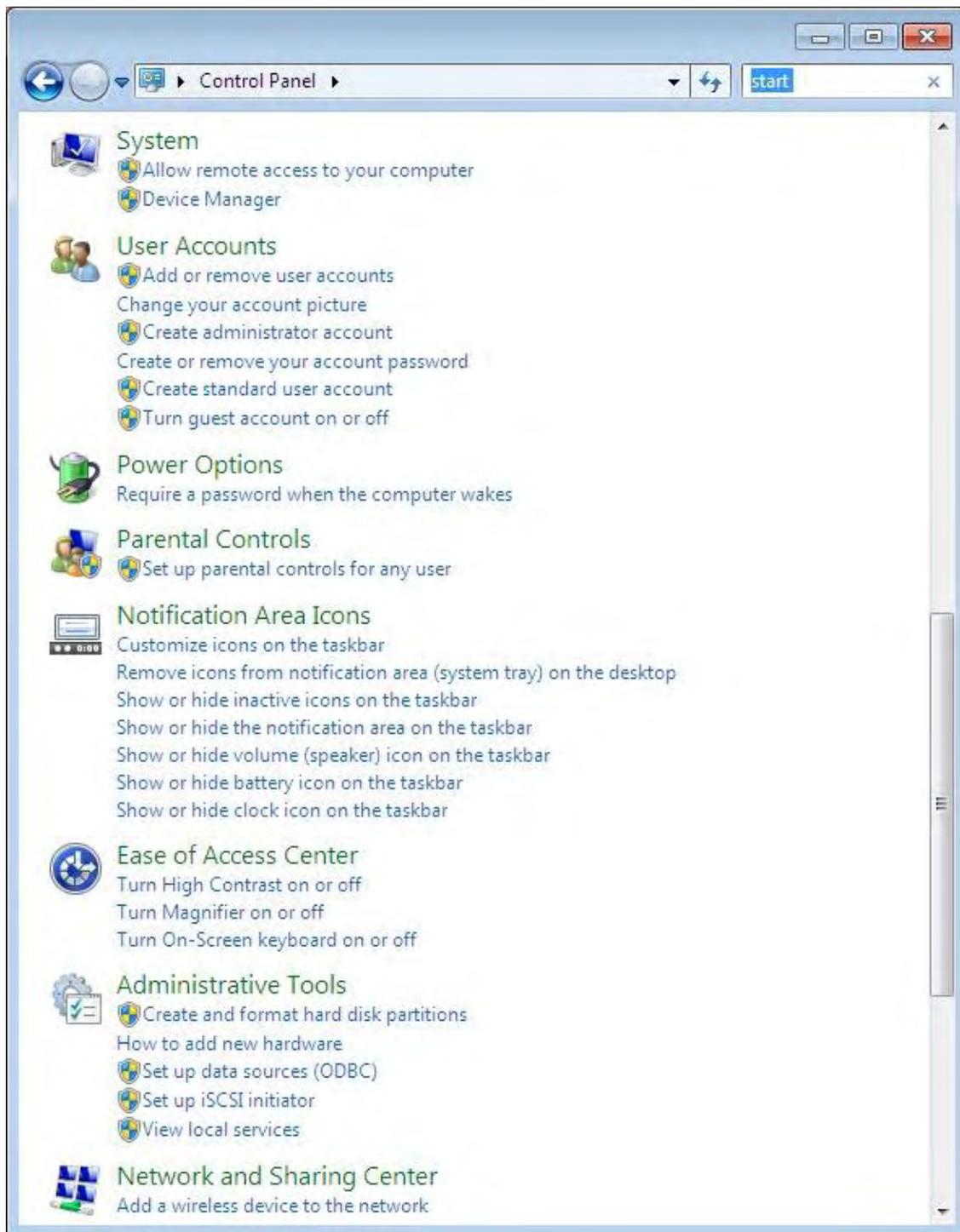


Figure 2. A search for "start" in the Windows 7 Control Panel window.

Notice that the listings are now statements of actions that you may want to perform. When you click on one, it takes you directly to the appropriate utility window. These are the same statements that will appear under the Control Panel category of the Start Menu when a relevant keyword is entered into the search field of the Start Menu (see Figure 3). Due to limited space on the Start Menu, the list is considerably shortened for the same search using the term "start" as a keyword. Notice that the category Control Panel has (65) next to it, indicating that there are actually 65 results to the search. Clicking the Control Panel heading will open a window returning all of the results.

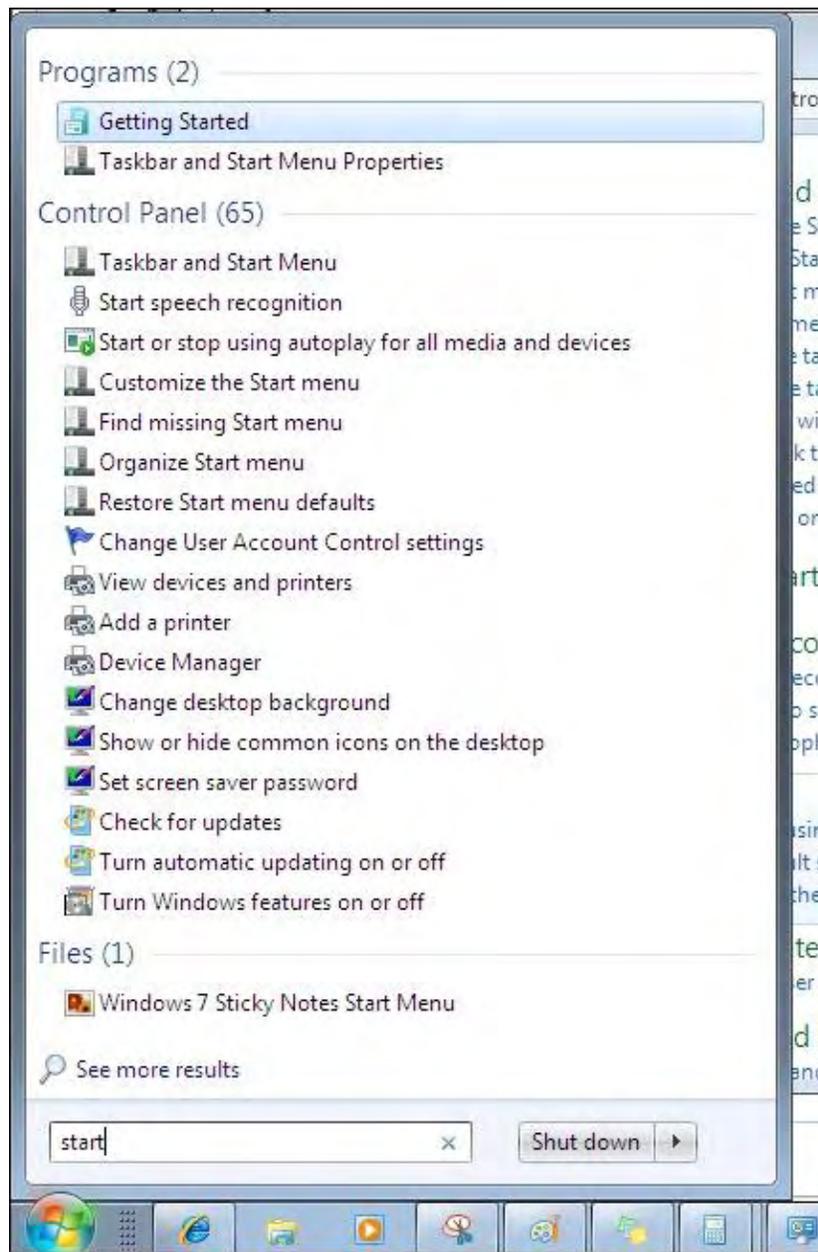


Figure 3. A search for "start" in the Windows 7 Start Menu returns a partial list of results.

### Better Organization of the Taskbar

If you're like me, you will have numerous windows open simultaneously. The primary way to track those windows in Windows XP and Vista is via the taskbar at the bottom of the screen (or wherever you like to dock the bar). When the taskbar gets loaded with opened programs, it starts stacking the different instances of the same program within a single tab on the bar. Opening programs soon becomes an issue of space on the taskbar. If you use Quick Launch buttons, even more space is consumed on the taskbar. Eventually, you find yourself searching through the many tabs to find the exact window you want to use. To make matters worse, these older versions of Windows locate the tabs on the taskbar based upon when they are opened, although they will be next to other open programs of the same version.

Windows 7 takes a slightly different approach. First, the Quick Launch buttons have been combined with the open program tabs. When you pin a program icon to the taskbar, it appears as an icon similar to the traditional Quick Launch button. Figure 3 shows the Microsoft Start Menu icon on the left, Internet Explorer in an open program tab, Windows Explorer as a Quick Launch icon, Windows Media Player as a Quick Launch tab, Snip-It as an open program tab, and PC Paint as a Quick Launch button.

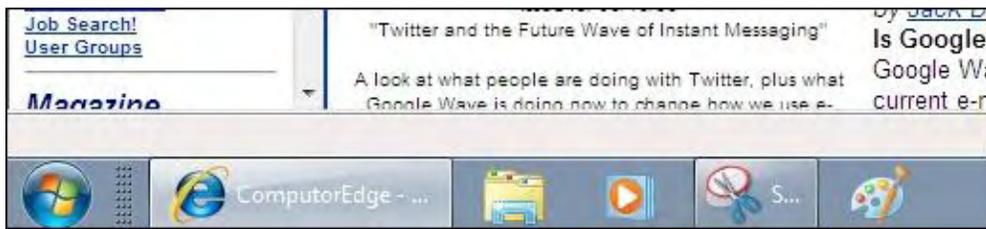


Figure 4. The Windows 7 Taskbar with Quick Launch buttons and open program tabs mixed in together.

The icons serve duty as launching buttons, program tabs, tailored menus and placeholders on the taskbar. By doing this, Windows 7 has solved a number of working problems.

Once the a program shortcut is pinned to the taskbar, as in past versions of Windows, it becomes a Quick Launch button. However, when the program is launched, the button converts into the program tab at the same location. In fact all open instances of that program will appear on the taskbar at (or next to) that same location. That's why the open programs and Quick Launch buttons are mixed together in Figure 3 above.

This starts to build some consistency into how you use the taskbar. If you pin all of your regular programs to the taskbar, then you will always know where on the taskbar to look for the open windows (or shortcuts). Plus, whether in the button or open tab form, the icons' right-click menus are often tailored to the specific program, yielding different options. The taskbar icon/tab has become a control center (and physical location) for each program. When you right-click on an icon/tab, you will see a list (called a jump list) of the most recent files opened by that program. If you right-click again on a specific file, you can permanently pin it to the jump list.

There are three options for how the buttons/tabs will react when there are multiple instances of a program opened: "Always combine, hide labels"; "Combine when taskbar is full"; and "Never combine," as seen in the open drop-down menu in Figure 4. Each option has its advantages, depending upon the situation.

