



Sandwich
Computer
Users Group

Scug News

April 2009

Newsletter of the Sandwich Computer Users Group

WWW.SCUG.ORG

Last Month

Last month Dave Ludwig demonstrated scanning slides. He also explained why he chose the scanner he did, and what he learned about the scanner and scanning the slides. Jerry Kell followed with a demonstration of Picasa 3 showing how easily you can email your scanned slides or pictures from within the program when using Gmail, Outlook and Outlook Express

April Program – Bullzip PDF Printer

This month we will be demonstrating how you can create and modify PDF files using Bullzip PDF Printer. The Bullzip PDF Printer works as a Microsoft Windows printer and allows you to write PDF documents from virtually any Microsoft Windows application. This program is **FREEWARE** with limitations, which means that it is **FREE** for personal and commercial use up to 10 users. It does not contain any advertising or popups.

For more information on PDF's and Bullzip features see Page 6 inside NL.

We meet at the Federated Church in Sandwich 403 N. Main Street on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm unless noted otherwise. The meeting is a great place to learn about computers and meet new friends. Next meeting April 16, 2009. Visit our web site at www.scug.org for more info.

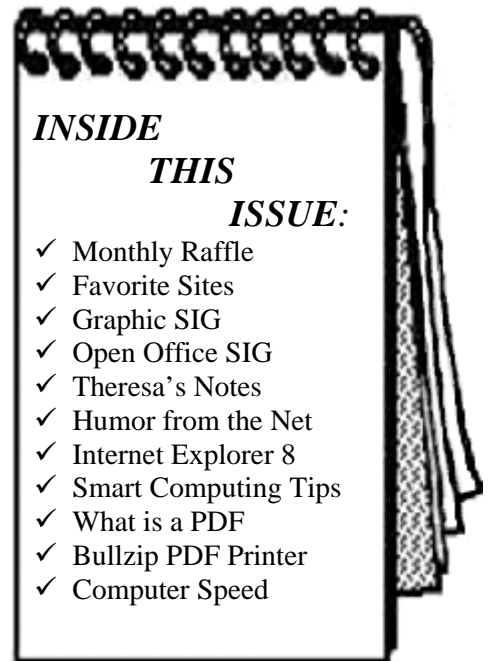
Membership forms are available at:

http://www.scug.org/About_us.htm

Local Business Celebrates 25th Anniversary



The Office Works in Plano is celebrating 25 years in business this year. *Congratulations to a great local business.*



Hours:
Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.— 6:00 p.m.
Sat 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

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April Birthdays

4/8 Dorothy Fleming
4/19 Will Coffin

4/6 Rita Barnett
4/19 Jerry Gartner

4/23 Allen Erbrederis

May Birthdays

3/3 Lois Wessman
3/6 Mary Lieser
3/12 Harry Coffin
3/20 Guy Pearson

3/6 Dennis O'Connell
3/10 Jeanne Greenwalt
3/20 Janet Hallstrom
3/31 Bev Mayer

Monthly Raffle

Monthly Raffle

The raffle for this month is going to be inventory reduction, which could turn out to be quite interesting.

*Debbie Olson,
Raffle Queen*

Favorite Sites

Another website for foodies:

Open the link and touch the keypad located on the left and it will list all of the restaurants beginning with that letter that are listed and the recipes for their most popular items.

<http://www.kitchenlink.com/copycat.html>

Louise Dieden

Viewing and Editing PDF's will never be the same with PDFVue, the easiest and fastest way to collaborate with PDF's online. PDFVue offers features and capabilities previously only found in the most expensive PDF software and we are bringing these features to everyone for free.

www.pdfvue.com

Alice Michalowski

Graphics SIG

March Graphics SIG

A gathering of six were at the March Graphics SIG. We went through transferring address books from Yahoo to Gmail and then answered various other questions.

We concluded with a discussion on how to publish photos on Windows Live.

Laura Caupert

OpenOffice SIG

Open Office SIG

March 14th we held a Calc(spreadsheet) sig at the home of Jerry K's. Seven members were present. The sig lasted about an hour and ten minutes. That was just the right amount of time to demonstrate some of the mathematical and format features in Calc.

