



Sandwich  
Computer  
Users Group

# Scug News

October 2009

Newsletter of the Sandwich Computer Users Group

# [WWW.SCUG.ORG](http://www.scug.org)

## Last Month

Last month, Jerry Kell demonstrated two online companies, one providing a simple backup solution for automatically backing up your data, (up to 2 gigabytes) and the second allowing you to manually backup and then access your data, (up to 50 gigabytes) from any computer. The best feature from both of these companies is they offer a free version of their service.

## October Program ~ LapWorks PIAB (Presentation-in-a-Box)

We hope this presentation "*working with notebook computers more safely and securely*" is informative and enlightening to all who own or are considering purchasing a notebook computer. José Calero, President & Chief Product Architect, LapWorks, Inc. will talk about LapWorks the company; share some interesting facts about the problems associated with overheated notebooks, give information on Ergonomics (what it is and why it's important to you) and much more.

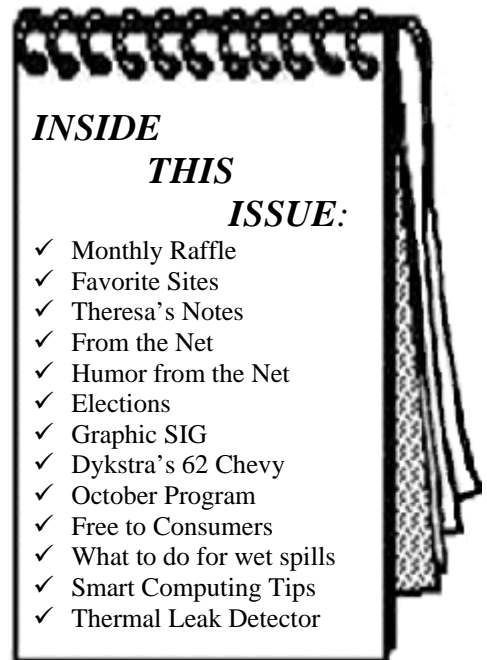
We meet at the Federated Church in Sandwich 403 N. Main Street on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm unless noted otherwise. The meeting is a great place to learn about computers and meet new friends. Next meeting is October 15, 2009. Visit our web site at [www.scug.org](http://www.scug.org) for more info. Membership forms are available at:

[http://www.scug.org/About\\_us.htm](http://www.scug.org/About_us.htm)

## Local Business Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



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



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### Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.— 6:00 p.m.

Sat 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

Sunday Closed

## THE OFFICE WORKS

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### October Birthdays

10/5 Kyle Pearson	10/5 Austin Pearson
10/8 Bob Johnson	10/10 Theresa Bagg
10/11 Steven Mathis	10/17 Marge Knobloch
10/17 Kathy McDermott	10/18 Joan Bernhjelm
10/19 Ron Hawkins	10/21 Louis Mayer
10/22 Mary Grommes	10/26 Allen Bagg
10/26 Will Olson	10/31 Jeff Coffin

### November Birthdays

11/2 Bob Carpenter	11/5 Jake Dykstra
11/6 Tom Smith	11/7 Diane Hawkins
11/9 Joyce Dell	11/14 Conrad Michalowski
11/18 Greg Urech	11/28 Donna Leonard

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[www.prairienet.com](http://www.prairienet.com)

sometime hiking. Fall colors are early this year so plan on doing it soon.

[www.mapmyhike.com](http://www.mapmyhike.com)

*Louise Dieden*

I heard on the radio someone talking about the “bheestie” bag which, for about \$20 will suck the water out of your cell phone. He added, at the end, that putting the phone in a bowl of rice would do the same thing. That gave the item some fun. When I went to Google to get the Web site, below, I found all sorts of remedies, but I didn’t take time to look at them.

<http://www.bheestie.com/products.html>

*Bob Dell*

This website might be helpful to people who use Facebook.  
[www.makeuseof.com/tag/the-complete-guide-to-facebook-privacy](http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/the-complete-guide-to-facebook-privacy)

*Roberta Dykstra*

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## Monthly Raffle

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### Monthly Raffle

The October Raffle will be another salute to paper. I don't know about you, but I am always buying something paper related. So this month's raffle will feature paper related products.

I will be helping present the November program, so there will not be a monthly raffle for November. This will give you extra money to spend on the Special Christmas Raffle and the Year End Raffle.

It has been a fun year for the monthly raffle. New surprises are in store for the 2010 raffle year.

Don't forget - buy USA and buy raffle tickets early and often.

