

JULY / AUGUST 2007



User Friendly

Next Meeting
WEDNESDAY, September 5, 2007
Identity Theft

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Palmia Computer Club



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User Friendly is an electronic publication for members of the Palmia Computer Club. It is published and distributed during the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Managing Editor: Shelton Stern
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User Friendly is your newsletter. It's objective is to serve every member. If you have a suggestion for an article for publication, or if you would like information about a specific topic, please contact the Palmia Computer Club President, or the *User Friendly* editor. This newsletter is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to learn.

Guidelines

Articles (1) must be submitted to the Managing Editor no later than the 10th day prior to the month of publication; (2) should be no longer than 1,200 to 1,500 words (approximately three columns), although longer articles may be published; (3) may be edited by staff for clarity, spelling, grammar, and space available. Articles should be relevant to the membership of the Palmia Computer Club. The choice of articles to be included in any issue is solely the prerogative of the Editorial Staff.

Computer Club Special Interest Groups
SIGs meet from 3:30 to 5:00 P.M. on the specified Fridays unless noted otherwise:

- 1st Friday - Windows.....Jerry Moore
- 2nd Friday - Computer Potpourri.....Barry Robbins
- 3rd Friday - Email and the Internet.....Jerry Moore
- 4th Friday - Photo Editing & Scanning.....Don Yenche

There is also a HELP SIG! This SIG is intended for beginners to answer your basic questions relating to computers (This is not a class). It meets on the first, third and fourth Mondays of each month at 10:00 A.M. The SIG leader is Joe Lebovitz.

Contacting Board Members and Officers

All Board members and officers are available for help or information via email addresses as follows:

- Barry Robbins, President** - pcc_pres@cox.net
- Nick Nickerson, Vice President** - npierce@palmia.com
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- Jerry Moore, Webmaster** - jerryamoore@cox.net

In 2007 the Palmia Computer Club meetings are scheduled for 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of every month except July, August September and December. In September the meeting will be on the 1st Wednesday. No meetings will be held in July, August or December. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for Q&A and socializing. Visitors are welcome. For visitors from outside the Palmia community, our address is: 21455 Monterey, Mission Viejo, CA 92692. The parking lot is on the left, just inside the Monterey gate. Telephone: 949-472-5075.

REMINDER

Special Interest Groups (SIG's) will NOT meet during the months of July and August.

ALL ABOUT VISTA

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From the President's Desk

By Barry Robbins



Thanks to Jerry Moore for the great presentation on creating a website. I am sure many of us are going to try to follow Jerry's direction and create your own website. If you use Cox as your ISP, you are entitled to a free webpage. Maybe now is a good time to take advantage of it.

Well, I finally purchased a new computer with the new Windows Vista operating system. I have been chomping at the bit to do so since Jerry Moore made his presentation on Vista several months ago. Not only am I using the new operating system that is somewhat different from XP, but I also loaded Office 2007 which has some major differences. I guess I am glutton for punishment.

After getting my computer up and running, I attempted to network my printers with my wife's computer. Everything worked great using Windows XP, but, now that I am using Windows Vista, I found I could not network the printers. I tried everything I know but was not successful in getting her computer to see the printers that were connected to my computer. I asked Jerry Moore to come to my house to help figure out what I was doing wrong. After about an hour Jerry threw up his hands and said he tried everything he knew, but could not get the printers to network. Thanks Jerry for the time you spent trying to solve the problem.

As a subscriber to Smart Computing, I remembered that they offered FREE telephone technical support. Since I had tried everything I knew, I figured I had nothing to lose by making a free telephone call to them. A technician was on the phone with me in less than two minutes. After over 67 minutes on the phone trying many different things, he finally got my wife's computer to connect to the printers on my computer. After I hung up, I tried to print from her computer and lo and behold, Roz's computer could not see the printers on my computer. After two more phone calls, it was finally determined that the Symantec Internet Security firewall was blocking access from Roz's computer to mine.

