



Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc

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Treasurer: Bert Foster	Tel: 4754 3008	Member: Lorraine Brown	Tel: 4736 5541
Social Committee: Pat Mitchell, Zillah Warner, Anne Roddick		Webmaster: Tom Lehane	Tel: 4721 5375

Visit the clubs web page for training courses www.users.on.net/pvscc/training.htm

<i>Weekly Schedule for Computer Courses</i>	
Mondays 9.30am to 11am Beginners & Do your own thing. 11.00 am to 12.30 pm Graphics. Tutor: Zillah Warner	Tuesdays 9.30am to 11am Beginners & Do your own thing 11.00 am to 12.30 pm Graphics (Digital Editing). Tutor Bert Foster
Wednesdays 9.30am to 11am Using the Software. Tutor: Tom Lehane 1pm to 2.30pm Beginners, Internet/Email, and Genealogy Tutor: George Bell and John Windle	Thursdays: 9.30am to 11am Beginners, Card Making and Do your own thing. Tutors Pat Mitchell & Zillah Warner
Fridays: 9.30am to 11am Beginners & Do your own thing. Tutor Alan Lees and John Windle	

Local News

Wednesday April 5th the Penrith Valley Seniors Computer Club Inc is taking part in 'Seniors Week'. The Computer Club cordially invites all seniors to the computer club room where tutors will be demonstrating various programs from Word Processing, Placing photos on to a DVD to play in your DVD player, Digital photo enhancing, Invitation and greeting card making and many more. The demonstrations will be on a continuing bases and will run from 10 am to 3 pm. Free morning tea and coffee will be provided for our visitors.

Thursday morning class from 9.30am to 11am includes making video CDs of your digital photos. These CDs can be played on a DVD player. All you need is a CD with your photos. Most photo processing stores can load your images from the digital camera to a CD if you don't feel confident to do so. The software used is 'Pictures to TV' which makes a slide show of your images with beautiful image transitions and added music. Anne Roddick, (mentor at the club on Thursdays) has become very skilled using this software. All it cost is the club fee for the morning and the \$1.00 for the CD if you don't provide your own.

Remember, as a member you are not restricted to the class you joined when becoming a member. To be part of any of the classes listed above, just turn up on the morning of your choice and pay the \$3.00 class fee.

We are now in the month of April and all those photos you took with your digital camera have been down loaded on to your hard drive.

With some images taking one meg of hard drive space each, depending on the amount of information in that image some take less. But on average the amount is close to one meg. With hundreds of photos you have reduced your disc space by hundreds of megabytes. The best plan is to delete those photos that are out of focus or any you don't like. Archive your photos on to a CD or DVD. Ensure you have made a good copy of your images and then delete the photos on your hard drive.

With your photos safely stored on a CD or DVD, using a CD marker pen to write the title of your photos, (holiday 2005 or Christmas 2005) on the disc. This makes it easy to find at a later date.

As the television commercial of a few years back would say, "But wait there is more". And there is. Reports say that recordable CD-Rs can become unreadable in as little as five years because the dyes used on recordable CD's begin to fade. When the laser burns the data on to a CD it burns the dye, which becomes dark to represent a "1" while "0" will be left blank. If the dye fades, there's no difference; between a "1" and "0". It's just a string of nothing to the playback laser, so your CD is unreadable. Computers only work with ones and zeros much like Morse code of years ago which used dots and dashes to send message or telegrams over long distances. The computer processor does all the hard work in converting the ones and zeros in to our text or images, depending on the software used.

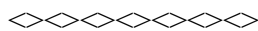
It may be as hard to find a CD player in 20 years time as it is to find a Bernoulli Box or an 8-inch floppy drive.

The Bernoulli Box (or simply Bernoulli) is a high capacity removable disk storage system that was Iomega Corporation's first popular product (1983). The disks are 13.6 cm wide, 14 cm long and 0.9 cm thick, and have a similar external appearance to 3½-inch floppy disks. See image.



Note the extra large slide cover on the disk.

This disk is no longer available.



8 Inch floppy disk.

8 inch floppy diskettes were used in many computers, mostly mini computers, during the 70's and early 80's.

In 1971, Alan Shugart led a team at IBM that developed the 8 inch floppy diskette for data and program storage.

Eight inch floppies are obsolete.

In 1976, IBM introduced the 5-1/4 inch diskette.

Hard to find a disk drive for this size.