*Debbie Olson  
The Raffle Queen*

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## Favorite Sites

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This is about US servicemen and women. Don't know if you have heard of this group from Australia, but they have been travelling the world singing and have just arrived back home. A wonderful tribute. Cheers!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LL-0mdEg0U4&feature=related>

Who doesn't like to hike in the fall? There is a website devoted to helping you map a hike. This would be handy if you are planning a fall drive and wanted to stop and spend

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## Theresa's Notes

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### Theresa's Notes:

There were 32 members present. Jerry Kell did a very nice program on free online backup and storage. ([www.mozy.com](http://www.mozy.com) and [www.adrive.com](http://www.adrive.com)). Laura Caupert won the door prize. The special raffle will begin in October so if anyone is donating an item for this raffle they should bring it to the October meeting. Treats for the October meeting are Kathy McDermott and Myrna Skopek. Set up is Tom Smith and no one signed up for kitchen help. Any one that can come early and help is always appreciated.

*Theresa Bagg*

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## From the Net

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### Welcome to the Secretary of State's Emergency Contact Database

This database allows Illinois instruction permit, driver's license and identification card holders to enter their emergency contact information into a voluntary, secure database. Starting in August 2009, in the event of a motor vehicle crash or other emergency situation where a person is unable to communicate directly, law enforcement may access this database to help them reach the person's designated emergency contacts.

[www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/ecd/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/ecd/home.html)

### PLEASE READ

Someone kindly forwarded this to me. For those of you who are unaware or get sucked in please take note.

I have been aware of this for years and have been following the Snopes advice, that's why some of you never get an e-mail back from me on one of those "go-around and send this back to me" things.

I hate it when they use religion, Jesus, God, prayers and all that stuff. The messages themselves are sometimes very moving but I dare not to forward, lest I get on a mailing list or get busted by a "hacker."

By now, I suspect everyone is familiar with [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) and/or [www.truthorfiction.com](http://www.truthorfiction.com) for determining whether information received via email is just that: true/false or fact/fiction. Both are excellent sites. Below is their advice for us.

Advice from Snopes.com

1) Any time you see an E-Mail that says forward this on to '10' of your friends, sign this petition, or you'll get bad luck, good luck, or whatever, it almost always has an E-Mail tracker program attached that tracks the cookies and E-Mails of those folks you forward to. The host sender is getting a copy each time it gets forwarded and then is able to get lists of 'active' E-Mails addresses to use in SPAM E-Mails, or sell to other spammers.

2) Almost all E-Mails that ask you to add your name and forward on to others are similar to that mass letter years ago that asked people to send business cards to the little kid in Florida who wanted to break the Guinness Book of Records for the most cards. All it was, and all any of this type of E-Mail is, a way to get names and 'cookie' tracking information for telemarketers and spammers - - to validate active E-Mail accounts for their own profitable purposes.

You can do your friends and family members a GREAT favor by sending this information to them; you will be providing a service to your friends, and will be rewarded by

not getting thousands of spam E-Mails in the future! If you have been sending out (FORWARDING) the above kinds of E-Mail, now you know why you get so much SPAM!

Do yourself a favor and STOP adding your name(s) to those types of listings regardless how inviting they might sound! You may think you are supporting a GREAT cause, but you are NOT in the long run. Instead, you will be getting tons of junk mail later! Plus, we are helping the spammers get rich! Let's don't make it easy for them!

Also: E-Mail petitions are NOT acceptable to Congress or any other organization. To be acceptable, petitions must have a signed signature and full address of the person signing the petition.

### The \$2.99 Special

If you are a senior you will understand this one, if you deal with seniors this should help you understand them a little better, and if you are not a senior yet... God willing, someday you will be...

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the 'seniors special' was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for \$2.99. 'Sounds good,' my wife said. 'But I don't want the eggs.'

'Then, I'll have to charge you three dollars and forty-nine cents because you're ordering a la carte,' the waitress warned her.

'You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?' my wife asked incredulously.

'YES!!' stated the waitress.

'I'll take the special then,' my wife said.

'How do you want your eggs?' the waitress asked.

'Raw and in the shell,' my wife replied. She took the two eggs home and baked a cake.

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## Humor from the Net

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I received a call from a charity organization asking me to donate my old clothes to starving people across the world.

I told them to buzz off! *If they can fit into MY clothes, they are NOT starving!*

## Importance of Walking

Walking 20 minutes can add to your life. This enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$7000 per month.

My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we don't know where he is.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing...

I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound, apparently you have to go there...

Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll say, 'Well, he looks good doesn't he?'

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country...

I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years.... just getting over the hill.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a Happy Hour and by the time I leave, I look just fine.

