

# THE HOMEPAGE

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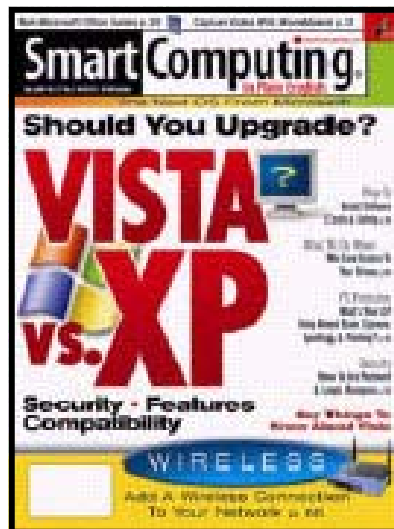
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Our newsletter is published monthly and is a benefit of membership. Your dues support our activities and programs. Dues are \$20/ year for either individuals or families.

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**General Meeting 2006**  
7:00 PM Tuesday December 5, 2006 at the Vero Beach  
Main Library



to *Smart Computing's* sister publications - *PC Today*, *Computer Power User*, and the *Reference Series*.

Everyone will receive a packet of *Smart Computing* goodies and be eligible to win other *Smart Computing* merchandise. We invite everyone interested in expanding their computer knowledge to attend.

These are truly fabulous magazines.

They now offer FREE Tech Support to subscribers **and** non-subscribers.

Jen Clausen will present to members on behalf of Sandhills Publishing information about the *Smart Computing* User Group Program. She will step members through an issue of *Smart Computing*, show the value of Smart-Computing.com through a live demonstration, and introduce us



## Windows Vista

From <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/>

Getting ready for Windows Vista, broadly available as a stand-alone product or pre-installed on new PCs on January 30, 2007, means choosing the edition that's right for you and ensuring that you have the right PC to enjoy the experiences you want.

Are you looking to buy a Windows XP-based computer today but want to make sure that it can run Windows Vista? There's no need to wait. When you buy a new PC that carries the Windows Vista Capable or Premium Ready PC designation, you'll be able to upgrade to one of the editions of Windows Vista while taking advantage of all the opportunities offered by Windows XP today.

### What is a Windows Vista Capable PC?

A new PC that carries the Windows Vista Capable PC logo can run Windows Vista. All editions of Windows Vista will deliver core experiences such as innovations in organizing and finding information, security, and reliability. All Windows Vista Capable PCs will run these core experiences at a minimum. Some features available in the premium editions of Windows Vista—like the new Windows Aero user experience—may require advanced or additional hardware.

#### A Windows Vista Capable PC includes at least:

- A modern processor (at least 800MHz<sup>1</sup>).
- 512 MB of system memory.
- A graphics processor that is DirectX 9 capable.

### Windows Vista Premium Ready PCs

To get an even better Windows Vista experience, including the Windows Aero user experience, ask for a Windows Vista Capable PC that is designated Premium Ready, or choose a PC that meets or exceeds the Premium Ready requirements described below. Features available in specific premium editions of Windows Vista, such as the ability to watch and record live TV, may require additional hardware.

#### A Windows Vista Premium Ready PC includes at least:

- 1 GHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor<sup>1</sup>.
- 1 GB of system memory.
- Support for DirectX 9 graphics with a WDDM driver, 128 MB of graphics memory (minimum)<sup>2</sup>, Pixel Shader 2.0 and 32 bits per pixel.
- 40 GB of hard drive capacity with 15 GB free space.
- DVD-ROM Drive<sup>3</sup>.
- Audio output capability.
- Internet access capability

Does buying a Windows Vista Capable PC mean that I will receive a free upgrade to Windows Vista?

No, a PC that is Windows Vista Capable or Premium Ready is ready for an upgrade from Windows XP, but you would still need to purchase the edition of Windows Vista that you want to install on your Windows Vista Capable or Premium Ready PC.

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# MEETINGS AND SIGS

**All meetings and SIGs are held in the Indian River County Main Library  
located at 1600 21 Street, Vero Beach, Florida**

## December 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	<b>General Meeting</b> 7:00–9:00	Photoshop Elements 1:00 – 3:00	MS Word 3:00 –5:00	8	9
10	11	Intro. to PCs 2:00 – 4:00pm	13	14	15	16 MAC 10:00–Noon
17	18	Board Meeting 6:30 PM	20	21	22	23
24		26	Mobile/ Internet 6–7:30 PM	28	29	30

<b>Photoshop Elements</b>	<b>Frank Lombard</b>	<b>Media Room</b>
<b>Macs</b>	<b>Eleanor Ryan &amp; Joe Piazza</b>	<b>History Room</b>
<b>MS Word</b>	<b>Randy Washington</b>	<b>History Room</b>
<b>Introduction to PCs</b>	<b>Jean Grider</b>	<b>History Room</b>
<b>Mobile Comp./Internet</b>	<b>Tim Glover</b>	<b>Media Room</b>

### **Library Volunteers for December**

**Jesse Hendelman, Fridays Dec 22 & 29, 2 - 4 pm**

**Peggy Repass, Thursdays Dec.7, 14, 21, 28**

**Eleanor Ryan, Fridays December 8 & 15, 2 - 4 pm**

**Randy Washington, Mondays December 4, 11, 18, 3 - 6 pm**



**Tiger helping Lucia Robinson with the Library Volunteers**

SmartBarXP v1.0 [2.2M] WinXP FREE, Lockergnome Windows Digest, 4-12-03

<http://www.smartbarxp.com/>

Quick launch, task bars, and vertical toolbars... Microsoft continues to add more shortcuts around the screen. SmartBarXP is an application bar that offers more customization options for the side of your screen, with built-in panes to access the audio player, POP3 mail, MSN Messenger contact list, Web search, system performance, weather information, calendar, stock watcher, news feeds, and more. You have the option to select the panes to display, the order of the panes, and the shortcuts to use. The bar is always visible unless you turn on the auto-hide option. Change the look by downloading many available themes. Language packs are also available.

