



Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc

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Visit the clubs' web page for training courses www.users.on.net/pvscc/training.htm
Visit the clubs' web site www.users.on.net/~pvscc/index.html

Weekly Schedule for Computer Courses

Mondays 9.30am to 11am Beginners & Do your own thing. Tutor: Zillah Warner 11.00 am to 12.30 pm Graphics. Tutor: Zillah Warner	Tuesdays 9.30am to 11am Beginners & Do your own thing Tutor Bert Foster
Wednesdays 9.30am to 11am Using the Software Tutor Tom Lehane	Thursdays: 9.30am to 11am Card Making, Beginners and Do your own thing. Tutors Pat Mitchell , Clare Dixon & Zillah Warner
Fridays: 9.30am to 11am Memories to TV. Tutors John Windle, Norm Cobban: Beginners & Do your own thing. Tutor Alan Lees	Using Microsoft Office suite Fridays Tutor Jim Tiberi Class time 11.00 am to 12.30 pm

Do your own thing' means learn Word, Publisher and Excel or browse the Internet.



Remember, Annual Club Fees before June the 30th.



June is the start of winter and a nice time to read a good book. With other commitments you don't get the chance to complete the book at one sitting. How do you mark the page you are up to, Dog ear, piece of paper or string?

Thursdays class 'Card Making' can show you how to make beautiful Bookmarks. Far more appealing than the ones available from Newsagents and gift shops.

They also make excellent and useful, Thank You, Anniversary, Award or Birthday gifts that are appreciated each time you use your Bookmark..

Have you ever been to a web site where you had to type in the code from funny graphics that represented letters and numbers?

Example on the right.



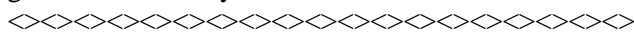
They are called a CAPTCHA Tests. The term CAPTCHA (for **C**ompletely **A**utomated **P**ublic **T**uring Test To Tell **C**omputers and **H**umans **A**part) was coined in 2000.

It's basically a kind of response test used with computers to determine if a user is human or not.

When you're on certain Web sites, you have to type in a series of letters and numbers shown in funny graphics in order to continue. That's a CAPTCHA test. The code is sometimes distorted or it will have a design behind it that makes it a little harder to read. CAPTCHA tests are usually used on sites that allow you to do your shopping online. Even sites like Ebay and creating a Web Mail account with Yahoo, Google or Hotmail.

They are mainly used for security, especially on Web sites that require you to enter in your personal information. Hackers use what are called bots to attack users. (*Internet bots, also known as web robots or simply bots, are software applications that run automated tasks over the Internet*).The bots are generated by computers

and in reality, computers are unable to solve the CAPTCHA tests. Only humans can type in the right code and continue on, so that really helps in keeping you safe. So, while it's true that these tests can be quite a nuisance, you'll feel better knowing your in good hands when you have to use a CAPTCHA.



Microsoft Disable Autorun



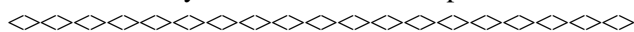
May 2009, Microsoft announced a pretty major change in security policy for windows XP, Vista and the upcoming Version 7 of their operating systems. Ever

since the beginning, when you would plug in a device such as an external hard drive or flash drive, the "auto run" dialog box would appear. This box would many times offer you frequently used options for starting your device.

Well, this is all going to change. Starting soon with XP and Vista, Microsoft will be disabling the auto run feature for all devices other than cd-roms. This means that when you plug in a flash drive or hard drive, you will not get your auto run option. This may seem a strange thing to do but there is a method to this decision.

A virus called a **conficker worm** has been programmed to spreads from Autorun. Conficker and many other worms spread by exploiting the auto run in windows. If you have an infected device and you plug it in, you will be infected because of this exploit. Microsoft decided to disable this option to fight against works such as Conficker and any other that may use Autorun.

It should be in your next Windows 'Update'.



Make a note that on **Wednesday 17th of June at 11 am**, Mr John Morrow, Senior Investigator from National Australia Bank will talk about how to recognise and protect yourself from

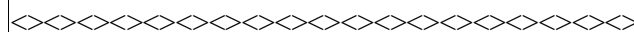
"phishing" (SPAM aimed at deceiving victims into revealing their Internet Banking details), and other Internet-based scams".

Phishing is one of the fastest-growing forms of personal fraud in the world, where consumers are the most obvious victims.

How to identify a scammer who send out an e-mail that appears to come from a trusted company such as a bank or an e-commerce Web site.

Mr John Morrow will also cover Phishing messages that try to lure you to a bogus Web site,

where they're asked you to divulge sensitive personal information. The attackers can then use those details to steal money from your bank account.