Because of that, I did not have a firewall on my computer. I discovered later that the firewall that comes with Windows did not block access to my printers, so I turned it on. Symantec's tech support has now sent me information that they say will allow use of their firewall and still network printers. As of this writing I have not had the time to try to get their firewall to work. I will let you know in my next article.

Just a reminder, both our SIG sessions and our general meeting will be dark in July and August. **Our next meeting will be on the 1st Wednesday of September instead of the 2nd Wednesday. Our September meeting will be held on September 5th.** We will be receiving a presentation on Identity Theft. Be sure to plan to attend.

At the last PCC board meeting the board approved purchase of a new computer with the Windows Vista operating system. At the present time use of this computer will be password restricted to our SIG and education class instructors.

Have a great summer. See you all in September.

WEB SURFER TIPS

By Jerry Moore

The Apple iPhone



The revolutionary new phone/media player/Internet communications device has arrived from Apple. Click on the links below to view the most recent commercials:

<http://www.apple.com/iphone/ads/ad1>

<http://www.apple.com/iphone/ads/ad2>

<http://www.apple.com/iphone/ads/ad3>

Internet Security

Would you like to learn more about how to keep your computer safe and secure from the bad guys while you're reading your email or surfing the web? Listen to this informative interview with Marc Maiffret from eEye Digital Security at this link:

<http://aolradio.podcast.aol.com/sn/SN-091.mp3>

The
Hi -



Latest
Tech

Gadgets



This is an interesting and informative web site that always has some worth while stories on the latest and greatest high tech gadgets: <http://www.engadget.com>

Store And Share Your Digital Photographs



Upload, organize, tag and share your favorite photographs at <http://flickr.com>

In Flickr, you can give your friends, family, and other contacts permission to organize your photos - not just to add comments, but also notes and tags. People like to ooh and ahh, laugh and cry, make wisecracks when sharing photos. Why not give them the ability to do this when they look at them over the internet?

Software Downloads

Do you need to find a safe and easy place to download additional programs to load on your PC? Look no further than CNet's <http://www.download.com>



And while you're at it, don't forget that there are also many useful programs available on your Computer Club website at <http://palmia.org/html/files.html>

Until next issue, happy and safe surfing.

Moving to Vista – What Not to Do

By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

Microsoft's long-anticipated new operating system, Windows Vista, is finally here. After months of testing I can say that it is a stable program and is more secure than any previous version of Windows. It also has a great new look and some wonderful new features. Just remember that there are always gotchas with a new operating system. Here are a few of the "don'ts" when moving to Vista.

First, five different flavors of Vista are available in the US: Home Basic, Home Premium, Ultimate, Business, and Enterprise. Don't bother with Home Basic. It doesn't have "Aero", the rich new visual interface. It doesn't have the advanced multi-media features for photos, movies, and television. It doesn't even have the cool new chess or mahjong games. All of this is missing, but Microsoft is still selling the Home Basic upgrade for \$99. The full version of Home Basic is \$199. If you buy a new computer with Vista, make sure that you get at least the Home Premium version. You can get a comparison of the different versions of Vista and what they offer at the Microsoft website.

Another don't....don't try to upgrade without a large hard drive and at least one gigabyte of memory. You can use the Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor to determine if your computer is ready for Vista. Most older computers will come up lacking. So, you may not want to upgrade at all. Although Vista's better security is enticing, if you are happy with your Windows XP machine you may want to keep using it a bit longer because it may be not be economically beneficial to upgrade. The Vista product upgrade can cost several hundred dollars. That plus the cost of extra memory and/or other hardware upgrades may make it wiser to just purchase a new computer with Vista preinstalled.

Don't expect every software program to work with Windows Vista. Intuit, the makers of the popular Quickbooks program have notified their users that no older versions of Quickbooks will run on Vista. Only an upgrade to Quickbooks 2007 will let Quickbooks users run the program on a Vista computer.