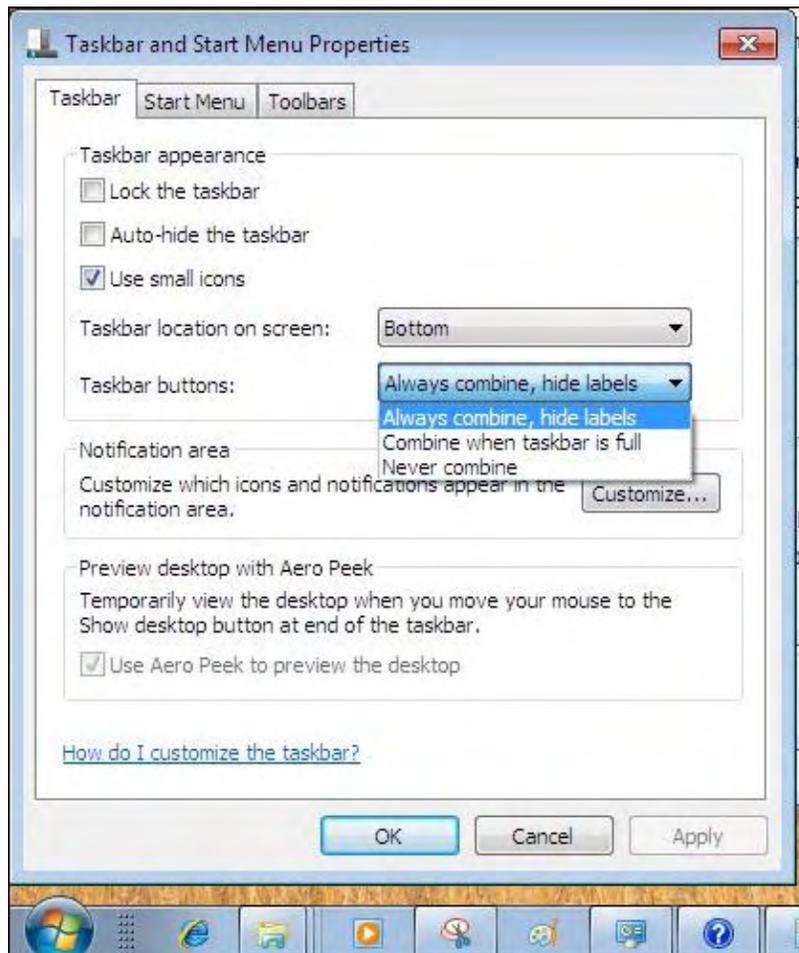


Figure 5. Taskbar Properties tab shows options with "Always combine, hide labels" selected. The taskbar at the bottom shows the effect of small icons with no labels.

The "Always combine, hide labels" option takes up the least space of the three choices. "Combine when taskbar is full" gives the same flexible effect—as seen in previous versions of Windows. The last option of "Never combine"—a new tab is created each time the program is opened—keeps each button acting as a toggle for displaying and hiding the window with a single click. Some programs, such as Sticky Notes and Snipping Tool, allow only one instance of the program to run; therefore, the tab will always act as a display/hide toggle.

You will need to play with the settings to find which setup will work best for you. (Note that there is also a drop-down menu for moving the taskbar to the top, right, or left side of the screen. In previous versions of Windows, this could be done only by dragging the taskbar to the new location.)

## Resizing Windows

I don't know how important this will be to you, but rather than using the little resizing buttons in the upper-right-hand corner, you can now maximize the window by dragging it (click and hold down the left-mouse button on the top bar of the window and move the mouse) to the top of the screen. To resize, drag the window back off the top edge of the screen. Drag the window to the left (cursor must come in contact with the left edge), and the window will expand to half the screen width. Drag to the right, and the right side will then be covered for side-by-side viewing (see Figure 5). Drag the bottom edge of the window to the bottom of the screen, and the total height of the screen will be occupied at the same window width.

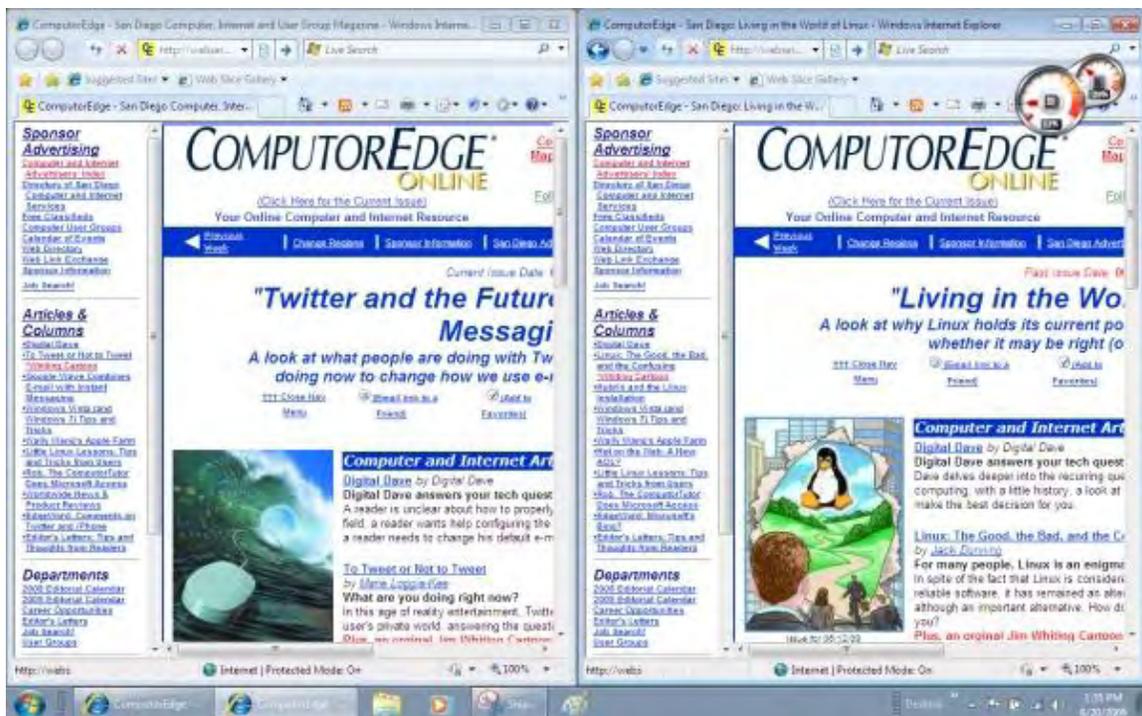


Figure 6. Two windows side by side.

Overall, the Start Menu seems to operate in pretty much the same way as it does in Windows Vista. If you move to Windows 7 from Vista, then it should seem pretty familiar. If you're moving from Windows XP, it may take a little more time to grow accustomed to the different look and feel. If you are looking for the File/Edit/View/Tools/Help menu in any of the standard windows, then in most cases hitting the ALT key will make it appear. (That menu bar may also be turned on from the Organize menu—as it is also enabled in Vista.) That alone should go a long way toward making XP users feel more comfortable.

## Other Differences in Windows 7

There are a few other features (or missing features) that are worth mentioning. In some cases, they are a different way to solve an old problem. In other cases, deliberate omissions are providing greater flexibility.

### Libraries

Libraries are a way to pull together content from different locations into one convenient viewer. Rather than being a folder, a library is a way to keep track of certain types of files. They can be located anywhere—your hard drive, another computer, a network drive, or a remote location. The library keeps track of all its contents, thereby making it easier for you to find specific files. The concept of libraries is an extension of the techniques used in Windows Photo Gallery—only now it

can be tailored across all types of media. The files can be sorted and displayed by folder, month, day, rating, or tags you assign, allowing you to set up visual sort.

Libraries is now another category in Windows 7's Windows Explorer, along with the Favorites category found in Windows Vista (see Figure 7).



Figure 7. Windows 7's Windows Explorer now has a Libraries category for tracking different types of media.

### *No E-Mail Program*

While Windows Vista comes with Windows Mail, Windows 7 does not include an e-mail program because Microsoft wants you to download and use Windows Live Mail. (See "Windows Tips and Tricks" dated May 22, 2009.) The program is designed to pull all of your e-mail accounts together and get you to use Windows Live free Internet services.

Windows Photo Gallery and Calendar are also out. Windows Calendar is now integrated with Windows Live Mail. (See "Windows Tips and Tricks" dated June 12, 2009.) There is a free Windows Live app to replace Photo Gallery. The calendar is no loss, since the Vista version was pretty lame. The calendar in Windows Live Mail has some potential, especially for sharing.

To look at it, the Windows Live Photo Gallery seems pretty similar to the original, although I haven't had a chance to use it. Again, Microsoft's goal is to get users into its Windows Live form of cloud computing (Internet accounts and file sharing).

### *No Sidebar for Gadgets*

There is no Windows Sidebar (Vista feature) in Windows 7. Rather than keeping your gadgets locked in a sidebar, you can put your gadgets anywhere on your desktop. See Figure 6 above for the performance meter gadget in the upper-right-hand corner of the screen.

\* \* \*

Coming from a Vista point of view, these are the major differences that I encountered. I'm sure that there are other issues other people have noticed. If you have tested Windows 7, we would like to hear your thoughts. Please drop us a line.

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Jack is the publisher of *ComputerEdge* Magazine. He's been with the magazine since first issue on May 16, 1983. Back then, it was called *The Byte Buyer*. His Web site is [www.computoredge.com](http://www.computoredge.com). He can be reached at [ceeditor@computoredge.com](mailto:ceeditor@computoredge.com)

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## Windows 7: New and Improved Programs

**“If you're upgrading anyway, these may be a bonus.”** by Jack Dunning

There are a few new programs in Windows 7 that may be worth taking a look at. While none of these programs will make or break Windows 7, they each have the potential to enhance your computing experience.

There are a few new programs in Windows 7 that may be worth taking a look at. Some are brand new, and others are new versions of old software. Whether these programs will be of use to you will depend upon how you use your computer and your skill level. Some are simple and easy for anyone to use. Other programs may require a higher degree of technical knowledge. These are not reasons to get Windows 7, but if you're upgrading anyway, they may be a bonus.

### Windows Calculator

As far back as I can remember, Windows has had a calculator. It is located in the Programs/Accessories folder. In both Windows 7 and Vista, the program can be found by typing "calc" in the search field of the Microsoft Start Menu. Just like any other program, Calculator loads in its own window. The significant change for Calculator in Windows 7 is that it now includes special features for figuring mortgages, vehicle leases, fuel economy, unit conversion and date calculation (see Figure 1). Rather than creating your own spreadsheet or searching the Web for a mortgage calculator, you can use your own Windows 7 tools.

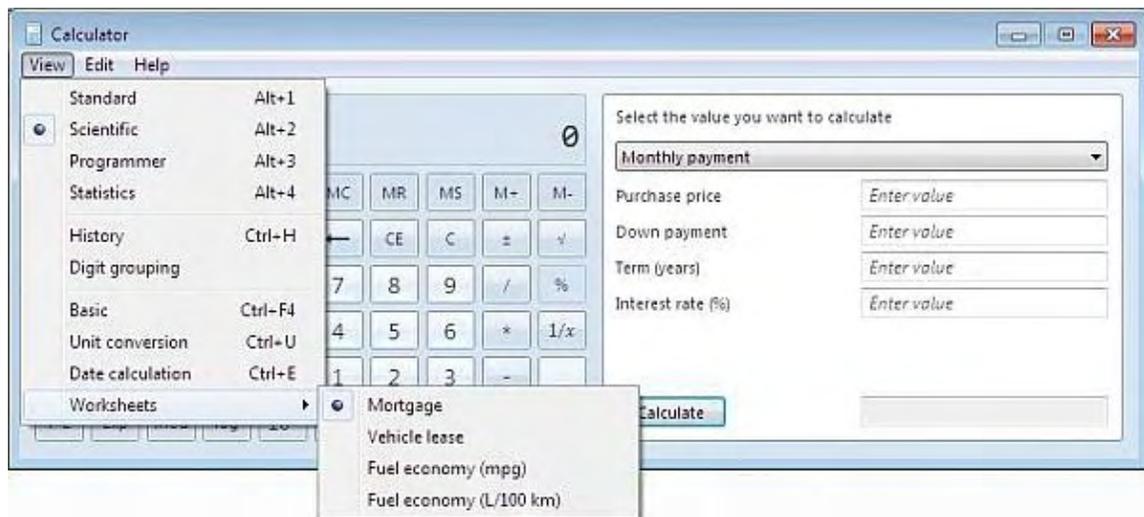


Figure 1. Windows 7 Calculator has its own mortgage worksheet.

The only complaint I have about the calculator is the same gripe I've had since day one: I would like to be able to put the window in an "always-on-top" mode, as can be done with gadgets. There are time when I want to be able to see the calculator sitting in the corner without searching under other windows. In fact, I would like to see an "always-on-top" mode selectable for any window.

