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www.nationmaster.com
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www.20q.net
uncanny guessing game

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While you're
trying to decide
between

Windows XP or Vista,
Microsoft has announced
that on Nov. 1, 2008 it will
stop selling Windows 3.11—
Windows for Workgroups.
Yup, they've been selling the
first popular version of
Windows all this time, but
only to manufacturers that
use it as an embedded
operating system—games,
ATMs, cash registers,
machine tools, etc.

Not a bad run for a 15-year
old operating system.

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It Lives!

The rumors of Windows XP's death have been greatly exaggerated. And that's a relief to many business users who would rather not switch their company over to Vista quite yet and who don't want to run a mix of the two operating systems.

Microsoft ceased boxed, retail sales of Windows XP at the end of June, but it is still available for business users when purchased on new computers.

Business users can order a computer with *downgrade rights*. You'll get a business-class computer with either Windows Vista Business or Vista Ultimate (your choice), plus a copy of Windows XP Pro, which will be installed on the computer. This is a Microsoft program; they did the same thing during the transition from Windows 2000 to XP. This computer will come with licensing and full support for both operating systems (should you decide to upgrade to Vista later). Dell has been offering this downgrade service on some of its lines since April 2007.

We can order most of Dell's computers with XP Pro; it is not available on the Inspiron line, which is targeted to the home market. For desktops, that includes Vostro, Optiplex, XPS 630, and Precision workstations; for laptops, choose from the Vostro or Latitude lines and the XPS 1730.



The downgrade is only to XP Pro, not to the XP Home version (which makes sense, since this is a business-oriented program). Microsoft will continue to offer support and upgrades to Windows XP Pro far longer than for the home version.

You may have noticed that the XPS line is included in this offer. That is Dell's line of gaming computers; so while the downgrade program is aimed primarily at businesses, in reality, anyone can buy a computer configured this way—Microsoft set the rules of the program—even if you want a Latitude laptop for personal use or an Optiplex for home (wink, wink).

Recycling

The disposable society is being rethought. In the US, 60 million water bottles are discarded *every day* (22 billion per year). Businesses toss 350 million toner cartridges yearly.

That's a lot of wasted resources (1.25 billion pounds). Cartridge World is trying to change that; the first location in south Jersey is in Cherry Hill, on Rte. 70, (there are over 2100 locations around the world). They sell new & rebuilt cartridges for 98% of printers, copiers, fax machines, and postage meters.

According to Thea Long, of Cartridge World of Cherry Hill, a cartridge is mostly just a reservoir for toner (and in some, a few parts

for transferring the image). They recycle the body of the cartridge, while replacing the drum, blade, and wiper (depending on the model) with new US-made parts, and load it with toner. The process saves a gallon of oil for every cartridge recycled, and saves 3 ½ pounds of trash from the landfill. The cartridges are 100% guaranteed; shipping or delivery are free on orders of over \$50, and they'll pick up your empties if they deliver. Your machine's warranty is unaffected by using remanufactured parts.

You can find more information about them at www.cartridgeworldusa.com/store652, or call 856-751-0900.



How Do I...

Find a Needle in that Haystack?

Looking for something? Searching online? Searched for *bass*, and there are over 248,000,000 results!

How do you zero in on the information you need? The results of the search for *bass* yielded fishing sites, guitar sites, the British brewery, and a former member of 'N Sync—and that's just in the first eight results.

Use Boolean operators to fine-tune your search. Google (and other search engines) are databases, and they can narrow or broaden your search results by using different mathematical terms to show relationships. The terms (including *and*, *not*, *or*) are named for British mathematician George Boole.

Let's use the example above and assume you are trying to find information about a jazz bassist you heard on the radio but whose name escapes you. Type *bass +jazz* (note that there is no space between the *+* and *jazz*). This tells Google to show pages that mention both *jazz* and *bass* (which eliminates the brewery, unless they sponsor a jazz series). That narrows it down to about 18 million.

Now add more details. The radio announcer mentioned that the artist was born in the Philadelphia suburb of Norristown. Just add *+norristown* to the other two words and search again. Bingo! You've pared it down to 2,200 results, and in the top of the list is the name you couldn't remember, Jaco Pastorius, a jazz bass player from Norristown (there couldn't be too many meeting that criteria).

So, simply using three well-chosen words and Boolean operators, you found the right name out of the original 248 million results.

Try a mix of operators (use a minus sign, which means *not*, to exclude something):

delaware -state +river
mustang +horse -ford
vacuum -cleaner +space
museum +“natural history” +washington

Google will search for up to ten words at a time. It ignores articles and prepositions because they are so common—making it all but impossible to search for information about the group whose music is used in the M&M ads (*This is the Day*) by *The The*.

When you search for a phrase and you want an exact match, place the phrase in quotation marks *“maple plywood”*. Without quotes, you will get every page that has either *maple* or *plywood* in it—or both—although Google is often good at matching the phrase first and posting those results at the top of the list.

Need a definition? Type *define:concatenate* and choose from the list of sites that define it.

Travelling? Need to know the time and weather there? Type *time los angeles* or *chicago weather*. A graphic at the top of the results gives you the quick answer. Do a currency conversion. Enter *100 USD in EUR* (or yen, etc.) you'll find your spending power (63.2871337 EUR).

Need to do some quick calculations? Type *4250 * 62.25* to get the answer 264,562.5 or *270 / 8* or *cosine 45*, etc.

Looking for information, and you want to limit your search to a specific kind of site? Enter *safety site:gov* or *grammar site:edu*.

Typing *stock sbux* gives you the current price.

All of the above tricks can be used from the search window in your browser's address bar, if it's set to use Google as the default search engine.



One of Google's great benefits is the way that it ranks the search results. Rather than a random listing, Google uses a system that, among other criteria, evaluates how many other web sites link to a page.

If lots of sites link to a page, Google assumes that other people think that it is a worthwhile page for that topic. A page with 1000 external links is rated more highly than one with 20 sites linking to it.

So, if you want to improve your site's ranking in Google's results, make sure you get the word out about your site and that companies you do business with link to you on their site (and you do the same for them). This doesn't have to be a page that's visible to human visitors, but it does have to be available to the web bots and spiders with which search engines crawl the Internet to build their indexes.

Why should you care if Google likes your site? Because lots of other search services on the Web use Google as their search engine (they just don't publicize the fact).

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