

# *User Friendly*



**October  
2001**

## **Next Meeting**

**October 25, 7:30 p.m.  
Oscar Galis - 2Coolpc  
Computer Cooling Problems**

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*User Friendly*

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# From the Boardroom

by Barry Robbins

First of all special thanks to Jerry Moore for running the meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> and for make a fine presentation on the Internet and E-Mail. Jerry's information was appreciated for all those in attendance.

I received several e-mails in reference to our September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting inquiring as to why the meeting was being held on a religious holiday for many of us. When we scheduled the meetings last year, we did not make reference to the Hebrew calendar. As many of you know, the Hebrew calendar does not follow the same format as our regular calendar. When we realized that there would be a conflict, it was too late to make a change as there were no convenient dates when the ballroom was available. I then made the decision to hold our meeting on the regular 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of September. If I offended anyone, I apologize.

New computer viruses have been showing up on a very regular. I still get about two emails per week with infected attachments. I just returned from my Son-in-Law's business where his network of computers was infected with the w32.sircam.nn virus. I had to spend about three hours finding and removing the virus. His computers basically became non operable on Windows programs. Apparently he did not heed the emails that I have sent to him about computer viruses. Using Symantec's Norton Anti-Virus software, I was able to de-

termine which virus had infected his computer. I then downloaded a FREE fix from Symantec's website, and was able to get him up and running again. I hate to continually sound like a broken record, but if you use the internet and do not have anti-virus software that screens your email before it is downloaded onto your hard drive, you not a smart computer user. When deciding on your anti-virus software, make sure that you get software that gives you regular virus definition updates. With the number of viruses out there today, you should be updating your virus definitions on a weekly basis.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Herb Sax for the numerous hours that he has donated to the Palmia community. Herb has asked me to find someone else to run the Friday afternoon workshops that he has single handily run for many years. Herb, we are going to miss your knowledge and patients that you have demonstrated over the years. Best wishes with your new involvement with the Master Association Board. If any of you would be willing to conduct workshops on Friday afternoon, please call me. This involvement can be weekly, monthly or occasionally. If you are well versed in any of the software programs, we need you.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, where Oscar Galis will be presenting 2CoolPC, and the proper way to keep you computer cool ☐

# Microsoft Windows XP

Jerry Moore

For the last several weeks, I have been using an evaluation copy of Microsoft Windows XP Professional on my home PC. I can sum up the experience in one word – WOW! This is by far the best, most user friendly and stable operating system (OS) yet to be released by Microsoft. The first thing you will notice when you install this OS is that your desktop is not cluttered with icons. Although there are probably more programs and features than you



will ever use in two lifetimes, they are conveniently tucked away and out of sight until you need them.

When you click on Start, a customized menu will be displayed for each user that has set up a profile on the machine.

This menu will display your most frequently used applications and is dynamically updated as your usage patterns change.

If you have a CD-ROM read/write drive on your PC, you may discard all that confusing software that came with the drive. WinXP allows you to simply drag and drop to burn CD's; as easy as writing to the floppy disk in your A drive. Also included are the latest Windows Media Player (Version 8) and Internet Explorer (Version 6). With the Media Player you can listen to music and radio, watch videos and live broadcasts, organize your music library and create custom music CD's.

Microsoft has also spent considerable effort to expand the help capabilities, make them more user friendly and provide a simple means for user feed-



back if and when problems are encountered. For example, clicking on Start – Help and Support and then entering the phrase “dual boot” in the search box provides you with a full description of the dual boot process including “hot link” references to related information and direct links to the Microsoft Knowledge Base if your Internet connection is active when you perform the search.

Another area that has been vastly improved is the search capability. Not only can you fine tune searches for files on your hard drive, but you can also search for data on the Internet using this same tool. In the example below, I ran a search for music on my local hard drives and limited the search to music containing the word sinatra.

The search quickly found 82 files and right clicking on a file and selection properties displays all the details such as song duration, audio sample rate and year of recording.