You could run this over to your friends, but just e-mail it to them

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## Elections

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As the Election committee chairman I am asking that the membership at large be my committee and assist me in putting together a slate of officers for our December Election. Officers shall assume duties and serve a two-year term starting January 1 of even-numbered years.

In order to hold an office or to vote in the December one has to be a *Member in Good Standing* so if you are not up to date on your dues, now would be a good time to do so. Also we expect officers have a good meeting attendance record.

Please consider running (or nominating someone) for an office and help guide SCUG into the future. Elected positions are as follows:

**President**  
**1st Vice President**  
**2nd Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Board Member at Large**  
**Sergeant at Arms**

Their Duties as listed in our Constitution are as follows:

### The President

shall be the administrative head of the organization; shall preside at all meetings; shall enforce the laws and regulations relating to the administration of the organization; shall in the absence of the Secretary, appoint an acting Secretary; shall in the absence of the Treasurer, sign checks as deemed necessary; shall appoint other committees as deemed necessary; shall call meetings of the Board as needed.

### The First Vice-President

shall serve as an assistant administrative officer serving the needs of all Computer users, subject to the duties assigned by the President; shall in the absence of the President, have all the powers of the President; shall in the vacancy in the Presidency, serve as President to fill the remainder of the term.

### The Second Vice-President

shall serve as an assistant administrative officer serving the needs of all Computer users, subject to the duties assigned by the President.

### The Secretary

shall record the minutes of all meetings of the organization and the Board, and distribute them to the Board of Directors; shall handle such correspondence of the organization as requested by the President; shall maintain the files of the organization.

### The Treasurer

shall receive all monies due the organization; shall make all disbursements by check; shall report the condition of the treasury at each meeting of the Board; shall assist the officers of the organization in the preparation of an annual budget and the Internal Revenue Service Report

### Board Member at Large

shall be the liaison between the board and the membership.

### Sergeant at Arms

shall be responsible for maintaining order at the general meetings.

*Jerry Grommes*  
Election Chairman

# Graphics SIG

## September Graphics SIG

Once again we made labels however this time we did them in an Open Office Text Document. It was a real challenge fitting them to the size of the labels, but Jerry came through once again!

Among things discussed were saving documents in the **Rich Text Format \*.rtf** or **Portable Document Format \*.pdf** format (for cross-platform document interchange). We also discussed on-line backups and the Microsoft Producer add-on for Power Point.

Roberta showed us the Power Point Presentation she was making for Jake (it contains audio, video and pictures). Six people were in attendance.

*Laura Caupert*

## Dykstra's 62 Chevy

### The Dykstra's 1962 Chevy Story

The internet and technology are making all sorts of impossible things possible. Here is a great example of positive communication. In 1978 we owned a 1962 Chevy with a 409 cubic inch engine that at one time belonged to my husband Jake's Cousin Eddie. Jake partially restored it and sold it and two other cars in 1979 to buy a new Corvette.



We always regretted selling the car because of the family history. Our oldest son, Young Jake belongs to a muscle car forum on the internet (a website that specializes in cars with a lot of horse power) and he started writing about the 409. There are numerous drag racing stories. There was a person reading that site who offered to locate the present owner of the car by the VIN number (vehicle identification number). He did locate the present owner and Young Jake was able to contact him via e-mail. He was a 64 year old Japanese attorney in Los Angeles, CA. Young Jake and he started corresponding by e-mail and swapping stories and pictures. He was the eighth owner of the car.

After he heard all the family stories he offered to sell the car back to us and we bought it. Jake, Young Jake, our younger son Dave and grandson Jacob flew out to Los Angeles for the weekend and saw the car loaded on a hauler to be shipped back to us. Young Jake made all the arrangements for the air travel, hotel, car rental, professional car hauler on-line. It arrived on Tuesday - 9/15/09 and Jake has been in seventh heaven ever since.

*Roberta Dykstra*



## Indian Valley Computer Services

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## October Program

### LapWorks PIAB (Presentation-in-a-Box)

This presentation "*working with notebook computers more safely and securely*" should prove to be informative and enlightening to all who own or are considering purchasing a notebook computer.