Because of the major security changes in Vista, most antivirus programs will also need an update to be able to run on Windows Vista. If you purchase a new computer it may come with a trial subscription to Symantec or McAfee that will get you started but you will have to purchase a new version in the future or move to a free antivirus program. Again upgrading an old computer may be problematic because the old antivirus software will need to be removed before the new version is installed. Experience has taught me that it is often difficult to remove all the various pieces of an existing antivirus program. This is one experience you may want to avoid.

Some programs will also have trouble with Windows Vista new user controls which make it more difficult to make changes to your computer. This bolsters the operating system against hackers, but can confuse some existing programs. Simple changes or work arounds for these types of problems can easily be found on the Web. For instance, I couldn't run Adobe Photoshop CS2 upon installation on my Vista machine, but a few simple changes which I found documented on the Web, solved the problem quite easily.

Also any specially written or high-end software programs may not work with Vista. This will not affect the average user, but if you have any unusual or specialty programs you will want to check out compatibility.

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DIGITAL CAMERA CORNER



History of the Digital Camera

By Mary Bellis

Digital camera technology is directly related to and evolved from the same technology that recorded [television](#) images. In 1951, the first [video tape recorder](#) (VTR) captured live images from television cameras by converting the information into electrical impulses (digital) and saving the information onto magnetic tape. Bing Crosby laboratories (the research team funded by Crosby and headed by engineer [John Mullin](#)) created the first early VTR and by 1956, VTR technology was perfected (the VR1000 invented by Charles P. Ginsburg and the Ampex Corporation) and in common use by the television industry. Both television/video cameras and digital cameras use a [CCD](#) (Charged Coupled Device) to sense light color and intensity.

During the 1960s, NASA converted from using analog to digital signals with their space probes to map the surface of the moon (sending digital images back to earth). Computer technology was also advancing at this time and NASA used computers to enhance the images that the space probes were sending.

Digital imaging also had another government use at the time that being spy [satellites](#). Government use of digital technology helped advance the science of digital imaging, however, the private sector also made significant contributions. Texas Instruments patented a film-less electronic camera in 1972, the first to do so. In August, 1981, Sony released the Sony Mavica electronic still camera, the camera which was the first commercial electronic camera. Images were recorded onto a mini disc and then put into a video reader that was connected to a television monitor or color printer. However, the early Mavica cannot be considered a true digital camera even though it started the digital camera revolution. It was a video camera that took video freeze-frames.

Since the mid-1970s, Kodak has invented several solid-state image sensors that “converted light to digital pictures” for professional and home consumer use. In 1986, Kodak scientists invented the world’s first megapixel sensor, capable of recording 1.4 million pixels that could produce a 5x7-inch digital photo-quality print. In 1987, Kodak released seven products for recording, storing, manipulating, transmitting and printing electronic still video images. In 1990, Kodak developed the Photo CD system and proposed “the first worldwide standard for defining color in the digital environment of computers and computer peripherals.” In 1991, Kodak released the first professional digital camera system (DCS), aimed at photojournalists. It was a Nikon F-3 camera equipped by Kodak with a 1.3 megapixel sensor.

The first digital cameras for the consumer-level market that worked with a home computer via a serial cable were the [Apple QuickTake 100 camera](#) (February 17 , 1994), the [Kodak DC40](#) camera (March 28, 1995), the Casio QV-11 (with LCD monitor, late 1995), and Sony’s Cyber-Shot Digital Still Camera (1996).

However, Kodak entered into an aggressive co-marketing campaign to promote the DC40 and to help introduce the idea of digital photography to the public. Kinko’s and Microsoft both collaborated with Kodak to create digital image-making software workstations and kiosks which allowed customers to produce Photo CD Discs and photographs, and add digital images to documents. IBM collaborated with Kodak in making an internet-based network image exchange. Hewlett-Packard was the first company to make color inkjet printers that complemented the new digital camera images.

The marketing worked and today digital cameras are everywhere.