If your search is for images, WinXP will automatically display a small thumbnail rendering of the image.

# Virus Awareness Month:

Reported by Barry Robbins

## Email Attachments

Virus programmers will often attempt to disguise their program as another file by naming it something like wacky.jpg.vbs. When you open the attachment in Windows, you see the 'wacky.jpg' but the .vbs extension (meaning Visual Basic Script), is omitted. Such a file extension could potentially be dangerous to your system, if it's a virus or a worm. (Note: If you ever see a file attachment that has an icon that looks like a light blue 'S', do NOT open it.)

Watch for these file extensions and don't open any attachments bearing any of them: .js, .jse, .vbs, .scr, .shs, and .shb

The issue here is that Microsoft, in an attempt to make their products more friendly, has the default for double-clicking an email attachment as an 'OPEN' command. You can add a layer of security by changing this default to an 'EDIT' command. To do so:

1) Windows Me: Go to the Control Panel and select the Folder Options icon. Now, select the File Types tab and a small flashlight will appear. You may have to wait a moment. Now, when the files

are displayed, find one with one of the extensions I listed above. Select it, and click the Advanced tab. Now, highlight Edit and press the Set Default button.

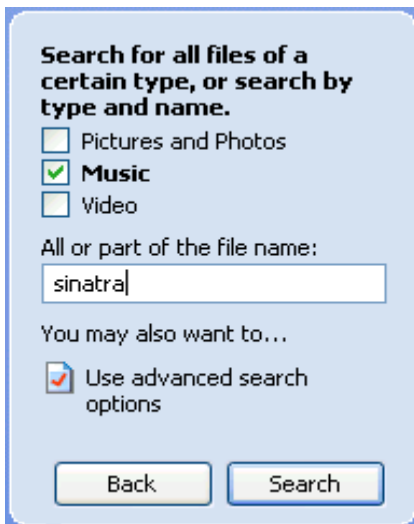
2) Windows 95/98: This is a bit more difficult. Go to an Explorer window and select View, then Folder Options. Click the Files tab and scroll through the file types. You will see the extensions in the small window at the bottom. When you find a file with one of the extensions I mentioned above, click Edit. Now select Edit from within the Actions list and click the Default button.

## Download Procedures

Do you download stuff from the internet? These days, who doesn't? The problem is that some of the files downloaded may be worms, or have viruses attached to them. Before running ANY software downloaded from the internet, no matter the source, run a virus checker against the downloaded files. A few extra seconds worth of work just might save you from several hours of recovery.

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## Windows XP Continued from page 3



Overall, I believe Microsoft has a real winner here. The colors and graphics are pleasing to the eye; the interface is easy to follow and IT HASN'T CRASHED ONCE. Do be aware however that WinXP likes lots of RAM memory and hard disk space. Using the above search capabilities for files greater than 1 megabyte in size, XP found 453 of these consuming close to 3 gigabytes of hard drive space so plan accordingly ☐

**Join a SIG - learn and share with fellow  
computer club members**

### **Virus Scanners**

The way most virus-scanning products work is by using a massive database of known viruses to scan your hard drive for files or stubs that are known virus offenders. Many products also have email scanners, monitors, and continual scanners, along with other features.

The problem with many of these products is the “continual-scan” feature. If you’re on a work-based network, this function is usually controlled by the network administrator, and should be left alone. If you’re a home computer user, the continual-scan function is not very useful if you perform regular scans. In addition, the constant scanning greatly slows down your system. Also, many scanning products perform a boot scan of applications at start-up that greatly increases the boot time.

My advice would be either to schedule a scan of your computer at regular intervals depending upon email and Internet use, and turn off the auto-scan. This will greatly improve computer performance and, as long as you are running your scans yourself, will not significantly decrease your system’s protection mechanism.