The main purpose of a spreadsheet like Calc is the math capabilities the program has to offer. We demonstrated how Calc adds, subtracts, multiplies, and divides numbers you put in cells. We used a home budget for a six month period to show you can create categories, subtotals, and totals to keep track each month what is spent and show average and percentages of those totals. With the format features we added color and bold text to our columns and rows.

Next month we will continue our Open Office SIG by getting into more detail with Base, a database program in Open Office.

Jerry Kell

Theresa's Notes

Theresa's Notes:

There were 29 members at the March 19, 2009 meeting, and 2 guests. Dave Ludwig did a very interesting program on scanning slides. The train slide show was awesome. Jerry Kell did a presentation on Picasa 3. Jerry Grommes won the doorprize which was a label maker.

Treats for next month are Lorraine Hacker and Joan Bernhjelm, kitchen help is Joan McEachern, and set up is Tom Smith. As usual if anyone can come early to help it is always appreciated.

Theresa Bagg

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Humor from the Net

A stranger was seated next to a little girl on the airplane when the stranger turned to her and said, 'Let's talk. I've heard that flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger.'

The little girl, who had just opened her book, closed it slowly and said to the stranger, 'What would you like to talk about?'

'Oh, I don't know,' said the stranger. 'How about nuclear power?' and he smiles.

'OK, ' she said. 'That could be an interesting topic... But let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat the same stuff - grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, and a horse produces clumps of dried grass. Why do you suppose that is?'

The stranger, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence, thinks about it and says, 'Hmmm, I have no idea.'

To which the little girl replies, 'Do you really feel qualified to discuss nuclear power when you don't know sh--?'

Stimulus plan?

Patriotic retirement:

There's about 40 million people over 50 in the work force; pay them \$1 million apiece severance with three stipulations:

- 1) They leave their jobs. Forty million job openings
Unemployment fixed.
- 2) They buy NEW American cars. Forty million cars ordered
Auto Industry fixed...
- 3) They either buy a house or pay off their mortgage -
Housing Crisis fixed.
All National financial problems fixed!!!

COSTELLO CALLS TO BUY

A COMPUTER FROM ABBOTT

If Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were alive today, their infamous sketch, 'Who's on First?' might have turned out something like this:

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: Thanks. I'm setting up an office in my den and I'm thinking about buying a computer.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: No, the name's Lou.

ABBOTT: Your computer?

COSTELLO: I don't own a computer. I want to buy one.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: I told you, my name's Lou.

ABBOTT: What about Windows?

COSTELLO: Why? Will it get stuffy in here?

ABBOTT: Do you want a computer with Windows?

COSTELLO: I don't know. What will I see when I look at the windows?

ABBOTT: Wallpaper.

COSTELLO: Never mind the windows. I need a computer and software.

ABBOTT: Software for Windows?

COSTELLO: No. On the computer! I need something I can use to write proposals, track expenses and run my business. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yeah, for my office. Can you recommend anything?

ABBOTT: I just did.

COSTELLO: You just did what?

ABBOTT: Recommend something.

COSTELLO: You recommended something?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: For my office?

ABBOTT: Yes

COSTELLO: OK, what did you recommend for my office?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yes, for my office!

ABBOTT: I recommend Office with Windows.

COSTELLO: I already have an office with windows! OK, let's just say I'm sitting at my computer and I want to type a proposal. What do I need?

ABBOTT: Word.

COSTELLO: What word?

ABBOTT: Word in Office.

COSTELLO: The only word in office is office.

ABBOTT: The Word in Office for Windows.

COSTELLO: Which word in office for windows?

ABBOTT: The Word you get when you click the blue 'W'.

COSTELLO: I'm going to click your blue 'w' if you don't start with some straight answers. What about financial bookkeeping? You have anything I can track my money with?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: That's right, What do you have?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: I need money to track my money?

ABBOTT: It comes bundled with your computer.

COSTELLO: What's bundled with my computer?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: Money comes with my computer?

ABBOTT: Yes. No extra charge.