TClockEx v1.4.2 [468kb] W9x/2k/XP FREE

<http://www.rcis.co.za/dale/>

TClockEx enhances the standard Windows taskbar clock, adding the ability to display the date, time and lots of other information in any format you like. TClockEx is highly customizable, from the format to the font and colour, and even the tooltip information. Many people have wondered why this wasn't built into the standard clock to begin with.

xatshow v5.02 [2.5M] W9x/2k/XP FREE, Lockergnome Windows Digest, 4-12-03

<http://www.xat.com/xatshow/>

{Slide show and screen saver creator} Create .exe slide shows and screensavers for the PC, Web, or TV through the digital camera or DVD player. The advantage of creating .exe files is there is no viewer needed for others to enjoy the show. Its features include transitions, cropping, resizing, captions, image quality options, rotations, and reformatting for widescreen TV. XAT offers online tutorials to guide you

through the program's various tabs. Its help file clearly distinguishes which features are available by version. Shareware companies can learn from this example, as there is no confusion over what's free, standard, and premium for the software. Not perfect quality, but nice work for a free program.

**Joan Pannenberg**  
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 Discount to VBCG Members

Vero Beach Computer Group is a self-help group that provides help to members who want to improve their knowledge to computers and accessories. Our motive is to share our experiences and give members a chance to learn and help each other. Every effort is made to share accurate information, however no representations or warranties either expressed or implied are made as to its accuracy.

# The Apple Corner

## The iPod Phone

By Kevin Allison  
The Financial Times Limited, December 1, 2006

Speculation over whether Apple is preparing to launch an iPod phone all but ended on Thursday after a patent application revealed that the computer group is working on a device that will combine a "media player" with a mobile phone.

Apple fanatics and Wall Street analysts have long speculated that the company would move into the mobile handset market.

"Today was probably the final hard evidence that they're working on something," said Gene Munster, analyst at Piper Jaffray. "Now the key question is the timing."

Many observers believe Apple, which is notorious for its secrecy around product launches, might launch a mobile phone in January at MacWorld, its annual convention and expo. But Van Baker, an analyst at Gartner, said such speculation was premature. "Every time you get close to MacWorld the rumour mill and speculation ramp up," he said.

Apple's patent application outlined plans for a device that would combine a "cell phone" and a "media player." The bulk of the application was dedicated to describing a new way of assembling the device. It contained few details about the device itself.

The mobile handset market is seen as an important new growth area for Apple, which dominates the market in portable music players. It comes as Microsoft and other digital music rivals are stepping up efforts to grab market share from the Apple's iPod in the music player market. Zune, Microsoft's answer to the iPod, made its debut last month to mixed reviews.



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## SECURE FLORIDA

**INTERNET SECURITY** – Secure Florida (secureflorida.org), a joint project of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the private sector, conducts regular online polls of internet security experiences. Some findings: ▶ 83% of Floridians say they update their anti-virus software automatically while 7% don't have any anti-virus software. ▶ 21% frequently examine the privacy policies of websites with which they do business, 29% examine them sometimes, 29% seldom and 21% never. ▶ 53% spend one minute or less sorting through spam e-mail, 20% spend one to five minutes, 8% spend five to 10 minutes and 20% spend more than 10 minutes.

**SAFETY FOR KIDS** – Learn how safe your children are online by having them take Secure Florida's "Kids Staying Safe Online" 29-question quiz (go to secureflorida.org and click on the Kids icon on the right side).

**PASSWORD SECURITY** – SecureFlorida.org details how to create a password that is easy to remember but difficult to crack: ▶ Invent a sentence, with numbers and proper nouns in it, that is appropriate to your life. ▶ Now, take the first letter of each word, and convert the numbers to digits. For example – "A&Bh3cnJP&E" looks like a complicated password and much too hard to remember. But it comes from "Ann and Bob have three children named Jason, Paul, and Elizabeth." A password like that would be very difficult to crack and impossible to guess. But with a little practice, Ann or Bob should have no trouble remembering it or re-creating it if it slips their minds.

## Vintage music might be available free online

By Ian Mount, The Wall Street Journal

The Problem: Finding digital versions of vintage music.

The Solution: Some early popular music can be downloaded free.

The University of California, Santa Barbara's Cylinder Preservation & Digitization Project Web site ([www.cylinders.library.ucsb.edu](http://www.cylinders.library.ucsb.edu)) has almost 6,600 songs. On his Juneberry78s.com site ([www.juneberry78s.com/sounds/index.htm](http://www.juneberry78s.com/sounds/index.htm)), music collector Tom Morrison has posted some 2,200 songs from the 1920s and 1930s by rural Southern musicians.

The thousands of songs in the Library of Congress's American Memory archive include 108 recordings from Emile Berliner ([memory.loc.gov/ammem/berlhtml/berlhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/berlhtml/berlhome.html)), the inventor of the gramophone. The Library and Archives Canada Virtual Gramophone collection ([www.collectionscanada.ca/gramophone/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/gramophone/index-e.html)) has around 5,000 pre-1940 songs. And the Internet Archive posts 793 songs from early-20th-century 78 rpm records ([www.archive.org/details/78rpm](http://www.archive.org/details/78rpm)).



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