#### What will be covered:

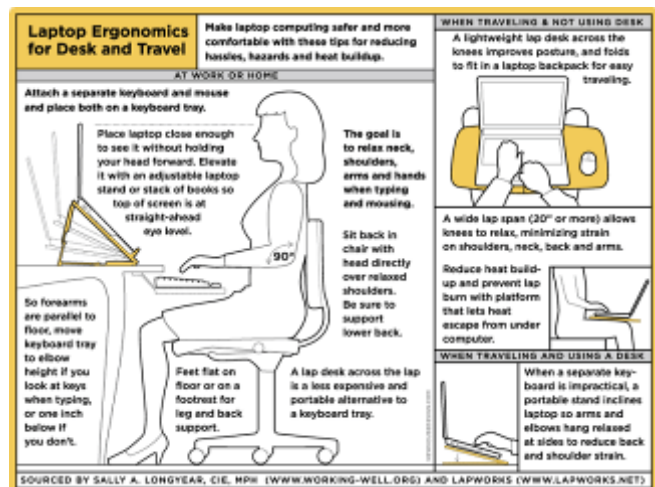
- About LapWorks the company
- What you should know about notebook overheating problems
- What you should know about notebook desks & stands
- What you should know about notebook Ergonomics
- What you should know about LapWorks products
- Q & A

In addition to being very generous to our group by providing the presentation and some very nice prizes, LapWorks is offering a 20% discount (off any order from their web site) to our members, their families, friends and neighbors.



<http://www.laptopdesk.net>

### Ergonomically Correct Laptop-using Posture



**Laptop Ergonomics for Desk and Travel**  
Make laptop computing safer and more comfortable with these tips for reducing hassles, hazards and heat buildup.

**AT WORK OR HOME**  
Attach a separate keyboard and mouse and place both on a keyboard tray.  
Place laptop close enough to see it without holding your head forward. Elevate it with an adjustable laptop stand or stack of books so top of screen is at straight-ahead eye level.  
The goal is to relax neck, shoulders, arms and hands when typing and mousing.  
Sit back in chair with head directly over relaxed shoulders. Be sure to support lower back.  
Feet flat on floor or on a footrest for leg and back support.  
A lap desk across the lap is a less expensive and portable alternative to a keyboard tray.

**WHEN TRAVELING & NOT USING DESK**  
A lightweight lap desk across the knees improves posture, and folds to fit in a laptop backpack for easy traveling.  
A wide lap span (20" or more) allows knees to relax, minimizing strain on shoulders, neck, back and arms.  
Reduce heat build-up and prevent lap burn with platform that lets heat escape from under computer.

**WHEN TRAVELING AND USING A DESK**  
When a separate keyboard is impractical, a portable stand inclines laptop so arms and elbows hang relaxed at sides to reduce back and shoulder strain.

SOURCED BY SALLY A. LONGYEAR, CIE, MPH (WWW.WORKING-WELL.ORG) AND LAPWORKS (WWW.LAPWORKS.NET)

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## Free to Consumers

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### Microsoft's New Tool in the Fight Against Malware Free to Consumers

**REDMOND, Wash. — Sept. 28, 2009** — Microsoft Security Essentials, Microsoft Corp.'s new no-cost, core anti-malware service that helps protect consumers against viruses, spyware and other malicious software, will be available tomorrow, Tuesday, Sept. 29. Microsoft Security Essentials, independently certified by West Coast Labs, is backed by the company's global security response team and is built on the same award-winning core security technology found in the company's security solutions for businesses. It requires no registration, trials or renewals and will be available for download directly from Microsoft at [http://www.microsoft.com/security\\_essentials](http://www.microsoft.com/security_essentials).

"Consumers have told us that they want the protection of real-time security software but we know that too many are either unwilling or unable to pay for it, and so end up unprotected," said Amy Barzdukas, general manager for consumer security at Microsoft. "With Microsoft Security Essentials, consumers can get high-quality protection that is easy to get and easy to use — and it won't get in their way."

Making Microsoft Security Essentials broadly available as a free consumer download for genuine Windows-based PCs is part of Microsoft's ongoing commitment to provide a more trustworthy computing experience for all customers. By making Microsoft Security Essentials easy to get and easy to use, Microsoft hopes to encourage broader adoption of anti-virus protection across the consumer audience, which in turn will help increase security across the entire Windows ecosystem. For business customers, Microsoft continues to offer Forefront Client Security, providing centralized, comprehensive management and reporting capabilities.

### Maximum Security, Minimum Resource Requirements

Microsoft Security Essentials is designed to run quietly in the background alerting users only when there is an action for them to take. It also limits CPU and memory usage, resulting in less impact on the tasks consumers perform every day such as opening documents or browser windows or loading search results, even on older or less powerful PCs. Microsoft Security Essentials uses real-time protection to help prevent PCs from becoming infected, and it is the first Microsoft security product to make use of the company's new Dynamic Signature Service, a technology that helps ensure users stay protected by the most current virus definitions available without having to wait for the next scheduled download.

"Microsoft is focused on the challenges that prevent consumers from running up-to-date anti-virus software today, particularly in emerging markets where there is a growing prevalence of malware," said Jon Crotty, security

analyst at IDC. "With Microsoft Security Essentials, Microsoft is helping to reduce some of the barriers that constrain consumers from running AV."

