

Larry's newsLETTER

Power outages: What you should do to protect your computers and electronics.

Computers as well as most TV's, DVD players, alarm clocks and many other devices are always on even if you have them turned off. The safest thing to do during electrical storms or brownouts is unplug them or if they are on a surge suppressor turn the suppressor off.

Surge suppressors are only good for high voltages and do not help at all if you have low voltages. If your community experiences brownouts and low voltage you should buy a battery backup or uninterruptable power supply. This device will take out the high and low power and condition it so that you computer gets good steady power.

Special Note: Even if you are using a battery backup or uninterruptable power supply, you should never run your computer off a generator unless it is the full house natural gas kind.

Microsoft discontinues Windows XP effective June 30, 2008.

Effective the 30th of this month Microsoft is discontinuing Windows XP. This means that it will be no longer sold in stores. Microsoft plans on supporting it until 2014.

When Microsoft stops distributing Windows XP later this month, you will not be able to purchase it in retail outlets or from any major PC manufactures. This said, Windows XP isn't going to disappear overnight. You may still see copies of the software or computers pre-loaded with it for several months. System builders can continue to sell PCs with Windows XP until January 2009.

Dell will be offering downgrade rights. What this means is when you purchase Vista Business, or Vista Ultimate, they have the right to move back to Windows XP Professional.

Techie Tip: Maintain your laptop battery life.

To maintain laptop battery life it is important to discharge the battery. We suggest that you use battery power until the battery is almost out of power then charge it. This will prolong your battery life. It is important that you discharge the battery a few times a month as this will prevent the battery from failing due to over charging.

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Techie Term: Dual Core CPU

Two processors in one. Two processors mean faster access using less power. Imagine that a dual-core processor is like a four-lane highway—it can handle up to twice as many cars as a two-lane road without making each car drive twice as fast.



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How many computers do you have in your house?

There are many gadgets we own now that we don't think of as computers. Included in this list are laptops, desktops, cell phones, iPods, digital cameras, phone systems, flat screen TV's, cable boxes, microwave ovens, ranges, refrigerators, cars, watches and more. Most of us don't really realize how surrounded we are with computers and how much we depend on them daily.

Apple's Safari browser gets a Carpet Bomb fix

It's unusual for Microsoft to release a security advisory for Apple software, but the Safari browser is making inroads in the Windows world. Security Advisory [KB 953818](#) warns about the Carpet Bomb attack. Anyone running Safari on Windows should visit the Apple [security page](#) that describes the problem and provides a download link for the update, or otherwise ensure that their Apple software is updated.

The Carpet Bomb attack is detailed at Nitesh Dhanjani's [blog](#). The bug can cause serious problems for unpatched systems.

New holes found in Adobe Reader and Acrobat

If you have Adobe Acrobat or Reader versions 7.0.9 or early, or 8 through 8.12, you need an update to protect your system from a remote attack. Adobe released a [patch](#) for its Reader and Acrobat programs that should be included in automatic updates for the programs.

If you use Adobe Reader or Acrobat 7.1.0, your system is not vulnerable. Likewise, the forthcoming Adobe 9 (due in July) is not susceptible to this glitch.

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