The Mystery of File Extensions Explained

By Dave Gerber, Advisor, Region 1 Sarasota PC User Group

GIF, JPG, TXT, DOC, HTML, WAV, BMP, ETC

You'll see them over and over again as you encounter manuals, web sites, and anything related to your computer. Tons of file extensions. Whole pickup truck loads of 'em running back and forth on the info highway. File extensions are easy enough to understand, and with just a bit of history, you'll know everything you need to know about files, and not a bit more.

Back in the DOS days (DOS stands for Disk Operating System), before the invention of Windows, every file had to be named with a maximum of 8 characters, and could include a three letter "file extension." For example, lets say you want to save that recipe for Quevos Rancheros. You were forced to use a maximum of 8 characters. So you call it queranch. You were limited. Severely. So, then, along came the long file name. You can use a whole mess of characters now, calling your file "My greatest recipe using eggs and tortillas since the invention of the wheel." The sentence between the quote marks is the name of the file, or "filename." The stated character limit is 255, but in reality it comes in just a tad under, like 253 or something. The techies can quibble over that. Regardless, it's l-o-n-g. And more than adequate to describe the content of your creation!

Now, notice that many files have extensions. They all do, really. In fact, your computer doesn't know what to do with a file if it doesn't have an extension. The extension is the three letter part following the main name. (You didn't see an extension on my quevos rancheros example, because it was left off.) Here's an example: My Word processing report.doc. The ".doc" part of the file's name tells Windows to use the program that's associated with .doc files to open it. So, let's say you've got Microsoft Word installed. Whenever the Windows operating system realizes you've clicked a file with the extension ".doc" it fires up Word, and Word opens the file.

There are lots of file extensions. Here's a table for you that includes a few common file types you may encounter during your web travels.

txt	Text File, such as Notepad produces
doc	Document File, for example, MS Word
gif	Graphics Interchange Format (graphics)
jpg	Joint Photographic Experts Group (graphics)
pdf	Portable Document File
htm	Hypertext Markup (special coded text files)
html	Hypertext Markup Language (ditto)
zip	Compressed file requiring special software to decompress the file
pdf	Portable Document File (universal text file)
wav	Sound files
bmp	Bitmap files (graphics)

If you try to open a file extension that's unregistered (unregistered means Windows doesn't know what to do with it 'cause there's no association in the Windows Registry), Windows throws the Open With dialog box at you. This dialog box lets you decide what program to open the file with. For example, try to open the file named 'java.usj'. You get the Open With screen as a result. Since nothing on the computer is set up to edit or open a '.usj' file, you have to locate and use a program that "understands" that type of file extension. Now that's another trick altogether! That's another article.

Is An HDTV Worth Buying Even Without an HD Source?

Question:

We bought a huge DLP HDTV for our basement, and we just love it!. We're now looking at buying a new TV for our bedroom, but I'm completely lost this time. I don't want to rent a new HD digital cable box, and all we want to watch on it is regular cable programming. So my question is, if I want to buy a plasma or LCD TV that we can hang on our bedroom wall, what should I be looking for? EDTV? Would an HDTV set offer a better picture, even though it's not an HD source? Is there some other stat or rating I should be looking for? Help!

Answer:

Buying a new TV right now is one of the most complex consumer purchases a person can make. Very few consumers understand the options and offerings, and the sales people sometimes are not much help either. On top of that, there are a bewildering number of offerings: There are at least 6 technologies available for actually displaying the image, there are at least 5 relevant screen resolutions, there are at least 9 different forms of video input connections, and there are 18 different broadcast formats approved by the FCC for HDTV (really "digital TV" or "DTV") broadcasting. Consequently, choosing an actual product becomes a bewildering task.