In 1981, Sony introduced the 3.5 inch diskette.

Now the once popular 3.5 diskette is been challenged by the USB flash drive.



USB flash drives were first invented in 1998 by IBM. Although there is an IBM disclosure, they did not patent the USB flash drive. Asian

manufacturers soon started making their own flash drives cheaper than most top brands.

So what does IBM say about using the USB flash drive for long time storage? They are getting cheaper and soon will cost close to a quality CD. After all there is no surface to scratch like a CD and they can be in your pocket or purse with keys and coins and receive no damage.

In ideal conditions, the flash memory in the drives can retain data for 10 years. (Information from IBM report) *This is not the perfect storage device for you photos.*

So it comes down to a few options for long time storage of your photos.

(1) To keep the images, you will also have to keep the hardware.

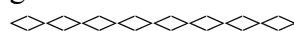
Continue to make copies of your photo CDs every five years.

(2) Back-up to the new media storage devices when they are invented and appear to be the excepted storage media. Like the DVD could one day replace the CD.

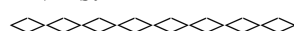
(3) Make normal photo prints of your most treasured images.

We all have a good knowledge on how to store our photo prints.

You don't require some device to show them and good quality prints will last years. I still have photos of my grandfather taken in 1916.



Foot Note: Commercial CDs (music or Software) and DVDs (movies and data) are pressed just like the old vinyl LP record and don't fade like recordable CDs and DVDs.



The comments are from the editor's research on CD life and image storage and are not associated with The Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc.

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Coffee Break

Question on Software or Operating system.

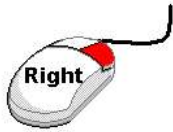
Personalise Folder Views

When using Windows Explorer and you open a folder, you may prefer that the folder display its contents as thumbnail images. Especially if you made a new folder to place your digital camera photos in. You can personalise any folder to your preference. **Open Windows Explorer and choose the folder to personalise.**

(1)

Right click the mouse button on the [Start] button and left click **Explore** file name in the small menu. From Explorer's right hand window choose the folder to personalise and right click on that folder.

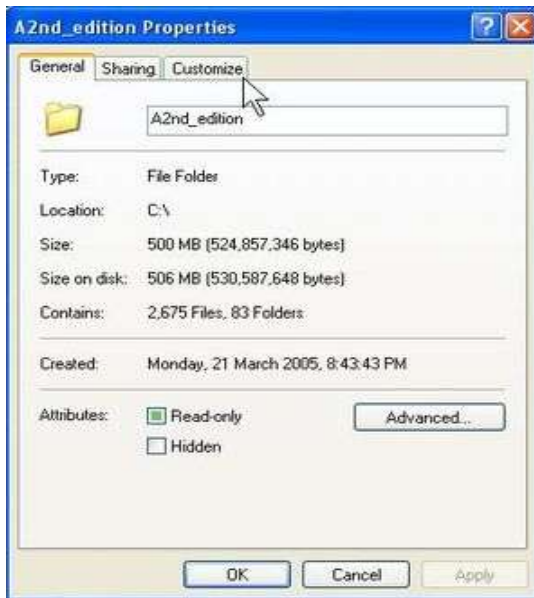
Go to step (2)



Click the Right Mouse Button



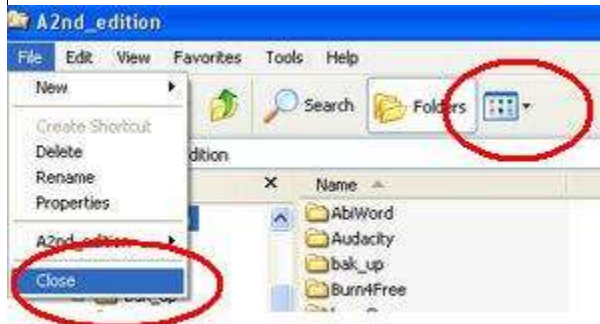
(2) Scroll down and left click Properties



(3) Left click Customize tab.



(4) In the Customize properties box use the arrow to open the option box. Select how folder will be displayed and click OK.



Another quick way is to left click the small icon on the right hand side of [Folders], choose the display type you want for that folder and close Explorer from [File] and choose [Close] to shut down Windows Explorer.

Windows Explorer stores how you prefer this folder to be displayed next time you open Explorer.

If you close Explorer by left clicking the [X] close button at the top right hand of your screen. Explorer will ignore any preferences you have chosen.