### Windows Paint

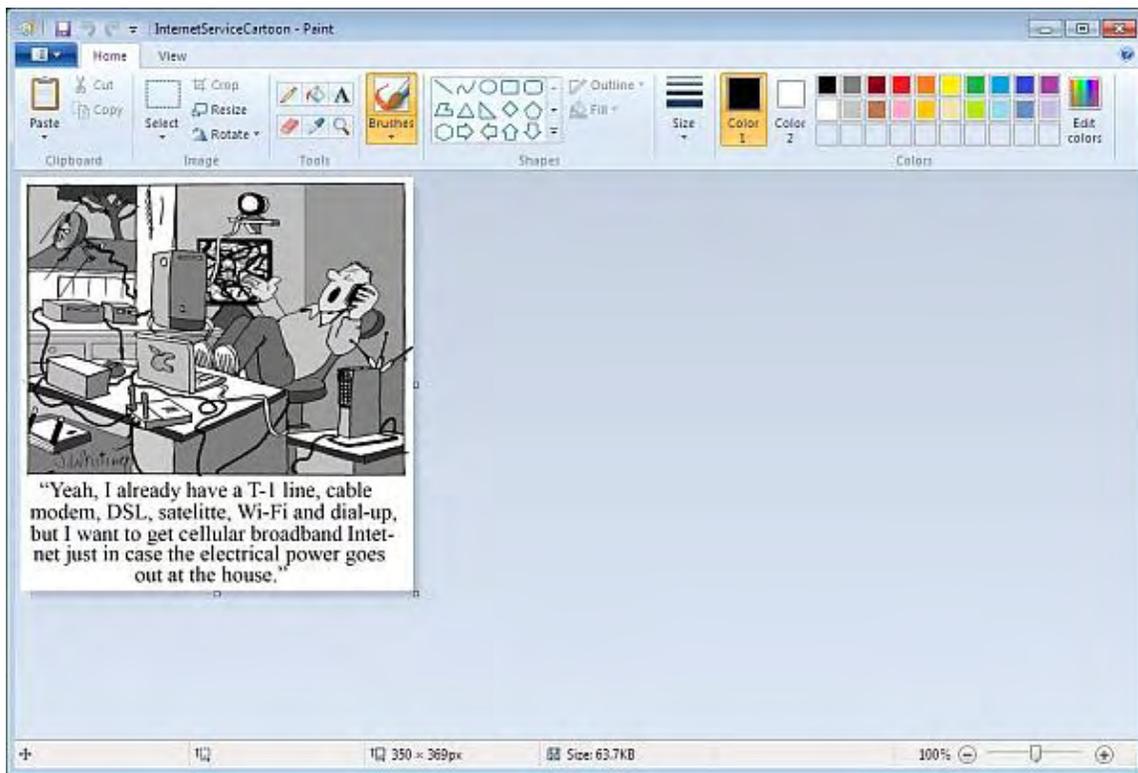


Figure 2. Windows 7 Paint program.

The Windows Paint program is another feature of Windows that probably has been there since day one. It has always been a rather crude utility, good only for quick-and-dirty jobs. Microsoft has now implemented the ribbon user interface—which mixes tabs and graphic toolbars—to Paint, while adding quite a few new features (see Figure 2). (Microsoft is currently attempting to patent the ribbon UI. It's part of the company's plan to make more software developers pay homage—and more money—to them.) Windows Paint now seems much more functional than before, although I haven't tested it yet.

### Windows WordPad

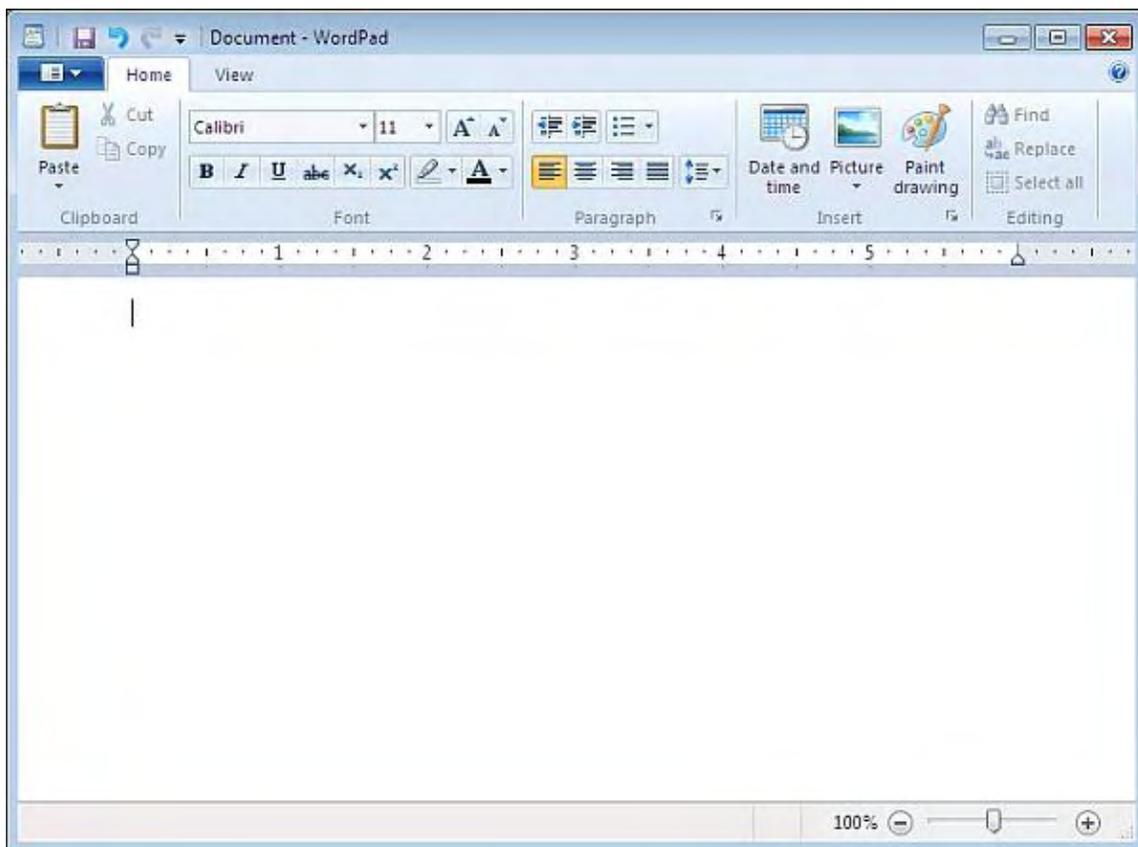


Figure 3. Windows 7 WordPad program.

Windows WordPad has also been updated with the ribbon UI. For many people, WordPad may be all they need in word-processing software.

### Windows Sticky Notes

While there is a Sticky Notes program in Vista, many people don't know it exists. The Notes gadget in the Vista sidebar is better known and more used. The problem with the Vista Sticky Notes program is that it doesn't act like sticky notes at all, although it can record audio.

The Windows 7 Sticky Notes program actually works like real sticky notes—without the sticky part. When you create a sticky note, a small text-editing note window that looks like the real thing is placed on the screen (see Figure 4). One advantage of this program over the Vista gadget is that you can drag the lower-right-hand corner of the notes to any size you like. The Vista gadget is limited in size.

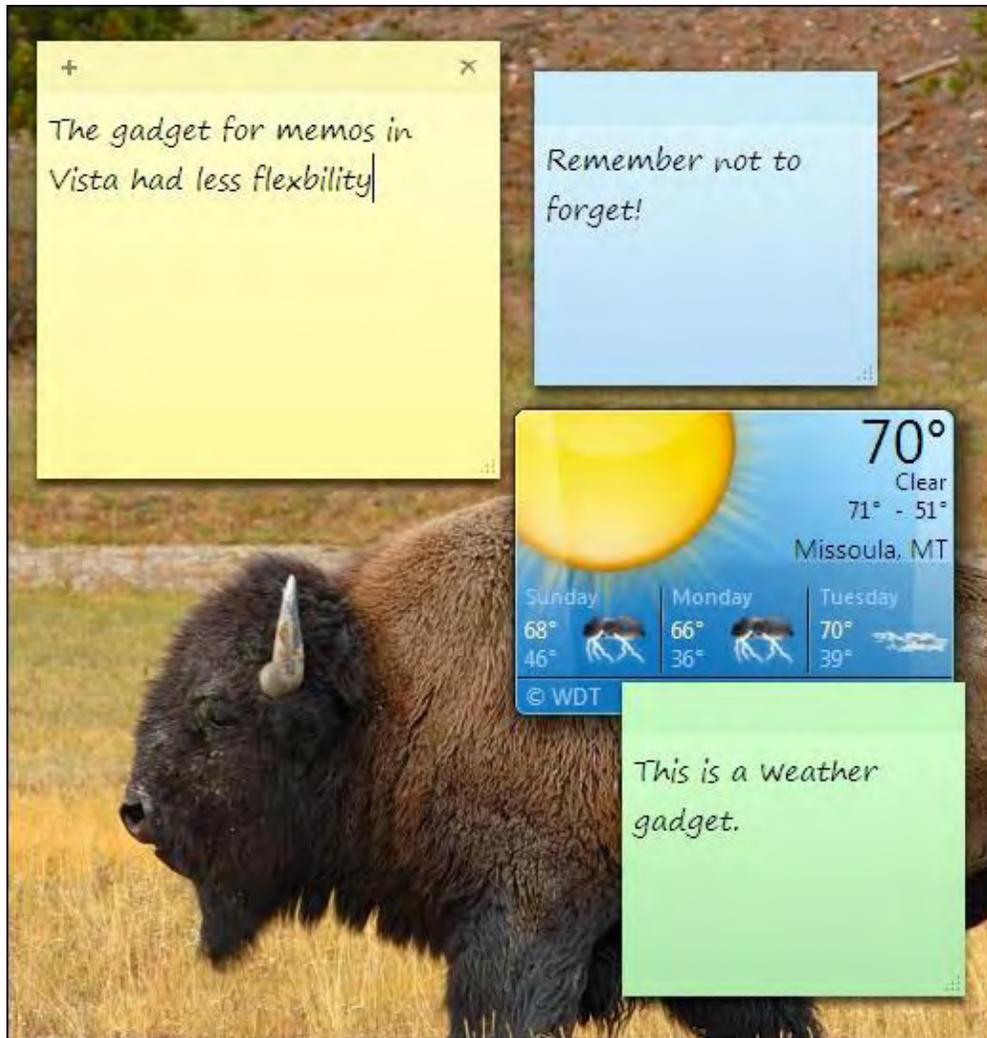


Figure 4. Windows 7 Sticky Notes program. This shot shows three sticky notes plus a weather gadget.

Another advantage of the Windows 7 Sticky Notes program over the Vista gadget is that each time you add a note, a separate paper memo image is created, allowing independent placement and movement. Plus, if you have placed the program in a Quick Launch button, all the notes can be toggled open and closed with that button.

Being an integrated program, the text memos from Sticky Notes appear as list items after doing a search in the Start Menu (see Figure 5). In this case, the search was on the word "note." If the search term is "sticky," or any one of the words in one of the notes, then the appropriate items will appear on the list.



Figure 5. Sticky Notes will appear in a Start Menu search.

There are a couple of features of the Vista gadget that are better than the new Sticky Notes program. First, if you open the desktop, the Vista gadget doesn't disappear. Second, you can set a gadget to "always on top," which is useful for reminders. The "always-on-top" mode would be useful, just as it would be for the calculator.

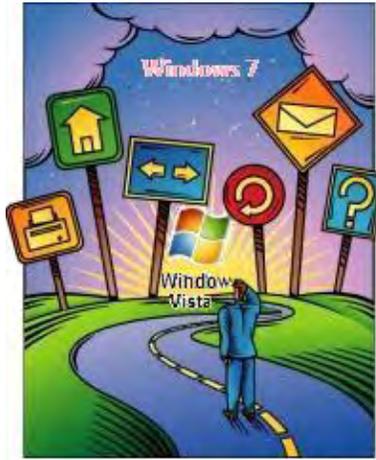
What I particularly like about the new Sticky Notes program is the ability to make multiple notes, resize each note, toggle open and closed with one button, and see the memos appear in a search of the Start Menu.

### Windows PowerShell

Windows PowerShell is a scripting system for power users. It uses the .NET framework and has access to all the files and directories on the Windows 7 system. It's designed to be used by system administrators. PowerShell is an uber-command prompt. I haven't had a chance to take a closer look at PowerShell, but I'm sure that there are some creative ways for the tech-savvy to use it.

Snipping Tool, the Vista screen-capture program, is still included in Windows 7. The tablet-oriented Windows Journal is also in Windows 7, along with a Math Input Panel for adding a formula or two to your work.