COSTELLO: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?

ABBOTT: One copy.

COSTELLO: Isn't it illegal to copy money?

ABBOTT: Microsoft gave us a license to copy Money.

COSTELLO: They can give you a license to copy money?

ABBOTT: Why not? THEY OWN IT!

(A few days later)

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: How do I turn my computer off?

ABBOTT: Click on 'START'



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Internet Explorer 8

Microsoft Releases Internet Explorer 8

Written by Ira Wilsker,
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TX; Radio Talk Show Host
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WEBSITES:

<http://www.microsoft.com/ie> <http://www.ieaddons.com/en>

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Microsoft has released the latest iteration of its ubiquitous browser, Internet Explorer version 8 (IE 8). This browser is for all versions of XP and Vista, and is a 16.1mb download for XP.

I had tried one of the early beta (pre-release) builds of IE 8, and was impressed by its features and speed; a substantial improvement over what I felt was a lethargic Internet Explorer 7. Now I have downloaded and installed IE 8 on all of my computers, and my first impressions of it are quite positive. I have been using Firefox, IE's major competitor, almost exclusively for several years. I was not alone in using Firefox instead of IE, as Firefox has been taking market share from IE for years as it has generally offered more speed, features, and security than IE. Now with IE 8, Firefox has a worthy competitor which has added features, speed and security to challenge the gains made in the marketplace by Firefox.

Within minutes of its release, I downloaded the new version of IE 8 on my work computer. I went directly to Microsoft's IE website at www.microsoft.com/ie to download IE 8. Microsoft identified my operating system, and proceeded to connect me to the proper variety of IE 8, which I downloaded. The installation process was smooth, with several informational windows appearing with install options. One of the first windows to appear was a statement that the IE 8 install utility was going to download the latest version of Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool, and

scan my computer for malware prior to the installation of IE 8. My computer was free of any detected malware, and the installation continued. A reboot was required in order to complete the IE 8 process, which I allowed. After the reboot, a small window appeared displaying the setup sequences of the new software. Subsequent windows offered me the opportunity to install add-ons, and select default search engines. IE 8 imported my selections from IE 7, and asked if I wanted to keep my IE 7 defaults and use them in IE 8, which I did. The final window displayed correctly identified that I had other browsers installed on my computer, including Firefox, Opera, and Safari, and asked if I wanted to import bookmarks (favorites) and feeds from them; I selected yes, and data was imported from my other browsers into IE 8, making them immediately available on that platform. IE 8 did indeed load faster than IE 7 ever loaded, and web pages appeared to load faster, but I have no empirical data to corroborate that.

Accelerators

IE 8 is more feature rich than IE 7, and in many ways appears to emulate the finer points available in Firefox. One feature in IE 8 that offers improved possibilities is "Accelerators" which provide quick access to information by simply highlighting a word, phrase, address, or other item on a webpage. If the proper accelerators are installed, then appropriate information in the form of maps, web searches, translations, email, blogs, and other relevant resources and outputs are immediately displayed.

Web Slices

Another interesting feature in IE 8 that may be of interest to many users is "Web Slices", where the user can automatically monitor desired information, displaying updated information as it becomes available. Web Slices can monitor auctions, sports scores, weather, stock quotes, and other dynamic content, and can directly provide that updated information, without user intervention. If a Web Slice is available on a web page, a green icon will appear in the top right corner of the page; clicking on this icon will add the "slice" to the favorites bar, enabling real-time tracking of the selection. When new information is available about the selected web slices, the relevant web slice will be highlighted. Clicking on the highlight will take the user directly to the updated information.

Smart Address Bar

IE 8 offers a "Smart Address Bar" which displays recommendations as a web address is typed in the address bar. The suggestions are distilled from the browsing history, favorites, and previously selected feeds, as well as Windows Live Search. If a single word is typed in the address bar, the Smart Address Bar will reach out and try to match the term against domain names, making web surfing faster and more efficient.