### **Who Writes This Stuff?**

After hearing about a virus, you might be wondering who writes viruses and why do they do it? This is not a simple question, and has actually been the subject of many studies all around the globe. (Click the link below to find an article written on that very subject.) People who write viruses appear to come from all walks of life. The most common excuse hackers give for writing destructive viruses is the following: “...to expose the frailty of the system.” Perhaps, but this bothersome as well as pathetic excuse to engage in sociopathic behavior exonerates the writer only in his own mind and distances him from the damage he causes.

Simply put: There is absolutely no legitimate reason to write intentionally destructive programs other than to inflict damage to other people. Viruses, worms, Trojan horses, and other destruc-

tive programs are not a form of expression, a show of talent, or a hobby; writing any or all is a degenerative act propagated by misguided need for respect that only seems legitimate to the author.

I dare any of these virus writers to face the thousands of persons who have had emails, pictures, notes, books, ideas, and dreams destroyed and explain that they were simply trying to “expose the frailty of the system.”

### **Virus Hoaxes**

Do any of these names sound familiar: It Takes Guts To Say Jesus, Budweiser Frogs, Elf Bowling, Pen Pal Greetings, and Sandman? What do these have in common? They are all virus hoaxes. A virus hoax is usually transmitted in the form of an email stating that a new horrible virus is running amok and you’d better be informed, or else. The email usually ends with something like, “Send this to everyone you know.”

Now believe it or not, virus hoaxes are almost as bad as real viruses. Many viruses and worms clog bandwidth, slow down servers, and clog networks. The internet chain mail hoax unintentionally make cause the same problem. Many times people receiving these emails, unknowingly send them to 20, 30 or more people thinking that they are doing good. Actually, they’re simply placing undo burden on the servers that must handle these emails.

If you receive an email claiming to warn you about the horrors of a new virus and asking you to send it out to others, it’s probably a hoax. There is a link to an article at the bottom of this page along with a link to a Web page that contains nothing but virus hoaxes. Use it to determine whether the email is legitimate. If not, put the email where it belongs, in the trash bin.

### **What Are Worms?**

Technically, worms are not viruses. The term “worm” was derived from a book called “The Shockwave Rider” by John Brunner, in which the main character takes out the evil government’s computer with a program called Tapeworm. Interestingly, original worm programs were designed to

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## **Virus Awareness Continued from page 5**

be helpful. Actually, the first destructive worm, Morris, was a good program that crashed, causing networks to crash along with it.

In general, a worm is a program that enters your computer in some fashion and then begins to perform a function. Keep in mind that worms do not require a host program to operate. Some of the more famous worms are programs such as the Morris worm, Anna Kournikova (not the tennis player but the worm named after her), Code Red I and II, and Annoying. Such worms wreak havoc among unsuspecting persons who inadvertently run the offending programs.

Unlike viruses, worms do not need any kind of user intervention or action to begin their nefarious activity. Once on a computer, a worm immediately begins its destructive task, and at the same time, looks for connections by which it can replicate and transmit itself to other host computers. In a contest between viruses and worms, worms win as potentially the more destructive of the two.

### **A New Virus - Nimda.A@mm**

*Discovered on: September 18, 2001*

*Last Updated on: September 21, 2001 at  
08:14:01 AM PDT*

Symantec Security Response has received a number of submissions on W32.Nimda.A@mm and

is rating it as a Category 4.

W32.Nimda.A@mm is a mass-mailing worm that utilizes multiple methods to spread itself. The worm sends itself out by email, searches for open network shares, attempts to copy itself to unpatched or already vulnerable Microsoft IIS web servers, and infects both local files and files on remote network shares.

The worm uses the Unicode Web Traversal exploit. A patch and information regarding this exploit can be found at [www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms00-078.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms00-078.asp).

When the worm arrives by email, the worm uses a MIME exploit allowing it to be executed just by reading or previewing the file. Information and a patch for this exploit can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/MS01-020.asp>

If you visit a compromised Web server, you will be prompted to download an .eml (Outlook Express) email file, which contains the worm as an attachment. You can disable "File Download" in your Internet Explorer internet security zones to prevent this compromise.