Microsoft Security Essentials will be available for Windows XP SP2 or SP3, Windows Vista and Windows 7 including Windows XP mode on both x86 and x64 PCs.

Microsoft Security Essentials will be available in eight languages and 19 countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. More information about Microsoft Security Essentials and the product download is available at [http://www.microsoft.com/security\\_essentials](http://www.microsoft.com/security_essentials).

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## What to do for wet spills

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### If Your Computer Gets Wet...What?

Written by Bob Schwartz, a member of HAL-PC, Texas  
[www.hal-pc.org](http://www.hal-pc.org)  
bobx (at) hal-pc.org

*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).*

### What to do if something wet spills on your electronic device or it falls into wet whatever?

The following is not guaranteed but represents years of experience.

Quick, unplug it! Unless there is a likely shock hazard. Look up the instructions (best to do this when you buy it). Find out if there is any prohibition against using ALCOHOL. Alcohol can dissolve some materials.

There are generally two items to have handy. One is *distilled* water to first wash off and dilute any spill, especially anything that might be conductive. The second is alcohol, 90+% isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Ethyl alcohol or ethanol – 90% - will work too. Alcohol has an affinity for water. Rinsing the item first with the distilled water and then with alcohol will dilute, pick up water, carry it away, and evaporate quickly. The higher percent alcohol 90% vs 50% have a greater affinity for water.

Time is important. You do not want water to soak into an otherwise insulating medium, especially water that contains something conductive like salt. It will leave a conductive residue that will short out portions of the device. That is why you want to *rinse first* with distilled water to carry away any conductive residue and then the alcohol to remove the water

film. *Most tap water has dissolved minerals* that remain after the water evaporates, hence the distilled water to rinse these away.

After, and I repeat AFTER, the above cleaning, you can use *very modest heat to help dry out* the item. You can use a hair dryer at some distance. Make sure you don't heat the item any hotter than is comfortable to hold. Some plastic materials deform at relatively low temperatures.

Remember the order:

- (1) **rinse with distilled water**
- (2) **rinse with alcohol**
- (3) **warm gently with hair dryer or warming oven.**

For items immersed in flood waters, the above approach can be tried but the outlook is not promising. Generally the conductive flood waters have had time to soak into the various insulating materials and are almost impossible to remove. Still, it may be worth a try, especially if you have the time and possible success is worth the effort. Distilled water and alcohol are not very expensive. Most circuit boards are coated with varnish to resist moisture. In this case, wash repeatedly with distilled water. Use a soft brush to remove any remaining film such as mud. Then, the alcohol followed by the dryer. Using the dryer prematurely can "set" the offending material to the point that it may be almost unremovable. So save it for the very last step after you are sure things are clean. Your efforts may save part if not all of the equipment.

*Bob Schwartz is a HAL-PC member, retired EE, 14 patents, technical writer, active in civic affairs: President, Brays Bayou Association; Vice President, Marilyn Estates Civic Association; Correspondence Secretary with the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy.*

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## Smart Computing Tips

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### 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.

- **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 also 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 like Bluetooth, Internet, cameras, etc. will drain the battery you have left, so try to use these features only when you absolutely need them.

- **In-Store Recycling:** Electronics that are beyond repair or are no longer compatible with your current components don't serve a purpose around your home, other than taking up space. If you're ready to be rid of these obsolete items, including DVD players, cell phones, and computers, call around to local electronics stores. Often, stores will take in old electronics for recycling. Some stores will charge a small recycling fee for submitting items with screens, such as TVs and CRT monitors, but they'll sometimes supplement that charge with store credit.
- **Be Good To Your Hearing:** The next time you take a flight and want to listen to some tunes, consider using a noise-canceling pair of headphones. Plane cabins are noisy, and in order to compensate, you're likely to turn up your audio to levels that can be harmful to your hearing. Because a noise-canceling pair of headphones will drone out ambient noise, you'll be able to enjoy your songs at a comfortable hearing level.

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## Thermal Leak Detector

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### Thermal Leak Detector

Black & Decker's TLD100 Thermal Leak Detector uses infrared sensors to measure surface temperatures and helps reduce energy costs by finding energy leaks in your home.

You'll instantly identify problem areas around drafty windows and doors, and uncover hidden leaks and insulation "soft spots" around electrical outlets, recessed lights, and along floor molding. When the device hits a cold or hot spot, an LED indicator light changes to blue or red depending on the type of temperature change registered.

Finding and sealing energy leaks can save up to 20% on heating and cooling costs!\*

\*Source: EPA