While none of these programs will make or break Windows 7, they each have the potential to enhance your computing experience. However, none of them are a reason to upgrade to Windows 7. As with a new car, it's not a good idea make the purchase based upon the number and location of the cup holders.

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# Windows Vista Tips and Tricks

(and some Windows 7)

## Windows Vista and Windows 7 Tips and Tricks

“A Look at Internet Explorer 8” by Jack Dunning

IE8 is the version of the browser that will come with the Windows 7 installation. Here are a few points worth mentioning—but how useful are they?

I've loaded Internet Explorer 8 ([www.microsoft.com/windows/internet-explorer/](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/internet-explorer/)) onto all of my computers now. (It's free to download and install.) I did it one system at a time, and used IE8 on each computer for about a week or so before attempting to install it on the next machine. I didn't run into any installation difficulties. (IE8 is the version of the browser that will come with the Windows 7 installation—except in Europe, where no browser will be included.) It's a little early to tell if it runs better than the last version, but I haven't noticed any problems.

If you've been using Internet Explorer 7, then you won't immediately see much difference with the new installation—at least on the surface. Any settings and toolbars that you used on the previous version will be imported automatically. The claims are that IE8 is faster and more secure. Nothing jumped out at me one way or the other. However, on closer inspection there are a number of things worth mentioning.

### Accelerators

First, Microsoft has added a feature it calls Accelerators. It's like a super right-click menu for Web pages, although it doesn't require the right-click. An accelerator is an option to do something special with text that's been highlighted on the page. Similar to gadgets, anyone can develop an Accelerator and give users the option of adding it to their Accelerator menu.

 To use Accelerators, highlight some text on a Web page, and a little blue square with an arrow in it will appear, as seen on the left. Click the blue square, and a menu will open (see Figure 1). When you select an item from the menu, the action (word lookup, search, map location, etc.) will be executed in a new tab using the highlighted text.

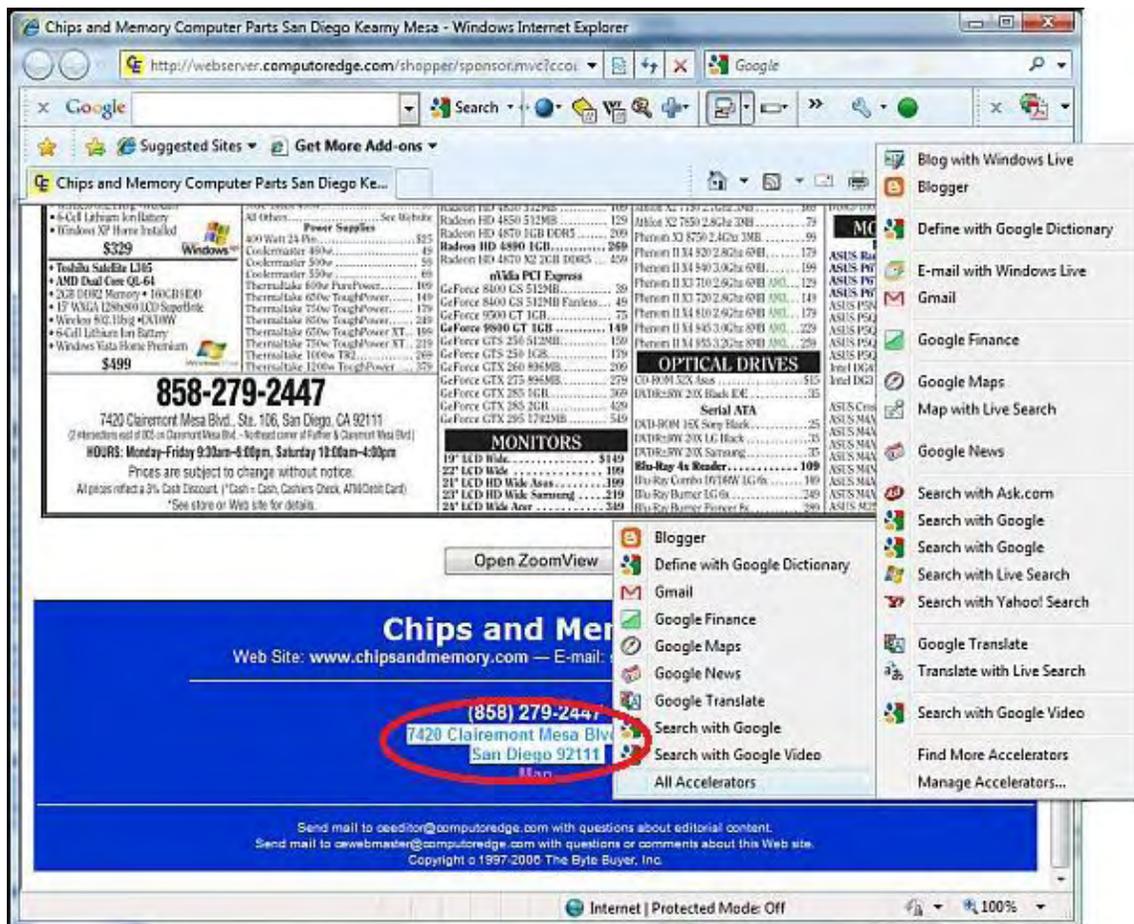


Figure 1. Accelerators in Internet Explorer 8.

The object of Accelerators is to speed up normal Web surfing activities without interfering with the basic activity—less cutting and pasting into the address line. The menus can be tailored with "Find More Accelerators" and "Manage Accelerators."

### Suggestions for the Address Bar

I often use the suggestions offered by Internet Explorer 7 when typing in an address (URL). The options were always from a similar address. In IE8, the suggestions now include related History and Favorites, as well as previously typed URLs. Plus, you can type any related words and the address bar will offer suggestions (see Figure 2).

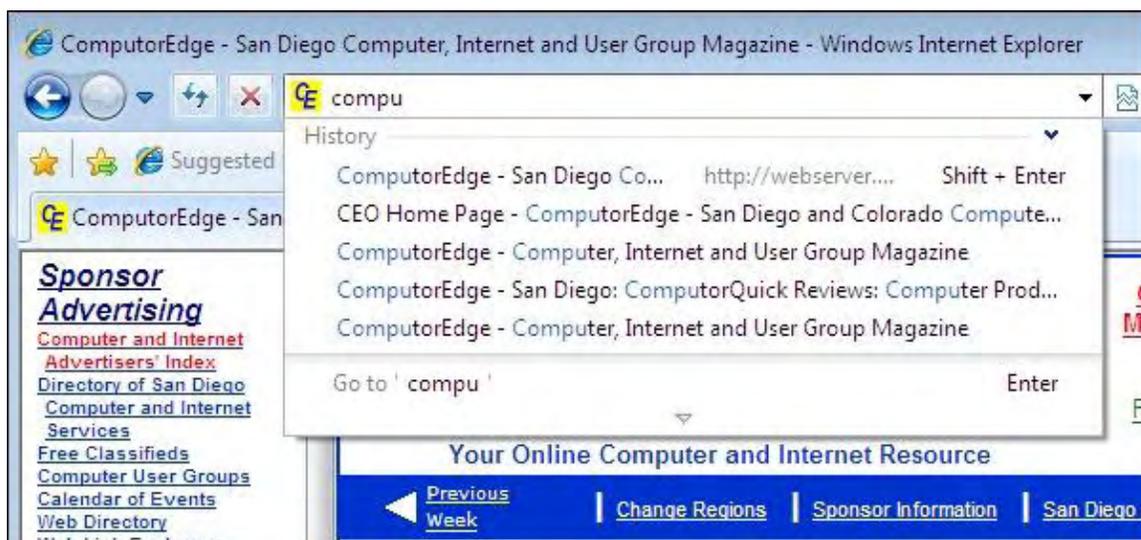


Figure 2. You can type anything into the address bar, and IE8 will offer suggestions that will include History and Favorites.

### Search Suggestions with Graphics

The default search engine, Windows Live Search, will include graphics in its suggestions. I'm not sure how many search engines support this feature, and I had problems with it on a machine with Google Toolbar installed (see Figure 3).



Figure 3. Suggestions include graphics for Windows Live Search.

### Web Slices

If you visit eBay, you will see that they are supporting Web Slices. When you see the green slice icon (shown at the left), you can add the slice to your Favorites bar. It is a technique for following parts of Web pages that change regularly. When a Web page offers a slice, a click of the green icon will add it to your browser. Whenever the item is updated, the text on the Favorites bar slice button will turn bold. Just a click, and you get a peek.

### InPrivate Browsing

Similar to the Incognito pages in Google Chrome, Internet Explorer 8 offers InPrivate Browsing. Control-Shift-P will activate a private browsing window that doesn't keep a history or do the other normal Web page tracking (e.g., cookies are temporary, for the session only). It can also be accessed through the Safety menu or the Tools menu. (If you don't see the menu bar, press the Alt key to make the menu appear.)

### More Organized Tabbing

Child tabs for Web pages will open next to the original tab. When closing a tab, tabs from the same site will become the open tab, rather than a tab that happens to be open next to it. Accidentally close a tab? Right-click on any tab and reopen the closed tab.

It's going to take me some time to determine how useful these features are for me. Overall, it does seem to be an improvement. I would be interested in hearing what others have to say—especially about the new features or any that I've missed.

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Jack is the publisher of *ComputerEdge* Magazine. He's been with the magazine since first issue on May 16, 1983. Back then, it was called *The Byte Buyer*. His Web site is [www.computoredge.com](http://www.computoredge.com). He can be reached at [ceeditor@computoredge.com](mailto:ceeditor@computoredge.com)

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## Wally Wang's Apple Farm

“Thoughts on Windows 7” by Wally Wang

Windows 7 isn't going to steal customers away from Apple, but it's more likely that Apple will continue stealing away customers from Windows XP and Vista users. Also, does Snow Leopard increase a MacBook's battery life?; the new iPhone 3GS may help the Macintosh break into the business market; and a tip on the iPhone OS 3.0's "undo" feature.

# Wally Wang's Apple Farm

Windows 7 is what Vista should have been. The fact that even Microsoft won't mention the dreaded word "Vista" in any of its advertisements shows how badly Microsoft screwed up its marketing. Vista is like the unwanted stepchild of Microsoft that it will quietly lead out into the forest to abandon like Hansel and Gretel, in hopes that it will never return and be forgotten forever.

The best part about Windows 7 ([www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7)) right now is that you can download and use the free release candidate until next year. If you want to run Windows 7 on a Macintosh, you just need Parallels ([www.parallels.com](http://www.parallels.com)) or Fusion ([www.vmware.com/products/fusion](http://www.vmware.com/products/fusion)) to run it as a virtual machine.

Windows 7 seems stable and fast, but does it offer any must-have features that will make people say *wow*? The only *wow* that Vista generated was when people loaded it up, took one look at it, and thought, "Wow, Microsoft spent five years and a billion dollars and this is the best they can offer?"

Here's the problem. Windows 7 is good, but not great. It may slow people from defecting from Windows, but will it attract new initiates into the Windows camp? In other words, can you see Linux or Macintosh users looking at Windows 7 with envy and wishing they could dump their current computers and operating systems so they can use Windows 7 for all its wonderful features instead?

Windows 7 isn't competing against the Macintosh or Linux. Windows 7 is competing against Windows XP, a fight that Vista lost against Windows XP as badly as Pee-Wee Herman would have lost trying to knock out Mike Tyson.

Watching Windows 7 arrive reminds me of Wordstar, dBASE and Lotus 1-2-3. At one time, all three programs dominated the business market to the point where nobody could ever see them losing market share. "Everyone already knows how to use Wordstar," people chanted to justify not looking at alternatives. "You have to remain compatible with dBASE," others cried to assert why dBASE was never going to go away. "Too much important work is already stored in Lotus 1-2-3," shouted the spreadsheet pundits to explain why Lotus was always going to dominant the market.

What killed Wordstar, dBASE, and Lotus 1-2-3 was a single new version that failed miserably. Wordstar released a bloated, incompatible version called Wordstar 2000, which bombed in the market. dBASE released dBASE IV, a buggy, bloated version that bombed in the market. Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows was essentially a bastardized version that disguised the MS-DOS version of the program running inside a Windows interface. The key was that every market leader stumbled once it released a lousy version of its product.