Also, the worm will create open network shares on the infected computer, allowing access to the system. During this process the worm creates the guest account with Administrator privileges □

## **Workshops**

Our newly formatted workshops started in September. The session conducted by Jerry Moore on Email and the Internet drew a particularly large and enthusiastic crowd. For those of you who missed it in our last issue, below is the schedule we are following.

The 1st Friday of each month will be a workshop hosted by Herbert Sax devoted to basic computing. This is where beginners can obtain help and guidance in becoming familiar with the basic functions of their computer.

The 2nd Friday will be a workshop hosted by

Jerry Moore devoted to e-mail and the Internet.

The 3rd Friday Herb will address Microsoft Office issues – primarily Word and Excel.

The 4th Friday Don Yenché will host a workshop devoted to photo editing, graphics and digital photography and scanning.

Workshops are held in the Crafts Room from 3:30 - 5:00. They are conducted in a relaxed, informal structure, and are open to all Palmia residents. So please stop by any Friday afternoon with your questions and we will try to help □

## **One-on-One Basics**

Joe Lebovitz conducts one-on-one sessions with beginners each Monday between the hours of 10 a.m. and Noon, except for the second Monday of each month. Call him for details □

# Prehistoric DTP,

## or publishing in the Stone Age.

..by Ken Fermoyle, TUG-NET

While preparing to start a desktop publishing (DTP) SIG recently within my home user group (Technical & User Group Network, or TUG-NET, San Fernando Valley, Calif.), I ran across material that brought some chuckles, and memories. It took me back to the Stone Age of producing print material with very early microcomputers, before the term “desktop publishing” was coined. And even earlier.

That prompted this little article, which I share in the hope that you also might find it amusing, and that it might trigger memories of some of the more outrageous work-arounds you used back in the days when computers were less sophisticated. I feel also that it makes a good introduction for me and this new column, helping you “know” the faceless writer to some small degree . . .

Back in the '70s and early '80s, I produced newsletters and such using three typewriters: an old Olympic portable with Elite type, an IBM electric with proportional type (pre- Selectric, but I forget the model) and another machine with big Orator type. The latter normally was used for speeches, but I used it for headlines. Doing a typical newsletter involved switching a page from one typewriter to another frequently—and lots of WhiteOut!

Then came microcomputers. Wow, what progress. Or was it? Changing fonts and type sizes wasn't a whole lot easier than with my old 3-type-writer setup. During user group meetings then, we had many discussions about utilities that made it possible to do such fancy things as bolding and italics. Wonder of wonders.

Doing two columns on a page was the Holy Grail we pursued, and you may not believe how I finally accomplished it. But I'll tell you anyway.

A full-page-width head ran at top, under the masthead. (I had cheated on that; had a friendly typesetter do it for me and make numerous repro copies, which I pasted on by hand.) Below the head I started entering the lead story, also full width, or two columns. I did about the first five or six lines like that, but then came the tricky part.

I had set the tabs so that I could type a line that went halfway across the page, the width of the left column. Then I would hit the tab key and go to where the second (right-hand) column started. So, when I got to where I wanted to start the two columns, I did the first line of the head for story #2 in bold caps, hit the tab key, and wrote the next line for lead story. I continued that process all the way down the page: first a line for story #2, tab, and another line for the lead story. I even had column 2, the lead story, justified! Column 1 was ragged right, but not terribly so. Took a lot of backing and filling to accomplish that.

The kicker is that I didn't write the stories in advance and then copy them into place; I made 'em up as I went along. It was one of my finest hours, folks! Of course, everybody else thought I was nuts. “Why didn't you just type the stuff up in single columns and paste 'em in place?” they asked.

Why, indeed? Like the man said about the mountain: it was there, a challenge not to be ignored.

