



Websites of Interest

www.despair.com
fun for April Fool's Day

www.bizrate.com
online discount searches

http://heritage.stsci.edu/
Hubble galleries



F.Y.I. When you want to shut your computer down as easily and rapidly as possible, use a shortcut key combination to close each window and shut down.

Press the **Alt** key, and while holding it down, tap the **F4** key (in the row of keys at the top of the keyboard). If you have any programs open, **Alt-F4** will close each one every time you tap the combination (and if you have an open file, you'll be asked if you want to save it). If all the programs are closed, the Shut Down Windows dialog box will come up. Press **Enter** to shut down the computer.

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856-234-0091
www.comp-u-tech.net
View this newsletter online on our website.



Home Work

Most people reading this newsletter will be familiar with Comp-U-Tech's business services. But we also have a residential service that is growing.

Residential service is wide-ranging, due to the variety of users and the different programs they use. Home computers are also more likely to be hit by virus infections and spyware/adware than office computers, due to the nature of their use and inattention to updating anti-virus and anti-spyware software.

Matt Dariano, our residential computer expert, says that the bulk of our calls are for computers that are running slowly (or badly) due to infections. He can often remove the

spyware and viruses with a thorough scan by a variety of software. Then, once the computer is clean, he'll update the anti-virus and anti-spyware programs (or install new versions) and set the computer to automatically update these programs.

In a worst-case scenario, though, it may be necessary to wipe the hard drive clean and install everything from scratch. It might be faster, too, than cleaning a badly infected machine. So make sure you always have backups of your data.

Matt also handles hardware and software installations for users. He can be reached at our main number, 856-234-0091, ext. 205.

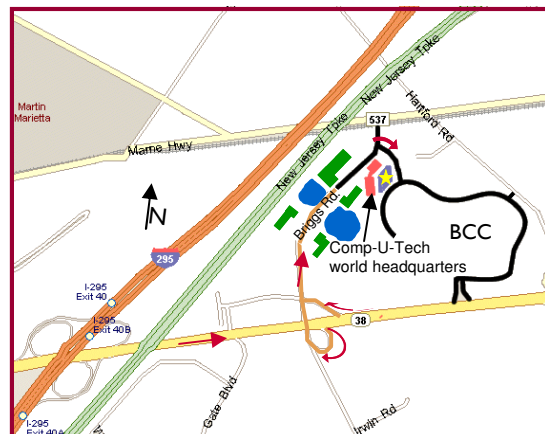
Hey! Where Did You Go?

So, you entered our new address (100 Technology Way, Suite 255, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054) in an online mapping program and it drew a blank, as though we're located in Lake Wobegon, right? Well, the roads are new, and they don't show up on the maps yet (although the buildings do show up on maps.live.com's aerial photos as well as Google Maps' aerial photos). The new roads are drawn in black on the map to the right.

Our new office is located behind Burlington County College. To get there, from Rte. 38, turn onto Briggs Rd. (Going east, use the jug handle just after the 2nd light past I-295; going west, take the exit just past the BCC entrance.). That's the light for the shopping center with Borders Books in it.

Drive behind Borders, through the office park, past a couple of ponds until you see a street sign for Technology Way. It's the last right turn before the traffic light at Rte. 537 (Marne Hwy.).

Turn into the first parking lot on the right (yellow star on the map) and enter the building through the main entrance.



How Do I...

Buy the Right LCD Monitor

So, you're shopping for a new monitor. The stores have a dozen or two on display, all with pretty pictures to attract your attention. Ignore the pictures; they can't tell you anything about the quality of the monitor for your particular use. On the other hand, there are few truly bad monitors on the market, especially if you stick with the leading brands (in sales order, they are Samsung, Dell, HP, LG, and Acer).

Before you shop, answer a few questions:

- Will you use analog or digital connections?
- Do you want a widescreen monitor?
- What will you use it mostly for?
- Does it need to be highly adjustable?

You can answer the first question by looking at your computer (assuming you will attach the monitor to an existing computer).



The DVI connector has five variations, but all use the same hole pattern. The new DisplayPort connector is very small—about the size of a USB plug.

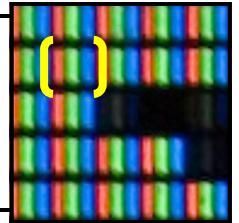
Many monitors have two inputs—one each of analog and digital, or two digital. That's handy for feeding the signal from two computers (you can hook your laptop to the spare input). And it's convenient if you now have an analog video card; your next computer will have a digital card with either DVI or the new standard—DisplayPort. Make sure you can connect your current computer. You may need a new cable; your current one is probably hard-wired to your old monitor.

Do you want a widescreen monitor? Yup. That's the way the market is going. It's easy

to put two documents side by side, and the Windows Vista desktop sidebar is going to use some screen real estate on the right side.

What will you use it for? If it's for business applications, you'll probably want the finest resolution (most pixels per inch), so that numbers and letters are clear. Monitors come in lots of sizes and resolutions, and they work best at their *native resolution*. Unlike on CRTs, using anything but the native resolution will degrade an LCD's image quality. The resolution indicates how many discrete picture elements (pixels) are on the screen.

Each pixel is composed of one cluster of red, green, and blue subpixels, of which there are 5,292,000 on a 20" LCD screen.



Larger screens do not necessarily have more pixels; they may just have larger ones, and in that case, letters and numbers will look a little more blocky or grainy. A standard 17" LCD monitor has a resolution of 1280 x 1024 pixels, so does a 19" monitor. Each pixel on a 19" monitor is about 12% larger. Some people notice the lower, coarser resolution. Likewise, 20" and 22" widescreen monitors use the same 1680 x 1050 resolution. For a good test in the store, compare a text document with 11-point Times New Roman viewed at 100% on each computer. If each monitor is being fed the proper signal, one should look better to you.

A monitor whose screen can be pivoted so that it is tall rather than wide is handy for people who work on long documents. But that feature adds about \$100 to the price.

Ergonomics are

important when you're choosing a monitor; you'll be spending a lot of time staring at it over the next few years.

Adjustability comes in four flavors: swivel, tilt, height, and pivot. Some monitors have none (although you can always turn the base to swivel), so you'll have to use a stand to raise the monitor. Pivoting (where the monitor moves from portrait to landscape) is very handy for long documents and Web browsing, but it's an expensive option that's usually limited to a brand's top models.

Screen finish is another important consideration. Colors appear more vibrant on a screen with a glossy finish, and those screens are preferred for watching movies and playing video games in dim light. But if you do most of your work in a well-lit space, you'll be staring at your reflection all the time, and most people find that annoying. Choose a matte-finish screen for general office work.

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