This is a new online service that answers factual queries directly by computing the answer from structured data, rather than providing a list of documents or web pages that might contain the answer as a search engine may do.

Users submit queries and computations in the text box and Wolfram|Alpha then computes answers from a knowledge base of structured data.

This means that it can answer just about anything, artificial intelligence-style. Try putting in stocks, math formulas, towns or your birth date. Wolfram will come up with something interesting.

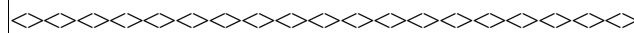
It's not perfect, work is still on going.

I typed in "WHAT IS A KITE"? And the answer was a type of bird. Which is true, then I added "PAPER KITE", and it informed me there was nothing in the data base for that question.

So it's in the early stages of development.

Web address

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

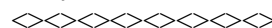


The club has purchased copies of Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 7.

The software is another photo editing program that makes it possible for amateur shutterbugs to perform even the most complex image manipulations with simple tool selection.

An easy feature is the Smart Brush, a nifty quick effects brush that allows you to improve lighting, add rich texture or apply makeover tasks like teeth whitening and lipstick application with a quick sweep. For quick edits the standard Smart Brush Tool automatically detects area definitions (a bit like the Magic Wand) so you don't have to move around your selection with a steady hand.

The software should be loaded on select computers at the club by the time you receive this newsletter.



The articles and comments on computer software are not associated with The Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc Articles are intended as opinions and items of debate only.



Coffee Break

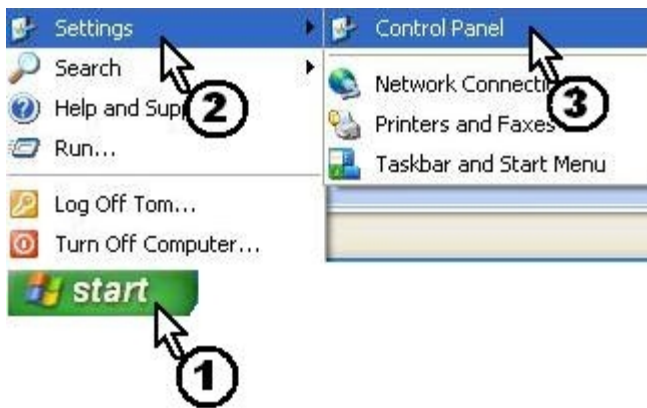
Question on Software or Operating system

With the release of Windows XP, Microsoft decided that users of their operating system could report all errors or software hang-ups to their programmers at Microsoft. XP operating system error reporting would continue to nag the user to make the report.

Microsoft has moved on and released Vista and soon Windows 7.

So XP error reporting is no longer of any use.

You can turn it off by following the steps below.



Using the steps shown on the left

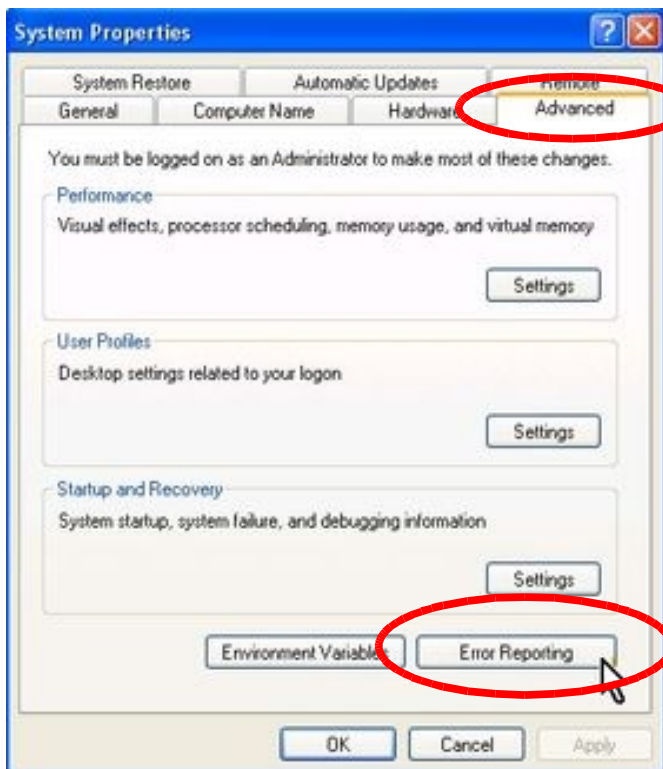
[start] [settings] [Control Panel]
open the Control Panel window by left clicking on Control Panel.



Double click System icon to open the Systems Properties option menu.

In the System Properties option menu Click the **Advanced** tab as shown then the
Error Reporting Button.

In the Error Reporting options Click the**Disable error reporting** radio button then Click OK and close down menus.



Task completed.