Improved Zoom

I frequently go online to show my L.I.T. students information on the web. Sometimes the fonts on the web

pages are so small, that students in the back of the classroom can not view the displayed content. IE 8 solves that problem with its enhanced zoom feature, "Improved Zoom". This feature improves the resolution and readability of a webpage, while maintaining the desired layout. Clicking on VIEW – ZOOM allows the user to zoom in or out on a webpage, from 50% (zoom out, smaller text, more information displayed) to 400% (zoom in, larger text, less information displayed).

InPrivate

Web surfers are often concerned about their personal privacy while browsing on the net. IE 8 offers a feature, "InPrivate" that allows the user to control the protection of his personal information while online. When selected, InPrivate deletes the browsing history, temporary internet files, filled forms, cookies, usernames, and passwords when closing the browser, leaving no traces of browsing or search history on the computer.

Automatic Crash Recovery

Sometimes a website appears to crash the browser while being viewed, shutting down all of the opened tabs, and requiring a reloading of the browser. IE 8 offers "Automatic Crash Recovery" where if the content in a tab crashes, the other opened tabs are unaffected, such that other opened pages are not closed or lost unexpectedly. IE 8 will attempt to recover the lost tab once it has identified and resolved the problem.

SmartScreen Filter

Phishing, identity theft, and web-borne malware have become endemic, and a threat to web users. IE 8 includes a "SmartScreen Filter" which incorporates anti-phishing tools to protect the user from imposter websites designed to trick the user into entering his personal information. The SmartScreen Filter also incorporates sophisticated anti-malware capabilities to help prevent web-borne adware, spyware, and other dangerous software from installing itself on the users' computer. If a dangerous website is opened and detected, the address bar and window will turn red on the page, and a prominent warning will be displayed on the red background. Other protection is provided by a cross site scripting (XSS) filter, which can detect and protect from malicious code execution while online, providing additional protection. A cute feature, which can help protect from phishing and identity theft is "domain highlighting" which highlights the domain name in the address bar, with the remainder of the address string in gray, displaying the true identity of the website.

Internet Explorer 8 is much improved over version 7, with improved security and enhanced features. Users of earlier versions of IE should upgrade to IE 8. Users of other browsers should give IE 8 a try, as they may be pleasantly surprised. Even though I have been a loyal Firefox user for several years, I will be using IE 8 far more than I ever used IE 7.

Smart Computing Tips



Smart Computing Tips

As a member of the Smart Computing User Group Program, you are welcome to reprint these tips in your user group's newsletter.

Use Your GPS To Its Full Potential: The next time you're in a strange place with time on your hands and find yourself looking for something to do, let your GPS (global positioning system) help you discover a few out-of-the-way places. Most GPS devices include listings of local restaurants and attractions. Instead of just looking up specific locations, browse the menus to uncover your location's hidden treasures. You never know what you may find.

Make Your Cell Phone Battery Last Longer: If your battery won't hold a charge very well or you don't always have access to a charger, there are a few things you can do to stretch your battery's charge time. When you're not using your phone, turn it off, unless you are expecting an important call. If you are in an area without service, turn your phone off so it isn't searching for signals. If you want to leave your phone on, you can change a few settings on the phone to save battery. Turn your phone's vibrate feature off and use a basic ringtone on low volume. Also, turn your backlight off, as it will take up excessive battery power. Features such as Bluetooth, Internet, cameras, etc., will drain the battery you have left, so try to use these features only when you absolutely need them.

Digital TV Transition: If you are one of the nearly 6% of Americans, according to a January survey from The Nielsen Company, that is unprepared for the switch to digital TV, you'll want to mark June 12 on your calendar. The new transition deadline means that if you use an antenna to receive TV and your television doesn't feature a built-in digital tuner, you only have a little time before you absolutely must connect a DAC (digital-to-analog converter) to watch over-the-air TV.

A DAC (or DTV converter box) converts a digital signal to an analog output that can be used by an analog TV. If your TV has a digital tuner or you subscribe to cable or satellite, you don't need a DTV converter box; your existing cable and satellite equipment already transforms the signal. Only those that receive TV via antenna on a TV with an analog tuner are affected by the transition. To apply for a coupon and get more info, visit www.dtv2009.gov.

