

Handout for OCNA Computer Club – session #6

September 17, 2005

1. **Buying a new computer** - considerations and trends:
 - a. PC vs Mac?
 - b. Desktop vs Notebook? Portability vs slightly higher price for notebook of same size
 - c. Brand? Sony Vaio, IBM, Toshiba, Dell, Gateway, HP, Apple, Emachines, Acer
 - d. Processor type and speed? Pentium 4, Pentium M; Celeron D; AMD K6-III, Athlon, Duron; Cyrix
 - e. Memory size? 256mb or 512mb
 - f. Hard drive size? 40mb, 80mb, 100mb, 120mb, 160mb
 - g. Battery type – life, care
 - h. Notebook weight – 4-7 pounds
 - i. Desktop - flat screen vs CRT – resolution of display
 - j. CD/DVD Burner? CD-ROM, CD-R, DVD-R, DVD-ROM, CD-RW, DVD-RW, DVD+RW, DVD+R, DVD±RW
Minimum speed - CD 48X; DVD read 16X; DVD write 4X
 - k. Audio speakers – left, right, sub-woofer (\$50)
 - l. What software to ask for? Windows XP Home, free Office software www.openoffice.org/product2/
 - m. Notebook options – docking station or USB hub
 - n. Built-in functions: wireless,

Examples of notebooks under \$500:

Best Buy - Toshiba offered a \$449 version of its Satellite A85-S1072 notebook with a 15-inch display, Intel's Celeron M 360 processor, 256M bytes of DRAM, a 40G-byte hard drive, and a DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive.

CompUSA, Acer Inc. had a \$499 AS3502WLCi notebook on sale with a Celeron M 360 processor, a 15-inch widescreen display, 512M bytes of DRAM, a 40G-byte hard drive, and a DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive.

Dell's \$499 Inspiron 1200 came with a 14-inch display, a Celeron M 350 processor, 256M bytes of DRAM, a 30G-byte hard drive, and a DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive.

IBM ThinkPad (Levino) R Series - \$599 & up – Centrino Mobile chip, 5.8#, 14.1" or 15" TFT screen,
2. Review of **Computer & Internet Basics** – lets discuss your issues:
 - a. Windows navigation – cut/paste, drag/drop, alt-tab short-cut, creating short-cuts, fast start menu, right mouse click, and more
 - b. IE Explorer - using the big e; web searching – add Google search; keeping favorites
 - c. Windows Explorer - finding files, creating folders; find at Start/All Programs/Accessories
 - d. Email – etiquette, lists, SPAM, email cleanup before forwarding
 - e. Word – formatting, inserting objects/photos, adding color
 - f. Excel - lists, formatting, sorting
 - g. Data backup – what, how, when
 - h. Printing - paper options, picture cards
3. Latest on **Internet Wireless Services** and **Internet Security** considerations
 - a. ClearWire Wireless Internet www.clearwire.com
Should Cities go totally wireless? http://reviews.cnet.com/4520-6028-6224065-1.html?tag=nl_e501
 - b. Internet security review - firewalls, anti-virus options, avoid phishing scams, ensure IE is updated, create robust pin/password and guard carefully
 - c. Bank and invest online BUT run anti-spyware programs such as Spy Sweeper (\$29.95) which should catch keylogging software. Spybot and Ad-Aware are free anti-spyware programs that are also very good. You should run multiple programs. Komando's shareware - www.komando.com/bestshareware.asp
Pharming is similar to phishing. The difference is your computer is misdirected to a phony Web site when you enter an address in your Web browser. More at http://komando.com/tips_show.asp?showID=8758
4. **Digital Photography** –
 - a. Buying the right camera – type, 3 mpixels or higher, optical zoom + digital zoom, manual/auto focus, recording speed, recording media (Sony memory stick, Compact Flash card, Micro Drive, & more
 - b. Scanning photos/slides/negatives -
 - c. Editing – software with camera or scanner; Adobe PhotoShop Elements; free editor www.picasa.com
 - d. Sharing – downloading, emailing
 - e. Printing – paper, 8x11, 8x14, photo size, tabloid
5. **What next?** Discuss further computer classes and topics;
See new accumulation of useful web links categorized by type on page below or printed on reverse side.

Useful Web Links version 2 - September 2005

Useful Computer & Web Designer Tools

- ? Widget Web Site www.konfabulator.com
- ? Great search tool www.alltheweb.com/
- ? Pickup Email Anywhere www.mail2web.com/
- ? Large file transfer www.dropload.com
- ? Search Sites beyond www.google.com
 - ? www.searchsystems.net/
 - ? www.ussearch.com/consumer/index.jsp
 - ? www.privateeye.com/
 - ? <http://ssdi.rootsweb.com/>
- ? Google's GMail www.google.com/accounts/NewAccount
- ? Google Maps for a web site www.google.com/apis/maps/
- ? Audio Sound Editor <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>
- ? Uninstall Programs Help <http://reviews.cnet.com/4520-3000-7-6218544-1.html?tag=nl.e501>
<http://courses.help.com/>
- ? Create your own web pages www.nvu.com/
- ? Web Page Archive www.archive.org/web/web.php
- ? Search for duplicate web pages www.copyscape.com
- ? Google Functions www.google.com/help/features.html
- ? Product Key Retriever
www.magicaljellybean.com/keyfinder.shtml
- ? CD Photo Tool www.gentibus.com/us/Description.htm
- ? Free Microsoft Viewers
www.microsoft.com/downloads/search.aspx?displaylang=en&categoryid=9
- ? Create a Bootdisk www.bootdisk.com
- ? Excel tools - www.asap-utilities.com/
- ? Clean Registry <http://ct.com/click?q=f4-Y~XEQ0sOSxh31DgyvkjQI9WLfhDR>
- ? CDVista www.gentibus.com/us/Download.htm
- ? Podcasts www.podcast.net, Podcasting News
www.podcastingnews.com, Podcast Alley www.podcastalley.com
iPodder.org www.ipodder.org
- ? City WiFi <http://reviews.cnet.com/4520-6028-6224065-1.html?tag=nl.e501>