You mention that you don't want to rent a cable box, from which I gather that your intent is to actually receive and use only NTSC-standard (analog) signals direct from your antenna or cable with no set-top box or satellite receiver. While I understand that objective, you should understand its important limitations: The US has decreed that NTSC signal broadcasting will cease on February 17th, 2009. Consequently, after that date, a set used as you describe would "go dark" and could not be subsequently used without an external set-top box (STB) of some type. Since that date is relatively close (certainly it's early in the life span of any TV that you would buy today), let's consider ways to accommodate both immediate use and use after February 17, 2009. And, in the process, we may be able to exceed your objectives.

In terms of signal reception, any "TV set" (as opposed to "monitor") that you buy today will have an NTSC (analog) TV tuner to receive conventional analog TV programming (technically known as NTSC). Our current NTSC TV system was approved by the FCC in March of 1941. Color was added in 1954 and stereo sound was added in 1984, but basically NTSC is a system that is now 67 years old, and it's well past time to move on. However, a set with an NTSC tuner will receive off-the-air analog TV broadcasts, and on most cable systems it will receive unscrambled (non-premium) analog content without any type of set-top box. But only until February 17th, 2009, after which no such signals will continue to be broadcast.

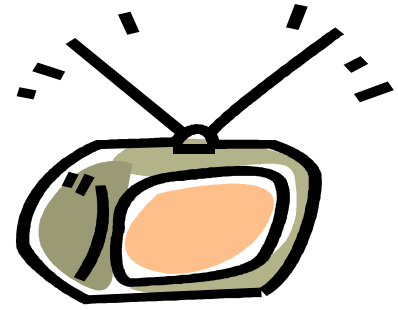
Most but not all "HDTV" TV sets (really better described as "digital TV" or "DTV" sets) will also receive off-the-air HDTV/DTV broadcasts using an antenna. Since this is not universal, however, it's a specification that you need to verify when you consider a particular TV receiver. This feature would be described as an "ATSC tuner". But it is of limited or no use to people who get their TV programming via satellite or cable.

In any HDTV set of any type, look for a good variety of video input signals, including at least composite, S-Video, component video and digital (HDMI and/or DVI) inputs. A VGA (computer) input and multiple inputs of each type are all desirable.

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If you have cable TV, then what you really want is the ability, first, to receive unscrambled (non-premium) HDTV channels on your cable system without any type of converter or set-top box. And, second, the ability to receive scrambled premium HDTV content on the set, also without a set-top box. Fortunately, in many but not all cases, both of these objectives are possible.



What I am about to say is cable-TV system specific, so if you want to receive digital cable programming without a STB (and keep in mind that this will apply to all programming after 2/17/2009), it is imperative that you check with your cable company to find out what they are broadcasting, how it is transmitted, and what you need to receive it (and you won't always get straight answers). But, in general:

-If the TV set has a "QAM tuner", it may be able to receive unscrambled non-premium digital broadcasts as transmitted by many cable systems.

-If, in addition, the TV set has a "cable card slot", it may also be able to receive premium scrambled channels without an external STB as well.

A "QAM" tuner is a tuner for digital TV channels as transmitted over many cable systems. Sets with such a tuner will sometimes be described as "digital cable ready".

A "cable card slot" is a slot for a card usually supplied by your cable company (purchased or rented for a monthly fee) that allows the TV to unscramble premium content internally, without an external STB. Physically, a cable card looks a lot like a "PC Card" ("PCMCIA" Card) that goes into a laptop computer.

So, for maximum versatility, what you want to look for is an HDTV (DTV) receiver that has an NTSC analog tuner (off the air and cable analog TV), an ATSC tuner (off-the-air HDTV/DTV), a QAM tuner (digital cable tuner) and a cable card slot (allowing internal decoding of premium content scrambled TV channels). Note again, however, that even having all of these doesn't absolutely guarantee the ability to receive cable HDTV broadcasts without a STB, as each cable company sets their own broadcasting standards. So check with your cable company. But this is as much as you can currently do to maximize your capabilities both currently and subsequent to February 17, 2009.

Now let's talk about the display. Given your "on the wall" requirement, you are looking for either a plasma or a direct-view LCD TV set.