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What is a PDF?

Portable Document Format

Portable Document Format (PDF) is a file format created by Adobe Systems in 1993 for document exchange. Formerly a proprietary format, PDF was officially released as an open standard on July 1, 2008, and published by the International Organization for Standardization as ISO 32000-1:2008.

Anyone may create applications that can read and write PDF files without having to pay royalties to Adobe Systems; Adobe holds patents to PDF, but licenses them for royalty-free use in developing software complying with its PDF specification.

The PDF combines three technologies:

- A subset of the PostScript page description programming language, for generating the layout and graphics.
- A font-embedding/replacement system to allow fonts to travel with the documents.
- A structured storage system to bundle these elements and any associated content into a single file, with data compression where appropriate.

PDF (Portable Document Format) is an electronic file that will display and print just like the original document. In order to view or print a PDF file you need a PDF Reader, which is free for download.

Bullzip PDF Printer

The Bullzip PDF Printer works as a Microsoft Windows printer and allows you to write PDF documents from virtually any Microsoft Windows application.

This program is FREEWARE with limitations, which means that it is FREE for personal and commercial use up to 10 users. It does not contain any advertising or popups. For commercial applications with more than 10 users there is a commercial version of the product available at www.biopdf.com.

Features

- Print to PDF from almost any Windows program.
- Runs on Microsoft Windows 2000/XP/XP x64/2003/2003 x64/Vista/Vista x64/2008/Windows 7 (beta build 7000).
- Supports 64-bit operating systems.
- Direct output to the same file each time or prompt for destination.
- Control if the printer should ask if you want to see the resulting PDF document.
- Control output and prompts programmatically.

- Setup can run unattended.
- Graphical user interface.
- Password protect PDF documents.
- 128/40 bit encryption.
- Quality settings (screen, printer, ebook, prepress).
- Set document properties.
- Watermark text, size, rotation, and transparency.
- Superimpose/background documents.
- Appending/prepending documents.
- User interface control.
- Command line interface to all settings.
- COM/ActiveX interface for programmatic control.
- Support for Citrix MetaFrame
- Support for Windows Terminal Server
- Multiple output types supported: BMP, JPEG, PCX, PDF, PNG, and TIFF.

Computer Speed

Computer Speed, RAM and Virtual Memory

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This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

One of the more frequent questions raised is: "will adding more physical memory (RAM), speed up my computer"? The answer is a qualified "maybe". The first thing you need to be aware of are the built-in bottlenecks that can slow down your computer. Programs and data move through your computer at different speeds in different locations. The central processor (CPU) is usually the fastest data handler in the system. The hard drive is the slowest and everything else, including the RAM, is intermediate in data handling speed. The speed of processing data in RAM is measured in billionths of a second, or nanoseconds, and the speed of accessing data on the hard disk is measured in thousandths of a second, or milliseconds. So, ideally, you want all the processing to go from RAM to the CPU and back to RAM. Unfortunately, that's not always possible even if your system has the maximum amount of RAM installed.

Every computer running Windows, from several generations back, uses "virtual memory" in addition to RAM. The definition of "virtual memory" is based on redefining the address space to "trick" programs into thinking they are using large blocks of contiguous memory. Virtual memory is a space on the hard drive, frequently called a "swap file" or "page file". This is a block that is mapped for temporary storage of programs, data, and operating system essentials.

This technique gives an application program the impression that it has contiguous working memory (address space), while in fact it may be physically fragmented.

Virtual memory

Virtual memory was designed at a time when RAM was much more expensive than space on a hard drive. Even though RAM is now much less expensive, the latest versions of Windows (XP & Vista) still depend on virtual memory. In fact, much of the operating system kernel ends up in virtual memory. This kernel memory also controls the allocation of data to virtual memory. Consequently, it is not really possible to eliminate virtual memory when you are running Windows XP or Vista. If you do disable virtual memory, Windows becomes unstable.