Personal Info Sites

- ? Opt-Out Help www.komando.com/tips_show.asp?showID=8904
- ? News Front Pages world wide
www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/
- ? Senior Net - www.seniornet.org/php/default.php
- ? Top 20 Health Web Sites www.healthratings.org/mainsite.html
- ? Virtual Hospital www.vh.org
- ? Online Medical Guide
www.consumerreports.org/main/health/home.jsp
- ? Health Age Calculator
<http://yourfavouriteshop.com/forum/health-age-calculator.php>
- ? Scan Public Records www.pretrieve.com
- ? Conservation – www.energy.gov
- ? Lifestyle & Opinion Columnists www.uexpress.com/
- ? Best Historical Speeches
www.americanrhetoric.com/top100speechesall.html
- ? Old romance comics online
www.jennymiller.com/romancecomics/index.html
- ? Gardening Site www.helpfulgardener.com
- ? Financial/Economical Data www.economy.com/freelunch
- ? Free Credit Report www.annualcreditreport.com
- ? Find Lost Property
www.unclaimed.org/mainframe.asp?VisitorType=owner
- ? Ship & Cruise Reviews www.cruisecritic.com/
- ? Road Trip Planner www.etravelogue.com
- ? Trip Gas Cost Calculator www.fuelcostcalculator.com
- ? Cheap Gas www.ahding.com/cheapgas/
- ? Travel Guide www.timeout.com/

- ? Offbeat Tourist Sites www.roadsideamerica.com/
- ? Complete Cities Info www.craigslist.org/about/cities.html
- ? Radio News – old www.otr.com/news.html
- ? Radio Programs – old <http://radiomemories.libsyn.com/>
- ? Rock & Roll www.rockhall.com/
- ? One Music Site www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/onemusic/studio
- ? Swap Things (3million) www.swapthing.com
- ? Space Site <http://SpaceWeather.com>
- ? Printable World Maps
www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas/
- ? Great Historical Questions www.greatquestionsofhistory.com/
- ? Weather Site www.wunderground.com
- ? Weather Site www.weather.com/activities/travel/businesstraveler
- ? Colorful weather site www.srh.noaa.gov
- ? UW Regents' WHY Files www.whyfiles.org
- ? Great Science Site www.livescience.com
- ? Great Recipe Site www.copykat.com
- ? PBS Home Site www.pbs.org/
- ? Chippewa Valley info site www.chippewavalley.net/
- ? Consumer Guide Home Site <http://consumerguide.com/>
- ? Language translator <http://world.altavista.com/>
- ? Top Web Site Awards
www.webbyawards.com/webbys/current.php
- ? American Public Radio Site
<http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/congravel/>
- ? Infomercial Site www.infomercial-reviews.org
- ? Sounds from Space www.spacesounds.com/home/index.html
- ? Party Planning Site www.evite.com/pages/homepage/index.jsp
- ? House Plans Online www.houseplans.com/
- ? History on Las Vegas www.earlyvegas.com
- ? New Las Vegas Casino/Hotel www.lereve.com/wynn.html
- ? Sending Large File Link www.yousendit.com
- ? Free Directory Assistance www.anywho.com
www.switchboard.com www.whowhere.lycos.com
www.whitepages.com
- ? Space Exploration Simulation <http://celestia.sourceforge.net/>
- ? Shipwreck Maps www.shipwreckcentral.com/map/index.php
- ? Fly Fishing Site www.flyfishinghistory.com/
- ? Universal Currency Conversion www.xe.com/ucc/
- ? Online Dictionary <http://dictionary.reference.com/>
- ? Identity Theft & Fraud Info www.consumer.gov/sentinel
- ? Confusing Words Dictionary www.confusingwords.com/
- ? Coupon Promo Code Sites [Coupon Cabin](http://www.couponcabin.com), [Coupon Craze](http://www.couponcraze.com),
[Current Codes](http://www.currentcodes.com), [CoolSavings](http://www.coolsavings.com), & [KeyCode](http://www.keycode.com)

Games

- ? All kind of Mazes www.clickmazes.com
- ? Children's Educational & Info Site www.anothernewsite.com/
- ? Planarity Game www.planarity.net
- ? Yahoo Game Site <http://games.yahoo.com/>
- ? Optical Illusions www.michaelbach.de/ot/
- ? 20 Questions www.20q.net
- ? Reflex Reaction Game -
www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/sleep/sheep/reaction_version5.swf
- ? Age Your Photo Online www.ifonlylifewasaspredictable.co.uk

Local Newspaper & TV Stations

- Newspaper - www.leadertelegram.com/
- Charter Cable www.charter.com Channel 6 - NBC
www.weau.com/ Channel 5 - ABC www.wqow.com
- Channel 8 - CBS www.wkbt.com Channel 10 - PBS www.wpt.org
- Online www.tvguide.com Area www.chippewavalley.net

Best Shareware Recommendations

- www.komando.com/shareware_cat.asp?catID=1391
- www.komando.com/bestshareware.asp