



Websites of Interest

www.testmybrain.org
Harvard online brain tests, for research

<http://blindsearch.fejus.com>
compare Google, Yahoo & Bing searches

www.deepastronomy.com/hubble-deep-field.html
the "redneck astronomer's" site



Got batteries sitting around that need to be recycled? Rechargeables that don't recharge?

Batteries Plus in Mount Laurel (1215 Route 73, near Church Rd.) will take batteries for recycling. No purchase is necessary.



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Microsoft Small Business Specialist

High-speed Wireless Internet Access

The United States lags much of the rest of the world in cell phone and wireless Internet access service. Not only is the connectivity slower, but many features available elsewhere are simply not offered in the US. The big problem is a lack of standardization. In most other countries the government sets one communication standard, so the phone companies don't have to go to the expense of engineering phones with different technologies. Can you imagine the chaos if there were different technologies for TV broadcast and you had to use different TVs to watch different channels? That's the reality of cell phones and their networks in the US.

While the rest of the world blazes along, the US works on hobbled Internet connectivity on cell phones and mobile devices that the rest of the world used 5 years ago. Our "3G" (third generation) phones are equivalent to little more than 2G in Europe and Asia; they moved on from that years ago. But there are new services on the way, and WiMAX is about to hit our region. Clearwire, working with Sprint, will offer service in this region beginning October 1. If you have seen cell phone ads on TV promoting the new 4G network, that's WiMAX. But it's not limited to cell phone use. Adapters are available for both laptops and desktop computers.



Comp-U-Tech is teaming with Clearwire to offer the Internet service to our clients. And this is a true high-speed service—speeds that exceed DSL and cable Internet access—and cost less than either. For instance, unlimited use, 3 Mb download/500 Kb upload will cost only about \$30 per month for a fixed-location (desktop) service. Unlimited mobile service with faster download speed (and a fallback to the more widespread 3G network) costs only about \$50 per month. A slower version of each is available for less.

If you already have a stable, high speed Internet connection, what benefit will this be to you? How about as a fail-safe roll-over service. If your company relies on Internet connectivity to keep running smoothly, this is cheap productivity insurance. For a low monthly fee, you have the peace of mind that if your main Internet access goes down, you can quickly switch over to the WiMAX service and continue with minimal interruption to your work.

Contact us here at Comp-U-Tech for more information and to see how Clearwire WiMAX can help both your fixed location and in-the-field staff.

Writing on the Wall

Well, writing on the screen, anyway.

The Duo, by KCI Communications attaches to the top of any display up to 17", and with that little base station, monitors the movements of a stylus on the screen, tracking the X-Y coordinates as you write.

The pen also stores what you write, similar to

the Lightscribe system.

It's Windows-only right now, and sells for \$119. Mac drivers are in the works.

So any computer monitor can now have some of the functionality of a touchscreen.

How Do I...

Prevent Identity Theft Online

What if I said that there was a free online service with a major security flaw? What if that service allowed any user to try to log-in to another user's account up to 50 times an hour, trying a new password each time? What if that service allowed any user to have as many free accounts as they want and try to log-in to other accounts from each of those names 50 times an hour? All day. Every day.

What if that service was Gmail? In fact, it *is* Gmail. Have a Gmail account? How secure is your Gmail password? Is it the same one you use on other sites, like your bank? It probably is. Crack one account, crack 'em all.

But this isn't about Gmail. It's about security.

A strong password is: long, random, and has different types of characters (both upper- and lower-case letters, numbers, symbols). Eight well-mixed characters is considered the lower limit for a strong password. A 15-character random alphanumeric password is *33,000 times* stronger than any 8-character password.

There are many password manager/form filler programs that store your passwords and usernames and information in encrypted format. When you need one, all you have to do is type in one password to access the lists. Roboform is probably the most popular commercial program, but there are others that are full-featured and free such as KeePass Password Safe and Citi-Software's Access Manager. For an extra charge, you can even put the password manager on a USB key and carry it with you from computer to computer securely.

So, how can you make it easy on yourself? A passphrase is better than a password: *Ilivefor5PM!* meets all the necessary criteria for a strong password, but the exclamation point is predictably in the last spot.

Letter-number substitutions (switching a number for a letter that looks like it 1=I, 5=S, 7=T, 0=o 3=E, etc.) used to be good tricks, but hackers now program their software to use them too. Oddly, *M1cr0s0f7* still gets a *Strong* rating on the MS password checker.

For the most secure passwords:

Change them frequently.

Don't use words in the dictionary, common names, repeated characters (11111111), or common sequences (qwerty, abc123).

Keep them secret.

Don't use the same password for different accounts (you could use a special code for each site tagged on to your password; just don't make it easy to guess).

Don't use automatic login on websites (they store your password).

Don't enter passwords on a computer that you don't know; it may be infected.

Never use a password on a site you linked to from an e-mail. It's probably a scam.

As for Gmail? At the bottom of the screen is a note showing when your account was last accessed; the *Details* link shows the last five

Last account activity: 3 days ago at this IP (68.163.28.). [Details](#)
Gmail view: [standard](#) | [turn off chat](#) | [basic HTML](#) | [Learn more](#)

times. If something doesn't look right, change all your passwords; pronto. And call Gmail.

A MySpace phishing attack harvested passwords from MySpace users. The top 20 passwords:

password1, abc123, myspace1, password, blink182, qwerty1, f**you, 123abc, baseball1, football1, 123456, soccer, monkey1, liverpool1, princess1, jordan23, slipknot1, superman1, iloveyou1, and monkey.

Blink182 is a band (some people thought that the letters & numbers in its name, was more secure), 23 is Michael Jordan's jersey number, and those weren't really asterisks they used.

Of all the passwords that used a number, they usually contained only a single digit, it was usually in the last position, and over 65% of the time it was 1.

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