And then Microsoft released Vista, which bombed in the market. Early versions of Vista were so horrible that even Microsoft executives couldn't get it to work, yet they decided to release it on an unsuspecting public anyway. Current versions of Vista are finally stable, but the name "Vista" is already saddled with distrust.

For Windows 7 to be a success, it must not only retain all current Windows XP users, but also draw people away from alternatives such as Windows 95/98 did when it shrank the Macintosh market to the single digits.

That's not going to happen today. Windows 7 isn't going to steal customers away from Apple, but it's more likely that Apple will continue stealing away customers from Windows XP and Vista users. Remember, Wordstar, dBASE, and Lotus 1-2-3 once dominated their markets, but nothing lasts forever. Vista marked the end of Microsoft's dominance in the operating system market, and it's unlikely that Windows 7 will be able to win it back all by itself.

Windows 7 can never be as bad as Vista, but unless it's far superior to the Macintosh, the Macintosh market will continue growing at the expense of Windows.

## Snow Leopard

Anyone familiar with Windows knows that each new version of Windows requires more memory and space while running slower than before. With Mac OS X, every new version actually runs faster on older computers, with the exception of the last version, Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard.

Now Snow Leopard (Mac OS X 10.6) continues this trend of running faster while taking up less space. Perhaps most remarkable is that the beta of Snow Leopard on my MacBook seems to have increased its battery life.

Under Mac OS X 10.5, my MacBook routinely got 2.5-3 hours after a full recharge. Suddenly, under Mac OS X 10.6, my MacBook seems to be getting at least 3.5-4 hours after a full recharge. Getting an extra hour of battery life by doing nothing more than using a newer operating system makes Snow Leopard worth its minor \$29 upgrade price.

## The iPhone

The iPhone is the first cell phone that actually makes it easy to browse Web pages, play music, watch videos, and find and load new programs. Try that with any other phone, and you'll likely get stuck with clumsy interfaces, unresponsive speeds and less-than-intuitive procedures.

With the recent release of the new iPhone 3GS, Apple continues growing its iPhone customer base at the expense of Palm, BlackBerry and Nokia. Both the BlackBerry Storm and Palm Pre have attempted to mimic the iPhone, but why settle for second best when, for the same price, you can just get an iPhone?

Rivals can imitate the touchscreen interface, but they can't duplicate the App Store loaded with thousands of useful programs (and hundreds more useless ones). Even better, you can now get the previous generation of the iPhone for only \$99 (as long as you sign up for a two-year contract).

The main difference between the iPhone 3GS and the older 3G version are voice control, video capture and editing, and a compass.



Figure 1. The latest iPhone 3GS offers a compass, voice control and video editing.

Voice control simply means you can dial a number or search for a song through voice commands alone, which other mobile phones have offered for years. The compass is handy for orienting yourself while looking at maps so you'll know which direction to go.

Video capturing and editing is probably the most exciting new feature, letting you capture video and trim the beginning or end (but not the middle) so you can upload captured video to YouTube or your MobileMe account.

What makes the iPhone particularly attractive is its ability for apps to download new data, which gives developers the chance to create subscription-based apps. Instead of selling an app once, developers can sell (or give away) an app once and generate a continuing stream of revenue through additional downloaded content.

With more developers flocking to the iPhone, the iPhone will continue to grow regardless of what Palm or BlackBerry do.

Of course, the only way to develop iPhone apps is through a Macintosh. So the more popular the iPhone gets for developers, the more developers will have to buy a Macintosh.

The iPhone indirectly helps boost Macintosh sales by attracting developers. If businesses want to create custom apps, they'll need to invest in Macintosh computers as well. Given this rush toward the iPhone and the Macintosh, what are the chances that even big businesses will want to ignore the iPhone market and stick exclusively with Windows 7, the BlackBerry or Palm?

By itself, the Macintosh may not be strong enough to break into the business market, but with the iPhone leading the way, it only makes financial sense for any business to consider both the iPhone and the Macintosh, and that will ultimately hurt Windows 7 in the long run.

Want to fall behind by playing it safe? Then stick with Windows and your current mobile phone, and ignore the iPhone and the Macintosh at your peril.

\* \* \*

If you have the latest iPhone 3.0 OS (either on the new iPhone 3GS or the older iPhone 3G model), there's an Undo/Redo feature hidden on the iPhone. The next time you type something and want to undo what you just typed, just shake the iPhone until the Undo Typing button appears.



Figure 2. The Undo Typing button appears to undo anything you've typed.

If you tap the Undo Typing button and change your mind, shake the iPhone a second time to see the Redo Typing button. This will retype any text that you just undid.



Figure 3. The Redo Typing button lets you retype your text that you just undid.

In the early days, before Wally became an Internationally renowned comedian, computer book writer, and generally cool guy, Wally Wang used to hang around The Byte Buyer dangling participles with Jack Dunning and go to the gym to pump iron with Dan Gookin.

Wally is responsible for the following books:

- Microsoft Office 2007 for Dummies ([www.amazon.com/gp/product/0470009233?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0470009233](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0470009233?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0470009233))
- Beginning Programming for Dummies ([www.amazon.com/gp/product/0470088702?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0470088702](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0470088702?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0470088702))
- Breaking Into Acting for Dummies with Larry Garrison ([www.amazon.com/gp/product/0764554468?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0764554468](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0764554468?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0764554468))
- Beginning Programming All-in-One Reference for Dummies ([www.amazon.com/gp/product/0470108541?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0470108541](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0470108541?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0470108541))
- Steal This Computer Book 4.0 ([www.amazon.com/gp/product/1593271050?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1593271050](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1593271050?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1593271050))
- Visual Basic Express 2005: Now Playing ([www.amazon.com/gp/product/1593270593?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1593270593](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1593270593?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1593270593))
- My New Mac ([www.amazon.com/gp/product/1593271646?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1593271646](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1593271646?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1593271646))
- My New iPhone ([www.amazon.com/gp/product/1593271956?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1593271956](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1593271956?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1593271956))
- Strategic Entrepreneurism with Jon Fisher and Gerald Fisher ([www.amazon.com/gp/product/1590791894?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1590791894](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1590791894?ie=UTF8&tag=the15minmovme-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=1590791894))

Every Saturday morning from 9:00 am - 10:00 am in San Diego, you can hear Wally with fellow co-hosts Dane Henderson and Candace Lee, on the radio show CyberSports Today ([cybersportstoday.com/](http://cybersportstoday.com/)), which covers the video gaming industry

on ESPN Radio 800 AM. Wally covers the military history side of the video game industry.

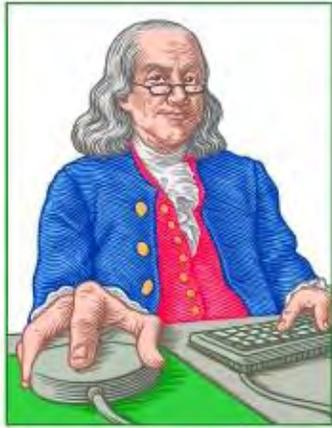
When not performing stand-up comedy or writing computer books, he likes to paper trade stocks with the video game Stock Reflex ([www.plimus.com/jsp/download\\_trial.jsp?contractId=1722712&referrer=wwang](http://www.plimus.com/jsp/download_trial.jsp?contractId=1722712&referrer=wwang)), using the techniques he learned from a professional Wall Street day trader.

Wally can be reached at [wally@computoredge.com](mailto:wally@computoredge.com) and at his personal web site ([www.wallacewang.com/](http://www.wallacewang.com/)).

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## LITTLE LINUX LESSONS

**"AN INVESTMENT  
IN LINUX KNOWLEDGE  
PAYS THE BEST  
INTEREST."**

Little Linux Lessons: Tips and Tricks from Users

**"Linux users share ideas and ask for help."** by  
ComputerEdge Staff

A reader shares his response to Jack Dunning's Linux article and installing software; a quick lesson for installing software without the command line; and a file-transfer GUI use tip.

### Install Software Without the Command Line

In response to Jack Dunning's June 12 article, "Linux: The Good, the Bad, and the Confusing": I have to say that I have been in the computer business long enough to have used the command line and have experience with "real" multiuser/multitasking operating systems, so I am not intimidated by Linux, but it is different. I am using the CentOS 5 distribution (Red Hat clone) with Gnome, and I found that the book *Fedora 10 and Red Hat Enterprise Linux Bible* answers a lot of my questions. I prefer GUI tools and find Gnome adequate.

*PRO*

I would like to disagree with one sentence: "While there are a number of user-friendly interfaces, when new software needs to be installed or there are other issues to deal with, knowledge of the command line is required." This is not true for installs. I can double-click my way to an RPM install package and then right-click on the package and choose "Open with Software Installer," and the package is installed. In the event that it is already installed, a dialog box pops up and tells you it is already installed.

*CON*

I am trying to install Oracle and it is not trivial. I have been using Oracle on Windows for years and installation is a no-brainer. In Linux, I am struggling with all the details that have to be done at the command line as well as setting up profile files. One typo and you are doomed to errors on login. I am a very patient person, so I will get there, but I have been spoiled by Windows.

By the way, does anyone know how to get Linux to open directories in the same window or how to see the entire file system in a tree navigator like Windows Explorer? I hate having half a dozen windows open just drilling down to a directory and then not knowing which tree a folder is in.

Marcus B.  
Alabama

### A Quick Lesson for Installing Software Without the Command Line

Here is a quick and easy way to install or remove software with just a few clicks of the mouse. The operating system shown is Linux Ubuntu 8.10. It is widely believed that installing software into Linux is very difficult because you must use the command line. This is not true.

Using the applications menu, find the Add/Remove tab at the bottom. Once selected, you will need to enter your password because Linux does not allow changes to be made without administrative, or Root privileges. After doing so, a window will open and you will see a number of software categories, "All" is selected by default (see Figure 1). You will also see "Show" and "Search" bars. Below these are listed applications, codecs, plugins and other software that is available for install. The "Show" option can be changed to allow installation of software that is not supported by the distribution, or to show only the software that is already installed.

Installation of new software is as simple as finding the suitable application by category, or by using the Search function, clicking the box next to your choice, then clicking Apply Changes. The software will be installed automatically and your menus will be updated where applicable. If you wish to remove software, deselect the box and click Apply Changes.

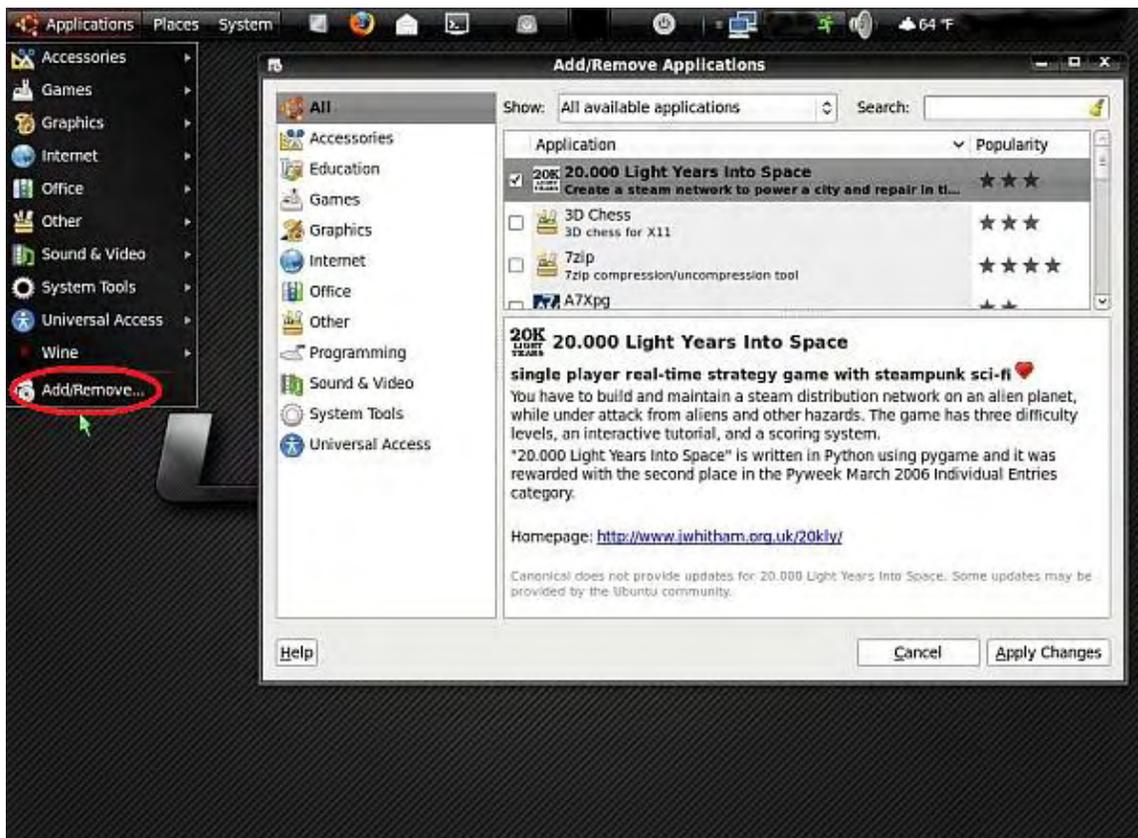


Figure 1. Add/Remove Applications.