You mentioned EDTV and, very frankly, I'd avoid that like the plague. EDTV is an intermediate resolution format (neither NTSC nor HDTV) that was kind of a "stop gap" measure created primarily to enable sales of flat plasma panel TV sets at reasonable prices a couple of years ago when true HDTV plasma panels were cost prohibitive (\$4,500 to \$10,000). However, the price of true HDTV plasma and LCD displays has dropped so much that it's hard to justify an EDTV display, and in fact there are not a lot of them still being made. EDTV was an interim standard, far inferior to "real" HDTV, and it's time has passed. Also note that "EDTV" only relates to the resolution and has no bearing, either way, on your ability (or lack thereof) to receive programming as transmitted by your cable company without a STB.

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Much of today's current hardware will work with Windows Vista. Of course, you may want to check the manufacturer's website to be sure before you make that assumption. You may need to update a hardware driver or two. If you have older hardware, some may not work with Vista. So check it out before you move to Vista.

Of all the hardware problems, you can expect the most problems with audio equipment. Windows Vista has a new audio stack which means that it handles the audio data structure differently than older versions of Windows. Also this audio change was made quite late in the Vista development process, so audio manufacturers may not have caught up yet. While this will probably not impact the average computer user, if you have any high-end audio equipment, make sure you check our compatibility before you migrate to Vista.

One last don't....don't worry about the 64-bit version of Vista. If you have a 64-bit processor on your new computer like the Intel Core2 Duo or AMD 64-bit processors you may be thinking about trying out the 64-bit version of Vista. Don't do it unless you want to be on the "bleeding" edge of technology. Most hardware does not currently have 64-bit drivers and the 64-bit version of Vista does not support the widely used 32-bit drivers. Also there is currently very little software that actually takes advantage of the 64-bit system. So leave the 64-bit version as something to dream about. It will be more secure and faster, but it is not yet ready for prime time.

However the 32-bit version of Vista is ready for immediate use. The best way to move to Vista is to buy a new computer with Vista preloaded. Just be sure you check out these gotchas before you put your money on the counter.

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Is HDTV Worth Buying?

You didn't say anything about size, but basically on a wall mounted set of about 46 inches and less, you are probably looking at an LCD set, and over that you are probably looking at a plasma set (there is some overlap in the 40 to 50-inch range). Common LCD sizes include 32, 37, 42 and 46 inches (some other sizes do exist). LCD sets in both 32" and 37" now start well under \$1,000 and typically have a resolution of 1366 x 768. While prices do start well under \$1,000, feature-rich premium sets from top name brands may cost nearly twice as much as low-end sets of the same screen size and format.

Plasma sets start at about 42 inches and go up from there, but 50 inches is a common plasma size. It's now possible to get a 50-inch plasma set (true HDTV, not EDTV) for under \$2,000. There is far less standardization of the size and resolution of plasma screens. Again, similar sets (e.g. same size) may have surprisingly different prices depending on the manufacturer and the features.

In any HDTV set of any type, look for a good variety of video input signals, including at least composite, S-Video, component video and digital (HDMI and/or DVI) inputs. A VGA (computer) input and multiple inputs of each type are all desirable.

ActiveX Controls

What are ActiveX controls and are they dangerous?

Question:

Every once in a while a Web site asks if you want to load an ActiveX control. Usually you click the X button to close the window instead of the OK button, but sometimes you may have to allow it, such as when using Symantec's free online virus scan. Does having these on the computer leave you vulnerable for attack later? How do you get rid of them? Clearing cookies, history, and cache doesn't do it, and Ad-aware doesn't do it. What exactly are ActiveX controls and what do they do? Are there any security risks about them that you should be aware of, and when is it OK to allow ActiveX controls on your PC?.

Answer:

CNET's **Glossary** defines ActiveX controls as "software components typically used to enrich Web pages by calling on the functionality of locally installed Microsoft applications."

http://reviews.cnet.com/4520-6029_7-5748090-1.html

In essence, these controls act as sets of rules that can be downloaded and executed by Internet Explorer (IE). In the example used by CNET, an ActiveX control can confer spreadsheet functionality to your browser, allowing you to view an Excel document within IE rather than requiring you to open Microsoft Excel.