Then came things like the 0.7 Beta version of Ventura Publisher, accompanied by a couple of dozen poorly-copied pages which eventually would grow to a full-fledged User Manual. That was another challenge for a novice software tester. Now we have \$75 DTP programs that are astoundingly powerful. And \$500 software that can do what used to require teams of professionals and machines costing many, many thousands of dollars.

But I'm glad I was around during the Stone Age. It wasn't always easy, but it was fun □

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*Ken Fermoyle has written some 2,500 articles for publications ranging from Playboy and Popular Science to MacWeek, Microtimes & PC Laptop. He was cohost/producer of radio talk show on computers and a partner in a DTP service bureau during the '80s. Fermoyle Publications currently offers editorial, consulting & graphics design services. He can be reached at [kfermoyle@earthlink.com](mailto:kfermoyle@earthlink.com).*

# What to Consider Before Buying Windows XP

*This is a timely addition to the review article on page 3*

By LARRY BLASK

*Associated Press Writer*

Windows XP is scheduled to be available to the general public on Oct. 25, but before joining the throng who will upgrade, there are things to consider.

The first is cost. The four versions of Windows XP cost anywhere from \$99.99 to \$299.99. If your current system is running Windows 98 SE or Windows ME and you and your applications are happy, perhaps you don't need to upgrade.

The next consideration is your existing hardware and operating system. Windows XP is a hardware hog. The minimum requirements for XP Home edition are 233-MHz processor and 64 MB of system memory, plus 1.5 GB of hard disk space. Recommended requirements are 300-MHz processor or higher (400 or higher if you want to use the video capture feature) and at least 128 MB of system memory.

You can't upgrade at all if you aren't running at least Windows 98.

Compatibility with your existing software is another issue. There is a chance it might not work under XP, and there is no way to know for sure in advance. Expect the installation itself to take an hour and 10 minutes or so. Reviews of the beta installation have been mixed, but all mention a barrage of commercials for other Microsoft products and services. And they've also noted that XP absolutely insists on being registered, either over the Internet or an 800-number.

The big benefit of Windows XP is that it is based upon Windows 2000, which is said to be more stable and better at handling system memory. All other versions of Windows, from 3.1 to ME, were really MS-DOS in heavy makeup.

You also need to sort out the XP versions. XP Home is intended as a replacement for Windows



98 or ME. It comes in a full version for \$199.99 or as an upgrade for \$99.99.

Windows XP Professional is intended as a replacement for Windows 2000 Professional. An upgrade is \$199.99 and the full version is \$299.99.

Almost all home users need only consider the Home version, which will be installed on any new PC ordered since it was released to manufacturers August 24.

Besides better stability the major benefits promised are faster boot-up, better interface and a system troubleshooting utility that is written in plain English and actually solves problems.

All that said, unless you get paid, as I do, to jump off technical cliffs to find out what's at the bottom, the advice from here for existing PC owners thinking of an upgrade is to wait until 2002, when any serious flaws in the shipping product will have surfaced and, hopefully, been fixed □

## Excel: Inserting Every Other Row

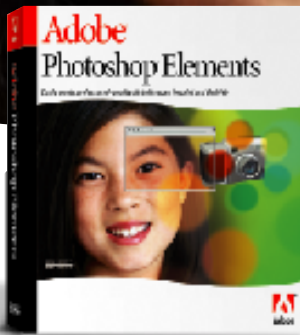
By Herb Sax

Inserting a single row or column in Excel is simple. For purposes of illustration, let us consider only rows. If you want to insert a blank row between rows 1 and 2, select row 2 (click on the appropriate row number on the left side of the worksheet), hold down the Ctrl key, and press the plus (+) sign.

Inserting more than one row between any two rows is also simple. In the above example, select row 2, hold down the Shift key, and select row 3. Now do Ctrl and the plus sign, and two rows will be inserted between rows 1 and 2. When you select data while holding down the Shift key, you select contiguous data, whether it is in Excel, or Word, or many other Windows-based programs.