The more advanced tool is the Synaptic Package Manager. It can be thought of as Add/Remove with many more options, such as adding or changing software repositories and update settings.

It is found in the System/Administration menu; select it and enter your Root password. Here there are thousands of available applications and software packages. This utility is nearly as easy to use as Add/Remove. Find the software you wish to install, click the box, mark for installation, click Apply, then click to allow the download and disk usage. To uninstall, mark the software for removal, click Apply, and click to allow disk usage. Depending upon the software you are installing, or removing, you may be asked to enter preference settings. The rest of the process is automatic. A notification will appear if a restart is required.

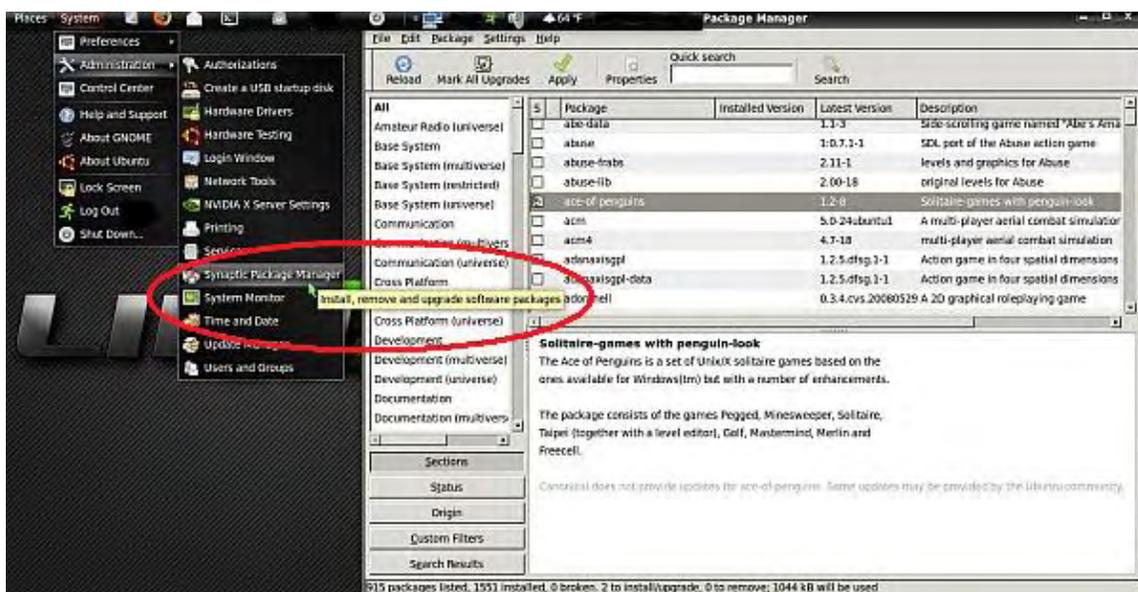


Figure 2. Synaptic Package Manager.

The command line is a very powerful tool and has much more functionality than just adding and removing software. If you are new to Linux and know little more of it other than that it looks like a DOS prompt, you should still be able to customize

your operating system without it. This may not be the case with all Linux distributions, but many have tools similar to the Add/Remove and Synaptic Package manager utilities that are built into Ubuntu.

Thanks to Jay Emme for submitting this GUI tip.

### **File-Transfer GUI Use Tip**

I'm using Ubuntu and have no fear of the command line. However, I have helped many people switch to Linux, and some of them have no desire to use the command line.

The most common request I have deals with how to transfer files using only the GUI. When transferring a file to a folder that has root-level ownership, I use "sudo" to temporarily invoke super-user rights and transfer the file. A beginner will usually try to do this using the file system click and-drag-interface (called Nautilus). They will not be able to drop a file into a root folder this way. What they can do, however, is to close all folders and type in "sudo nautilus" into a terminal. They will then be prompted for the "su" password and it will launch Nautilus in root permission mode. Now they can drop files into root folders.

Permissions are there for a reason, though, and I try to emphasize that they should really know what they're doing. This happens most often when wanting to install a new font or perhaps a set of brushes for the GIMP. There may be ways to do this that avoid the terminal entirely (like installing a super-user version of a file-system interface), but usually when people use the terminal just for something as simple as sudo launching Nautilus, they get curious and may want to learn more, which is a good thing.

Thanks to Richard from Longmont, CO for submitting this GUI tip.

### **Great GUI Tips!**

These are excellent GUI tips. They make Linux look much less mysterious. Thank you! Got any more?

### **Give Us Your Linux Tips and/or Questions**

*If you have an opinion on these or other Linux topics, then please let us know. Also, if you have another Linux tip that works for you and would like to pass it along (or have a question), please drop us a line at Linux Lessons (ceeditor@computoreedge.com).*

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This is a column for Linux and Unix-like operating system users. The goal is to give Linux users an opportunity to share tips, tricks and ideas with both fellow users and the *ComputerEdge* Linux newbies. Each week in this column, we will highlight the thoughts you submit to us. This is your column. As long as a submission is dealing with the Linux/Unix-like world, we want to share it.

The tips and tricks may be short or long, and can include graphics. If there is a little technique or program that you use on a regular basis, then we want to hear about it. You may also pose questions for other Linux users to answer. E-mail your ideas or questions to Linux Lessons ([ceeditor@computoreedge.com](mailto:ceeditor@computoreedge.com)). Be sure to put the words "Linux Lessons" in the subject line so it won't get lost in junk mail. We depend upon you to make this column a success.

Jack Dunning

*ComputerEdge*

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*ComputerEdge* always wants to hear from you, our readers. If you have specific comments about one of our articles, please click the "Tell us what you think about this article!" link at the top or bottom of the article/column. Your comments will be attached to the column and may appear at a later time in the "Editor's Letters" section.

If you want to submit a short "ComputerQuick Review", or yell at us, please e-mail us at [ceeditor@computoreedge.com](mailto:ceeditor@computoreedge.com).

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# Rob, The Computer Tutor

## Rob, The ComputerTutor Does Microsoft Access “Calculated Fields” by Rob Spahitz

Last week, we explored report header and footer sections. This week, we'll explore report calculated fields and some better ways to help users input data.

Last week, we explored report header and footer sections. This week, we'll explore report calculated fields and some better ways to help users input data.

As usual, if you'd like to see previous version of the database, look for them at [www.dogopoly.com/ce](http://www.dogopoly.com/ce).

Back in the November 21 issue, we discussed calculated fields for forms. The idea is the same for reports, except that you are likely to use them in different ways. We may want to show some sales totals or averages or various other values based on an accumulation of numbers or dates.

On the States report we created last week, we might want to show the total number of regions in each country. An appropriate place for that would be in the footer section of each region. In this case, that would be the CountryName Footer. On the report, go there and drop a textbox in that section lined up with the StateName field in the section above it. (If necessary, drag the section to be a bit bigger so you can get the field in there.)

When you add this field, it will show a box with the word "Unbound" inside. You'll also get a corresponding label that will show something like Text15. Update the caption property in the label to Total: and then update the Text box with a better name, such as txtStateTotal (and why not update the label while you're at it to lblStateTotal?).

Now for the key part. We need to update the text box's Control Source property. Normally, if you want to bind this to some data, you pick a field from the drop-down list in the property window. However, the total number of records in a given group is not usually stored. Instead, we need to create a calculation that will produce the desired value. If you know what to do, you can enter it directly into the field. If you're unsure, try clicking on the "..." button and you'll see the Expression Builder, which we explored previously, as seen in Figure 1.

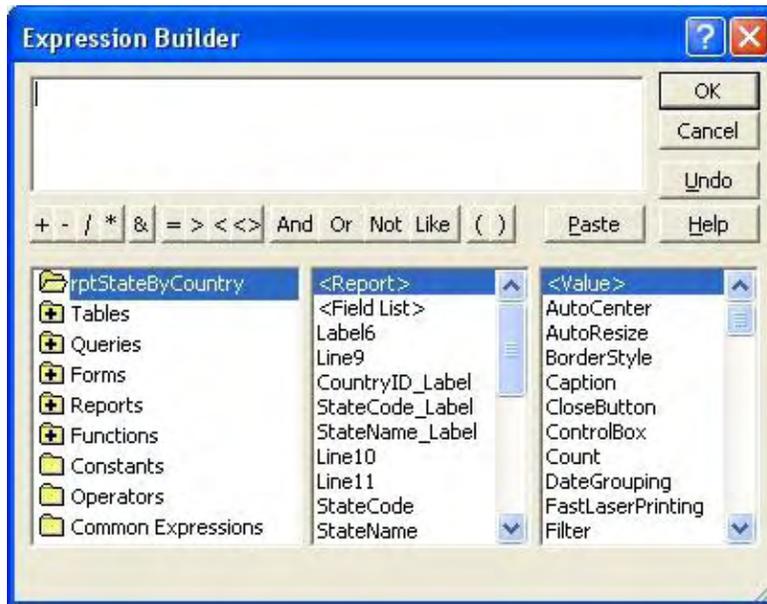


Figure 1. The Expression Builder.

Double-click on the Functions folder and select the Built-In Functions folder to see what options you have to help with the task at hand. The second column contains an entry called SQL Aggregate, which includes things you might use in SQL to handle the things mentioned above, such as the Sum and Avg. As seen in Figure 2, one of those choices is the Count function.

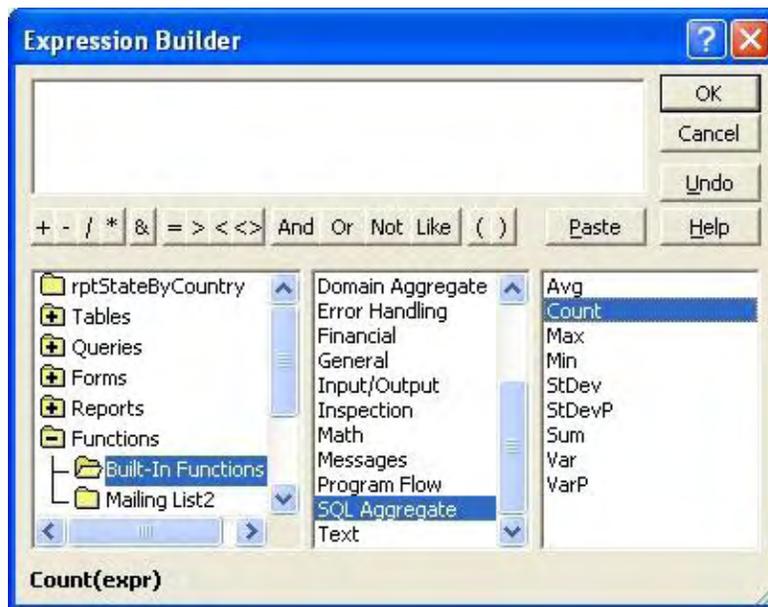


Figure 2. Functions for Totals.