As you can see from the preceding example, this sharing of information among applications is not inherently bad. But to do their job, ActiveX controls require full access to the Windows operating system, and this represents a significant security risk. Just as an ActiveX control on *Symantec's* Web site allows you to run the company's online virus scanner, a similar control on a malicious Web site can direct your browser to download a keylogger, a Trojan, or other files that could allow someone to take control of your PC.

Windows XP Service Pack 2 addresses this security risk through the Internet Explorer Information Bar, which is described in detail here:

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/843017/en-us>

The Information Bar is displayed whenever a potentially dangerous action is detected - and blocked - on the web page you are viewing. When you click on the bar you are given a choice as to how to proceed: Whether to allow the blocked content from being displayed or downloaded, or to seek more information about the risks involved or the nature of the potential threat. When in doubt, you could do worse than clicking the More Information link.

It's important to remember that ActiveX Controls impart *functionality*. Thus, you need to look at the whole picture when determining whether or not to allow a particular control. It shouldn't be surprising that a website offering a legitimate online-based service would require you to download and install an ActiveX Control. Whether it is *Symantec's* online virus scanner, *Crucial.com's* memory scanner or *Dell's* current system configuration utility, these are all instances in which the *context of your browsing activity* will strongly suggest that it is safe to allow an ActiveX Control. And if you are still reluctant

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to do so, close the Information Bar without downloading anything - the worse that can happen is that you will be unable to carry out whatever task you were trying to perform. This, in turn, should corroborate the legitimacy of the ActiveX Control in question.

In contrast, web sites that repeatedly attempt to download ActiveX Controls (or other files) before the page has fully loaded and/or without an obvious functional need should raise some serious red flags. You shouldn't need to download the aforementioned controls in order to do something like play an audio or video file.

Something that can assist you in determining the relative risk of a given website is **McAfee's SiteAdvisor**. This free plug-in for IE places a small button on your browser's toolbar, which changes in color depending on the particular site's safety ratings. To quote Ron Perlman in *Hellboy*, "*Red means stop!*" or in this case, "*Avoid with extreme prejudice!*" You can learn more about SiteAdvisor and download a copy by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.siteadvisor.com/>

Once you have downloaded an ActiveX Control, you can easily disable or remove it from your computer in the following manner:

1. Click **TOOLS** on Internet Explorer's toolbar.
2. Scroll down to **MANAGE ADD-ONS** from the drop-down menu, then
3. Select **ENABLE OR DISABLE ADD-ONS**.
4. The **MANAGE ADD-ONS WINDOW** will now open. Select one of the options under **SHOW** to view the ActiveX Controls in your computer.
5. You can now highlight an ActiveX Control from the list, and either disable it in the **SETTINGS** box, or delete altogether in the **DELETE** box.
6. Press OK to perform the appropriate change.
7. Repeat as necessary to remove other controls.

Of course, one way to avoid the security risks inherent in ActiveX Controls is to switch to a browser that does not rely on that technology. Two excellent alternatives are:

Firefox: <http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/>

Opera: <http://www.opera.com/>

Free Computer Tips Newsletter

One of our Palmia residents, Richard Jenkins, made us aware of this free resource for learning about owning and operating a computer. Terry's Computer Tips Newsletter is sent to subscribers (again, it is **free**) as an e-mail or it can be viewed on-line. In a recent on-line issue the newsletter referenced The World Factbook, published by the CIA-the US Central Intelligence Agency. The Factbook is in the public domain. You can access it at: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publicatins/factbook/docs/contributor>

Other items in the on-line issue talked about 7 Internet Explorer problems; multiple email copies received; router security; cell phone internet access. Terry's Computer Tips Newsletter is found at <http://www.terryscomputertips.com>

Check it out!