Inserting one row between, let us say, rows 2 and 3, 3 and 4, 4 and 5, etc. is a bit more difficult. Here you must select non-contiguous rows. Start with a new worksheet and enter some data in cells A1 through A6. Select row 2, hold down the Ctrl key and select the rest of the rows, one by one. Finally, insert the rows as noted above. You will now have a row between each row.

Unfortunately, Excel does not yet have a feature to do this automatically □



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# A Timely Lesson From a Donkey



One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided the animal was old and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly.

Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally

looked down the well and was astonished at what he saw. With every shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off! Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up!

Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less ☐

## Web Surfer - Websites for Seniors

Collected by Ali Tabikh

The Internet' has a wealth of information for senior citizens, here are a few good ones:

1. [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org), the National Council on Aging gives free access to details on federal and state assistance programs for older Americans. It takes about 15 minutes to input your financial information in a questionnaire, "BenefitsCheckUp", then lets you know what programs you might be eligible for and how to apply. No personal identification is required, only details such as your age, income and ZIP Code will do.

2. The Social Security Administration offers retirement planners on its site, at [www.seniors.gov](http://www.seniors.gov). It has details on insurance, housing planners and travel tips with currency calculators. There's also a checklist for seniors on dietary supplements.

3. [www.Seniorlaw.com/resource.htm](http://www.Seniorlaw.com/resource.htm), offers links to all kinds of legal and health-related sites and phone numbers. Its resource page links to help on elder law and care, government agencies, searchable statutes and court decisions.

4. [www.edd.ca.gov/swaoind.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/swaoind.htm), This is a resource directory with everything from guidance on career planning to training and education and

job-finding services for older adults who wish to work.

5. [www.seniorsites.com](http://www.seniorsites.com), You can find information on nonprofit housing and services for seniors. It covers more than 5,000 communities in the United States, Guam and Puerto Rico. The site includes links to senior housing resources, suggestions on selecting a facility and a directory of national and state senior housing associations.

6. [www.senioroptions.com](http://www.senioroptions.com), This site also can help you locate living facilities, adult day-care centers, home health agencies and hospices in the U.S. The services are listed by state and city or county.

6. [www.springstreet.com/seniors](http://www.springstreet.com/seniors), This "HomeStore" site has listings, where you can look for housing geared to seniors. It explains various kinds of facilities, from independent living to nursing homes. The listings work pretty much like the rest of HomeStore, including pictures, floor plans and contact information, when available.

7. [www.senior-center.com](http://www.senior-center.com). Here you can get tips on such diverse activities as gardening, tracing family history and cooking ☐

# Connecting Your PC to Your Stereo

By Bruce Fries

Author of *The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook*.

If you've taken the time to put your music collection on your computer, you'll probably want to listen to it through a good stereo system. Even if your stereo isn't in the same room as your computer, there are several options for connecting the two, including direct analog cabling, USB Audio devices, wireless audio transmitters, and network audio receivers.

The most basic concept of connecting audio equipment is that inputs must always be connected to outputs. Sometimes you will still get sound if you mistakenly connect a sound card output to an output of a stereo receiver. When in doubt, connect the sound card output to the CD jack on your stereo—it's always an input.

Connect high-level (also called line-level) outputs to high-level inputs, and connect low-level outputs (such as a microphone) to low-level (Mic) inputs. Do not use the receiver's phono input jack because this is designed for a very low-level signal and has a special equalization circuit. Avoid using the sound card's headphone or microphone jack to connect to other equipment unless you have no other choice.

Most consumer sound cards have 1/8" mini phone jacks. A mono jack is used for the microphone input, and stereo jacks are used for the line-in, line-out and headphone. Better sound cards may have separate RCA jacks for the left and right channels. These are the same kind of jacks found on most home stereo systems. High-end sound cards may also have connectors for digital inputs and outputs.