The Count function will count a collection of fields or calculations. In this case, we want to count the number of StateName records. If we apply this in the report footer, it will show every record. By adding it into the CountryName Footer, it will count the States within the current Country. So enter "Count(StateName)" into the Expression Builder box and click the OK button. This will add an equal sign ("="), but now when you run the report, you see the totals appear after each country, as seen in Figure 3. Problem solved! Note that the total shown in the figure is for the 10 Canadian provinces and three territories.

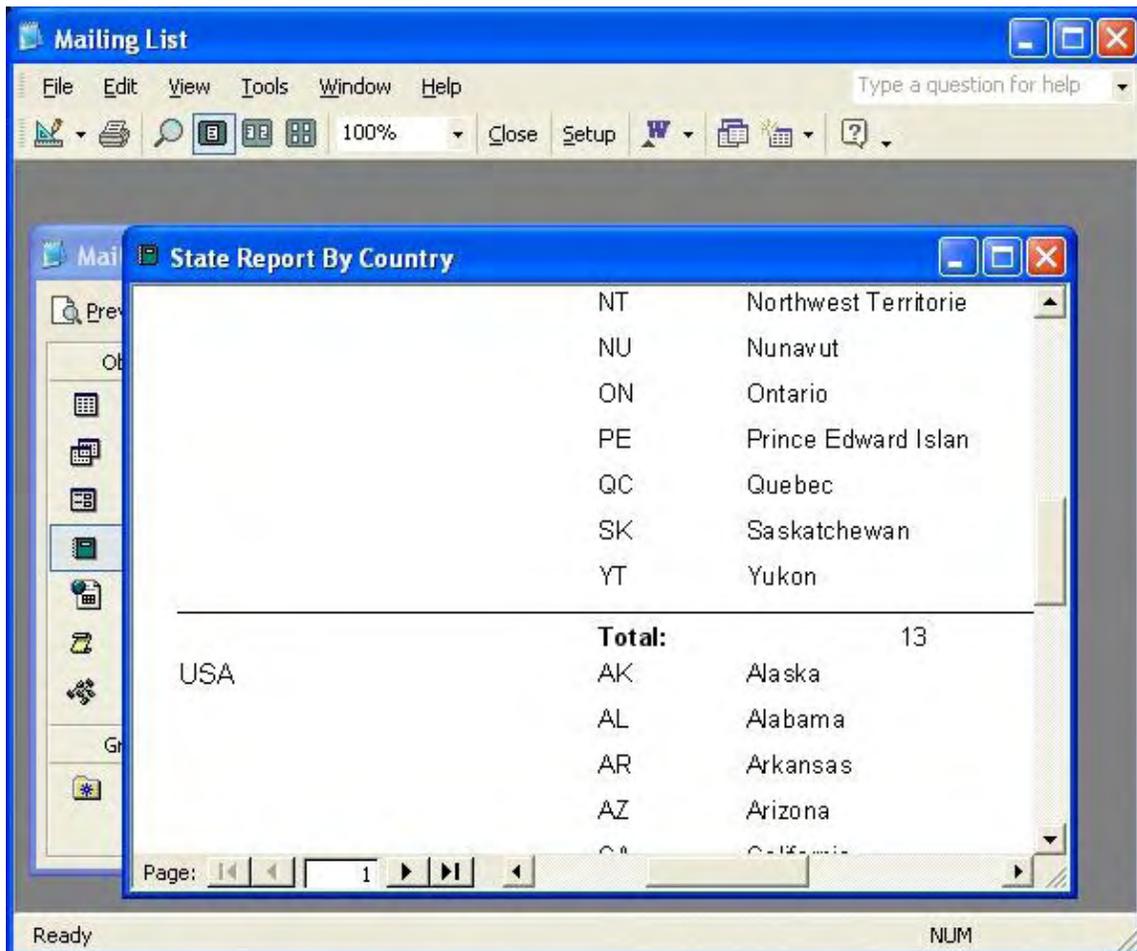


Figure 3. State count by Country.

## Parsing Input

To build a user-friendly data-entry form, you'll want to learn how to accept arbitrary text and process it to make it do what you want.

For example, instead of getting the user to input a first name, jump to the next field, then enter a last name; entering both into one field would be much easier for the user. And instead of entering an address one field at a time (street, city, state, country, ZIP code), how about letting a user enter all of it into a single box, and then letting the program figure out where the pieces belong? If you've ever tried this in Microsoft Outlook, it handles it quite nicely.

Let's start with the simpler name parsing, then try a few things to help get the address.

Open the Person form (frmPerson). We're going to make a form that lets you search for a person in the database, but this could also be used to help the user enter data.

Let's open up the header so we can add a search field. Since this section does not exist on the form, go to menu View/Form Header/Footer, and you'll see the Header section. Now add a Text box around the one-inch mark so there's room for the label. Change the name of the Text Box to txtPersonName and make it wide enough for a reasonably large first and last name. For Control Source, leave it blank. We want it to be unbound, since the user can put in anything, and we'll make sure it goes to the right place. Finally, add some appropriate text in the label, such as "Person Name."

Since we'd like to use this Text box to locate a person, the first thing we need to do is decide when the search should occur. Should it be on every letter typed in? Maybe when you tab out of the Text box? How about when we push a separate button?

Add a Command button to the right of this box, and when the wizard starts, choose category Record Navigation and then Action Find Record. Default through, and at the end name it cmdFindPerson. This is not really necessary, but it helps to create parts of the procedure to make our lives easier. When done, it should look something like Figure 4 in Design view.

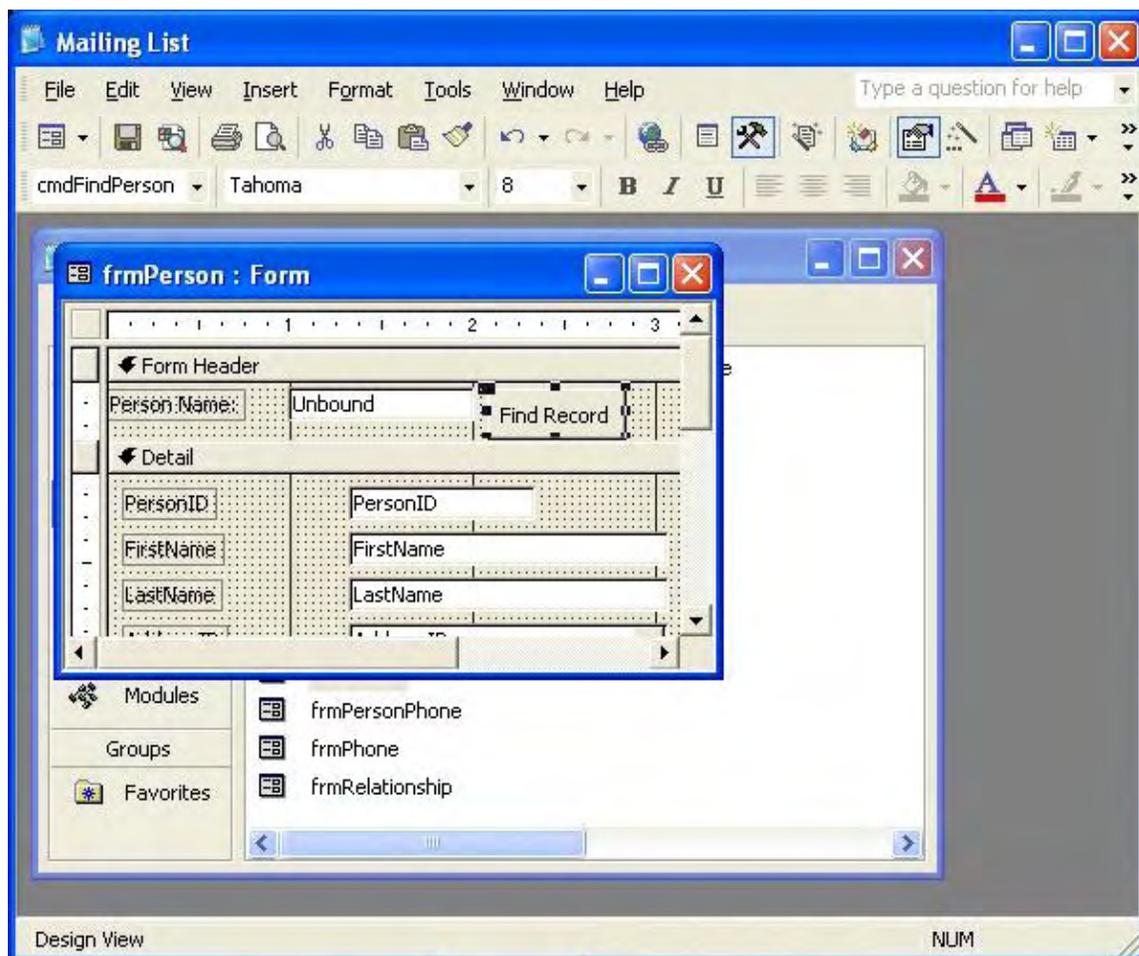


Figure 4. Find Record feature.

With this in place, if you try it, you'll find that the button doesn't work properly. We'll need to reprogram it. So back in

Design view, select the button and go to the On Click Event property and get into the code with the "...". You should see this code:

```
Private Sub cmdFindPerson_Click()
On Error GoTo Err_cmdFindPerson_Click
    Screen.PreviousControl.SetFocus
    DoCmd.DoMenuItem acFormBar, acEditMenu, 10, , acMenuVer70
Exit_cmdFindPerson_Click:
    Exit Sub
Err_cmdFindPerson_Click:
    MsgBox Err.Description
    Resume Exit_cmdFindPerson_Click

End Sub
```

The two lines that we're concerned with are the ones that start with Screen and DoCmd. Remove those and let's replace them with something that will take the contents of the Text box and make a filter for this form.

First we'll create variables to hold the First and Last names:

```
Dim strFirstName As String
Dim strLastName As String
```

Now we need to figure out how to get the contents of the Text Box into the fields. It turns out that there is a nice feature in VB to split a block of text at a given character, like a space: Split. It splits the text and puts the results into an array, so we should add a variable for that. VB variables that hold array information should contain parentheses. For the Split function, you should not specify how many parts there will be, so just add this:

```
Dim strNameParts() As String
```

In our case, if there is a full name, it will split it into an array with two parts numbered 0 and 1. Add this to capture it:

```
strNameParts = Split(Me.txtPersonName.Value, " ")
strFirstName = strNameParts(0)
strLastName = strNameParts(1)
```

Last, we need to build a string to put into the Filter property of the form. The Filter property works just like an SQL WHERE clause, but without the WHERE word. So our goal should be to make it show something like: FirstName = 'George' AND LastName = 'Washington' (with the single quotes).

So let's add another variable to help us construct this. And as mentioned in a previous article, it's a good idea to add all your Dim statements near the top of your subroutine.

```
Dim strFilter As String
```

Now, after putting a value into strLastName, add the following to build this filter:

```
strFilter = "FirstName = 'George' AND LastName = 'Washington'"
```

This isn't quite what we want because the first and last name should be replaced with the information we collected from the Text box. That gets a bit tricky, so let me show it then explain it:

```
strFilter = "FirstName = '" & strFirstName & "' AND LastName = '" & strLastName & "'"
```

What we wanted to do was replace George with strFirstName, but George is text and strFirstName is a variable. If we just put strFirstName where we have George, then it would treat my variable as text. Instead, we must close the string after the first single quote:

```
strFilter = "FirstName = '"
```

With that in place, we can now add (concatenate) the variable:

```
strFilter = "FirstName = '" & strFirstName
```

Now we want to add (concatenate) the next part, but that's part of the original text, so we need to open up with another set of double quotes, so you need to concatenate another piece. Since Washington must also be replaced, include up to the next single quote and close this block with a double quote:

```
strFilter = "FirstName = '" & strFirstName & "' AND LastName = '"
```

Almost there. Concatenate the name of the variable with the last name. If you stop here, it will fail with an error when you try to use it. It's not a VB error; it's an SQL error. So VB doesn't care and will happily let you accept this. The problem is that the LastName field is text, so when you apply a filter, the value must be surrounded with single quotes. We added the starting quote (after the last equal sign) and need to wrap it up with another single quote. To get this, we need to concatenate it to the end of our calculation:

```
strFilter = "FirstName = '" & strFirstName & "' AND LastName = '" & strLastName & "'"
```

Finally, we need to put this into the Filter property (and make sure that the filter is enabled):

```
Me.Filter = strFilter
Me.FilterOn = True
```

You should now have something like this:

```
Private Sub cmdFindPerson_Click()
On Error GoTo Err_cmdFindPerson_Click
    Dim strFirstName As String
    Dim strLastName As String
    Dim strNameParts() As String
    Dim strFilter As String

    strNameParts = Split(Me.txtPersonName.Value, " ")
    strFirstName = strNameParts(0)
    strLastName = strNameParts(1)

    strFilter = "FirstName = '" & strFirstName & "' AND LastName = '" & strLastName & "'"
    Me.Filter = strFilter
    Me.FilterOn = True
Exit_cmdFindPerson_Click:
    Exit Sub
Err_cmdFindPerson_Click:
    MsgBox Err.Description
    Resume Exit_cmdFindPerson_Click

End Sub
```

If you enter several names into the database, then try the filter, it should load just that one record for you.