In a 32 bit computer running Windows, the maximum memory that can be accessed by the CPU is 4 gigabytes (232). It can not access addresses beyond 4 gigabytes (GB). (A gigabyte is a billion bytes.) Not every computer can accept 4 GB of RAM. Some older computers are limited to 512 megabytes (MB) and still run Windows XP quite successfully. However, if you have a newer computer whose motherboard can accept 4 GB of RAM, you may not be able to fully access all of that RAM. In some cases, RAM is shared with the graphics system. This is usually referred to as an "integrated graphics card". In such a case, up to 1 GB of your RAM may be used by the graphics leaving only 3 GB for the rest of the system. Then Windows takes 2 GB of space leaving only 1 GB for user space (programs and data). Even if some of this is placed in Virtual memory, the CPU still has only 4 GB of addresses. If you have a graphics card with its own memory, Windows will allocate 2 GB to kernel memory and 2 GB to user memory. Since some of the kernel memory will be in virtual memory, your total memory will be a combination of physical memory (RAM) and virtual memory (hard drive), but the total will not exceed 4 GB in a 32 bit computer. Remember, the 4 GB limit applies to the number of addresses that can be accessed by the CPU. Those addresses can be on the graphics card, the hard drive or in physical memory (RAM).

Windows sets up the memory system by dividing memory into pages. The most recently accessed pages are in RAM. Any pages that have not been referenced in a while are written to the file on the hard drive. According to Microsoft the paging file in a 32 bit system can be a maximum of 16 terabytes (one terabyte equals 1000 gigabytes). So the total virtual memory pagefile system can exceed the 4 GB limit by a considerable amount. However, no more than the 4 GB can be actively handled at time. The inactive pages are stored on the hard drive.

Virtual memory not only operates at the speed of the hard disk data access, it also requires special handling before it can be used by the CPU or sent to the video screen. Pages on the hard disk have to be read into RAM to be used. That also means that the space they will take in RAM must be vacated. If there was data there, it must be written to the hard drive,

before the new pages can be read into RAM. This paging process must also be managed. Some memory is used just to keep track of which pages are in RAM and which are in virtual memory. This is the role of the Virtual Memory Manager. All of these processes of reading and writing to and from RAM require time. As a result, virtual memory use does slow the computer more than the amount that is just due to the slower speed of disk access.

Before you decide that you need 4 GB of RAM to solve your speed problem, you need to determine how much RAM your computer is designed to accept. Computers in today's market are sold with anywhere from 1- 4 GB of RAM. However, only a few years ago, computers were designed to accept a maximum of 1 GB of RAM or less. So you need to check your owners manual to see what the maximum RAM is for your computer. Then, if you don't know how much is installed in your computer, bring up the the device manager window from the control panel. The first page will tell you how much physical memory you have in your system. You can also see the distribution of physical memory and virtual memory by bringing up the task manager (Ctrl-Alt-Del) and clicking on the Performance tab.

Other Solutions

There are several other possible solutions to this problem. One is to look at your hard drive. If you have an older computer with an IDE drive, replacing it with a drive that has a SATA interface will speed up the data handling in virtual memory. Another change would be to purchase a graphics card with 256 – 512 MB of RAM and install it in place of the integrated video. That would release the RAM that was being shared with the video card.

The best, and most expensive, alternative for speeding up your computer is to replace your 32 bit computer with a 64 bit system. The 64 bit computers can access 16 exabytes of RAM (264). That is 16 million GB of RAM. Most of the 64 bit computers in todays market do limit physical RAM to anywhere from 8 to 256 terabytes. Not that we're getting into any really large numbers here, but the amount of RAM in a 64 bit machine is more than adequate to reduce virtual memory to a bare minimum. The catch is that 64 bit machines have other problems, especially with the limited availability of 64 bit software and drivers for peripheral devices. So before you decide to switch to 64 bit computing you need to check out whether or not drivers are available for your peripherals.

Finally, if your hard drive is heavily fragmented, this will also slow down data reading and writing. Simply defragmenting your drive will speed up the drive input and output. It may also improve the computer's boot time. As you can see, there are a number of things to consider if you need to speed up your computer.

Dr. Lewis is a former university and medical school professor of physiology. He has been working with personal computers for over thirty years, developing software and assembling systems.