The simplest connection between a computer and a stereo system is to run a cable directly from the sound card's line output to a line input of your stereo. To record from your stereo system to your computer, connect a cable from a line-out (or record) jack on your receiver to the line-in jack on your sound card.

If your sound card's line output is an 1/8" stereo mini-phone jack, you'll need an adapter cable (male 1/8" stereo mini-phone to dual male RCA). These cables can be purchased from most consumer

electronics stores, such as Radio Shack, Best Buy and Fry's Electronics.

USB audio devices perform the basic functions of a sound card, but outside of the PC, and are less likely to pick up noise from the PC's electronics. USB audio devices can be used for both recording and playback and are a good solution for notebook computer users who want higher quality sound.

The Roland UA-30 ([www.edirol.com](http://www.edirol.com)) is a flexible USB audio device that supports both Macs and PCs. The UA-30 works great and includes just about every type of input and output connector you might possibly need.

Wireless audio devices can transmit a stereo audio signal up to 300 feet. These devices typically include a transmitter and a receiver with standard RCA line-level input and output jacks. Wireless audio devices provide more flexibility than hard cabled connections, but are much more prone to interference compared to other types of connections.

The MP3 Anywhere Digital Audio Sender by X10 ([www.X10.com](http://www.X10.com)) is a good wireless audio device for most users. It sells for under \$100 and uses the 2.4 GHz spectrum to reduce interference and provide a high quality connection. The MP3 Anywhere also includes a remote control and software, which allow you to control most popular player programs.

The ideal way to transmit audio from your PC throughout your house is by streaming the audio from your PC via a network. A network audio connection eliminates the loss of high frequencies, interference and hum typical of analog cable and wireless connections.

The Rio Receiver ([www.riohome.com](http://www.riohome.com)) is a very capable network audio device that allows you to access individual songs and playlists from your PC anywhere you have a telephone or network jack. The Rio has an LCD interface that displays song title, artist name and other information, and also includes a remote control.

# Who Dat Who Said Winmail?

By Steve Bass

Has this ever happened to you? You receive an e-mail and there's a winmail.dat attached to it. The attachment can't be viewed, decoded, or converted. Any idea what's going on? Well, it's not a rare event and there's not much you can do about it.

This file contains formatting code that was sent by someone using Microsoft Exchange or Outlook. It usually doesn't contain any useful information other than Rich Text Format (RTF) formatting code that permits two MS Exchange users to send e-mail messages with formatting such as bold and italics. (Oddly enough, there's no relationship between RTF files and RTFM instructions.)

When a user sends an e-mail with this formatting option to someone not on Microsoft Exchange, a winmail.dat file appears as an attachment, but it is useless to the recipient.

When a separate attachment, such as a Word 97 document is also sent from the user on Microsoft Exchange, the attachment and winmail.dat file may be combined into a single winmail.dat file our program cannot do anything with.

Here's the deal: Have the sender turn off the option to send Rich Text Formatted e-mail mes-

sages to you. This can be specified on an individual recipient basis but they may have to consult the product documentation for detailed information.

Current versions of the Microsoft programs by default send plain text e-mail to new recipients instead of the RTF text.

For a very rich FAQ, check the Microsoft Exchange Frequently Asked Questions page. It contains answers to questions about Exchange, mostly from folks wrestling with it as their mail client on Win 9.x, where it is also known by the euphonious name of Windows Messaging. Check here:

[www.angrygraycat.com/goetter/exclifaq.htm#suppressrtf](http://www.angrygraycat.com/goetter/exclifaq.htm#suppressrtf).

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## Connecting Continued from page 11

Whatever your choice of PC to stereo connection, you will be able to use your computer as a digital jukebox and take full advantage of the latest digital music technologies to play high-quality music anywhere in your house.

For more information on connecting your PC to your stereo, pick up a copy of ***The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook*** (\$19.95) from [www.TeamComBooks.com](http://www.TeamComBooks.com) or read it online for free at [www.MP3Handbook.com](http://www.MP3Handbook.com) □

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