Note that right now, if you enter less than words, you get an error (but it's properly trapped!), and if you enter something not in the database (such as misspelled names or extra spaces), it shows a blank record.

Next week we'll explore a few more things that you can do in VBA to assist with this data entry, and also look into handling the street address entry dilemma mentioned earlier.

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Rob has been in the computer industry for over 25 years and is currently a part-time teacher, offering classes in Excel, Access, Visual Basic, and a variety of other technical tools. He has loved *ComputerEdge* since 1990 and can be contacted at [RSpahitz@Dogopoly.com](mailto:RSpahitz@Dogopoly.com).

Looking for a great boardgame? Grab a copy from [DOGOPOLY.com](http://DOGOPOLY.com) (*dogopoly.com*) and have a dog-gone great time.

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## EdgeWord: Another Malware Tip

“Beware Bogus Spam Scams” by Jack Dunning



Remember, be suspicious of all e-mail, even (or especially) if it comes from your bank or Microsoft. Never use e-mail links to access your accounts.

I pick up so many different accounts with my e-mail program that it makes it easy for me to spot spam. I usually get multiple copies of the same bogus e-mail to each of the accounts, many of which are rarely used. I know immediately that it's a scam and start deleting all of the messages.

However, it occurred to me that people with only one account may not recognize a fraudulent e-mail quite as easily—especially if the recipient happened to do business with the supposed sender. At some time, you've probably received the e-mail shown in Figure 1:

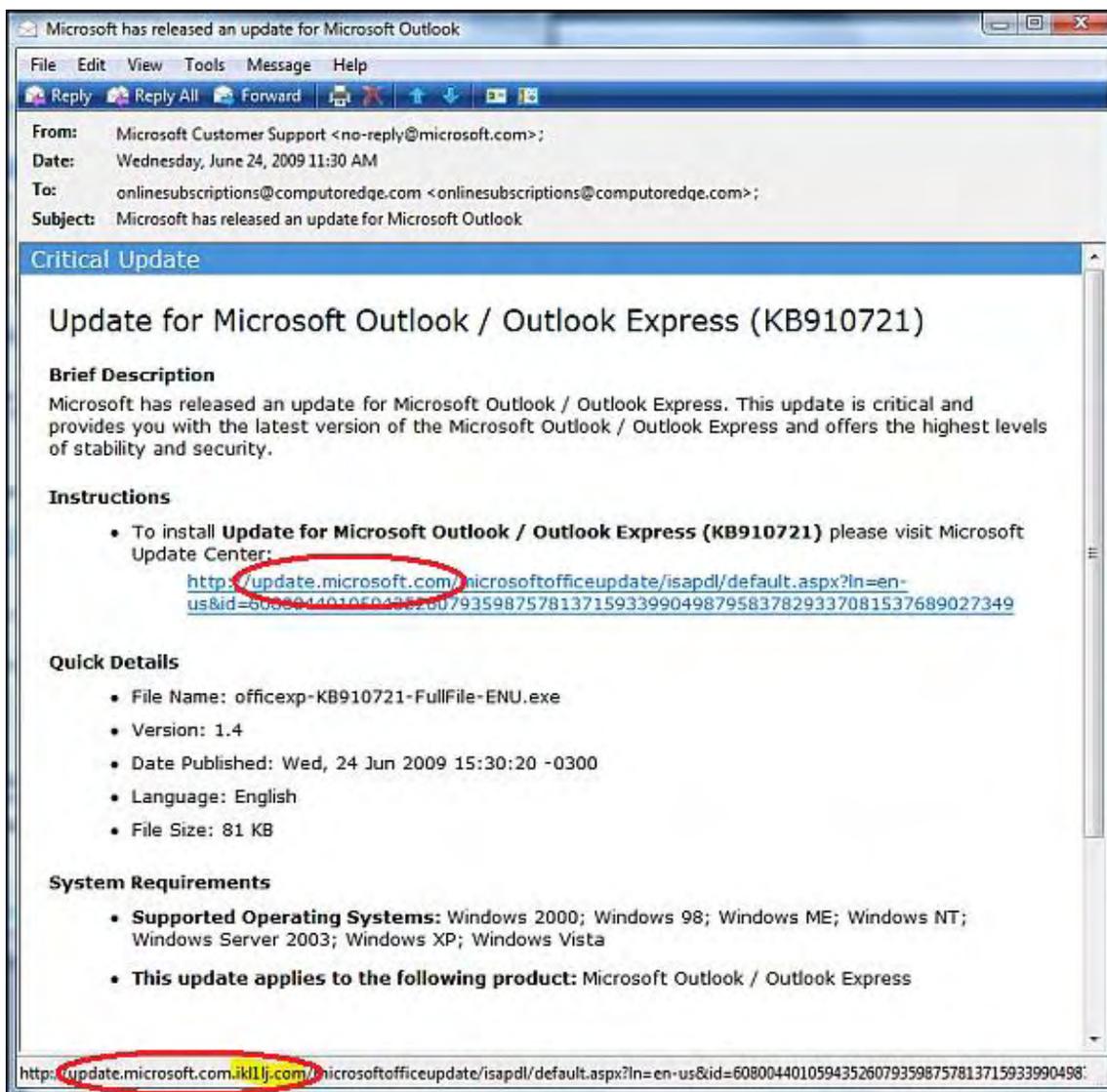


Figure 1. Bogus e-mail that looks like it's from Microsoft.

It appears to be an official e-mail from Microsoft, telling you that there is a critical update for Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express. This is only one example of the many official looking e-mail attacks. Often they appear to come from banks (Chase, Bank of America, USAA Savings Bank), telling you that you need to update your account information (phishing). The e-mails are fairly easy to ignore (and delete) if you don't have an account or do business with the company in the From address. But, if it appears to come from one of your institutions, the questions start racing through your mind.

The nefarious spammers that send out these messages are playing a numbers game. They don't know who has an account

with whom, but they do know that if they send out enough random e-mails, they will hit some people with accounts at the subject business. (With the Microsoft sham e-mails, the odds of hitting an actual user are exceptionally high.) If you do receive an e-mail that appears to come from your bank, there is a sore temptation to click the link. ***Don't do it!*** Instead, delete the message.

No legitimate financial institution should ever send you an e-mail asking you to click on a link, then login. Even if your bank happens to send you a real one, rather than using any link in an e-mail, navigate to their site in your usual manner via your browser. This is the only way that you can be sure that you're dealing directly with the correct people.

This is also true for the Microsoft bogus e-mail above. Use Windows Update or go directly to the Microsoft Support site if you want to see if there is any truth in the message or want more information.

There is a check that you can make on an e-mail that will quickly show that an e-mail is phishing. In Figure 1, there is a link in the text that appears to be from Microsoft. The domain, "update.microsoft.com" (circled in the middle of Figure 1) looks legitimate. Yet, if you hover over the link with your mouse, the status bar at the bottom of the window shows "update.microsoft.com.ik11lj.com" (circled at the bottom of Figure 1). The section "ik11lj.com" (highlighted in yellow) is the true domain that is attempting to copy a Trojan horse to your computer. Hovering over links with the mouse cursor (do not click) and reading URLs is a way to check for bogus e-mails. If the domains don't match exactly, it's a trick and the e-mail should be deleted immediately.

Remember, be suspicious of all e-mail, even (or especially) if it comes from your bank or Microsoft. Never use e-mail links to access your accounts.

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Jack is the publisher of *ComputerEdge* Magazine. He's been with the magazine since first issue on May 16, 1983. Back then, it was called *The Byte Buyer*. His Web site is [www.computoredge.com](http://www.computoredge.com). He can be reached at [ceeditor@computoredge.com](mailto:ceeditor@computoredge.com)

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**Editor's Letters: Tips and Thoughts from Readers**  
**"Computer and Internet tips, plus comments on the articles and columns."** by  
 ComputerEdge Staff

"Linux Issues," "Microsoft's New Bing," "Debian and Hubris," "Linux Column"

### Linux Issues

[This letter is in regard to Jack Dunning's June 12 article, "Linux: The Good, the Bad, and the Confusing."]

In your excellent article about Linux, I think you missed one thing. There are paid alternatives to free Linux. Enterprise Red Hat is one, which provides a stable version with a variety of applications and support. I don't know if there are others, and I have no experience with it, but I think it's worth mentioning. It's intended for businesses that want to use Linux and want to avoid the experimental nature of free Linux distributions.

I started computing on an original IBM PC: no hard drive, one floppy for the OS (DOS), another for the application. Everything was command line; the mouse hadn't been invented yet. I stuck with DOS until my company forced me to use Windows, which I hated. I was probably the last person in the company to switch. When I could finally afford a home computer, it was an Osborne 1, with a different two-floppy OS (CP/M), also a command-line system.

Eventually I got a Pentium machine with Windows, and put Red Hat Linux on it. I was able to handle most of the problems that came up. For a number of years that went well, but eventually I had problems that I couldn't fix. One of my problems was the lack of support for Linux. Yes, I could post my woes on a forum, and sometimes I would get help in a day or two, but I needed answers now. I had too many "Linux bibles," but still couldn't find what I needed. Eventually I gave up and went back to Windows XP, which I find easier to keep running. I am now in my 70s, and not as sharp as I used to be, and that may be much of my problem with Linux.

-Bob Di Giorgio, San Diego

### Closer Look at 32-Bit Versus 64-Bit

[This letter is in regard to Digital Dave's June 12 column, where he discussed 32-bit vs. 64-bit computing.]

I read your article with interest, and followed your points without becoming confused. Your prose is straightforward and your explanations crystal clear.

Oddly, I came to the opposite conclusion you did: I see that I have no need to switch to a 64-bit system for "normal, everyday" computing needs. But perhaps I will be forced to, eventually. Oh well.

Keep up the excellent publication.

-Gary Jones, Lakeside, California

### Microsoft's New Bing

[The following two letters are in regard to Jack Dunning's June 12 Edgeward column, where he discussed Microsoft's Bing search engine.]

I understand that each 1 percent of the search market is worth \$1 billion; 100 million ads may be a great investment. They don't have to "win" any more than *ComputerEdge* has to beat out *Newsweek* in popularity.

-Ron Cerrato, San Diego, CA

Excellent article. Always pleased to get the back story on Gates & Co.

-Joe McGuire, San Diego, CA

## Debian and Hubris

[The following letters are in regard to Dawn Clement's June 12 article, "Hubris and the Linux Installation."]

The people who run Debian distros have a bit of hubris themselves. "Fix it yourself " is their motto. I suggest a Canonical system like Kubuntu or Xubuntu for the slower systems. You will get better support. That has been my experience.

-Art, Evergreen, Colorado

*Funny you should mention Kubuntu, because after much research I have decided to try that flavor next :-)*

*-Dawn Clement, Fresno, CA*

In other words: The dog ate your homework.

-Ron Cerrato, San Diego, CA

*Bad dog, no biscuit!*

*-Dawn Clement, Fresno, CA*

## Linux Column

[Regarding the June 12 Little Linux Lessons column:] As a Windows user, I have been reading the Linux and Mac columns for the past dozen years to remind myself that I'm doing the right thing.

-Ron Cerrato, San Diego, CA

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If you want to submit a short "ComputerQuick Review", or yell at us, please e-mail us at [ceeditor@computoredge.com](mailto:ceeditor@computoredge.com).

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