



Penrith Valley Seniors Computer Club Inc.

Club Newsletter

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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 Making a 'Scrapbook' using software., Tutor: Zillah Warner	Tuesdays: 9.30am to 11am Beginners & Do your own thing Tutor Bert Foster Windows Live Movie Maker. 11.30am- 1.30pm Tutor Bryan Blake
Wednesdays: 9.30am to 11am Using the Software (Gimp) Tutor Tom Lehane.	Thursdays: 9.30am to 11am Card Making, Beginners and Do your own thing. Tutors Clare Dixon & Zillah Warner.
Fridays: 9.30am to 11am Memories to TV. Tutors Norm Cobban: Beginners & Do your own thing. Tutor Alan Lees	Fridays: Tutor Jim Tiberi Class time 11.00 am to 12.30 pm Using Microsoft Office suite



Old Computers

With new operating systems like Vista, Windows 7 and soon to be released Windows 8, many of

our XP models can't run the new operating software due to more up date hardware required to handle the faster computers now on sale.

So our old XP computers fall short of the hardware specified for the new operating systems.

Governments and Councils promote recycling of old computers and equipment.

The recycling companies that acquire these old computers give assurance that all data on hard drives are destroyed. But a recent report in the '*Sydney Morning Herald*' stated that used hard drives sold in West Africa (for \$20) still had information on them.

Even though these drives were formatted the information could be retrieved using special software that is free and easily obtained on the internet.

What's the best/simplest way to erase information from the hard drive?

Windows (all versions), and even MS-DOS before it, has the option to perform what's called a "quick format". In reality, a quick format does very little except place a symbol on all files in the root directory to inform the computer that this space can be written too. The rest of the disk is actually assumed to be properly formatted already and left alone. That's why it's quick.

So with special software these files can be retrieved.

It's best to do a full Format of the hard drive. It can take sometime to do a full or unconditional format.

Theoretically it's possible to recover data even after a disk has been fully formatted.

NASA has the equipment to read data that has been erased by fully formatting.

The best plan is to do a full format more than once.

There is software that will write all zero on the hard drive making it completely empty, but this can take up to 8 hours to achieve.



Christmas Break

The computer club will close over the Christmas break. The last class will be Friday 9th of December 2011.

Classes will resume on Monday 23rd of January 2012.



Christmas Party

The computer club's annual Christmas party will be held on.....

Wed 14th December in the dining room,

11am to 1.30pm. You will need to place

your name on the participant list at the class attendance table so organisers can provide for the numbers attending...The Christmas Party is free.

Those who attended last years Christmas party will remember what a wonderful social event this is.



Beware the latest email scam – malware!

The latest scam being utilized to propagate malware involves emails claiming to come from an official postal service. The emails include an attachment of course, and that is where the malware lurks. The scam started doing the rounds just a couple of days ago late October 2011 here in Australia. This is a copy of the email that's been sent.

Dear customer,

Your package has been returned to the Australia Post office.
Reason: Your address is in the stop-list of the delivery.
Please find the attached document containing detailed information about delivery failure.
Read all information carefully and come to the Australia Post office to receive your package.

Thank you for using our delivery company.
Customer service

The file attachment is a small malware which is activated on opening the file to redeem the supposedly wayward package.

Don't believe every thing you receive by E-mail. You have to ask yourself.....
'How did they get my E-mail in the first place?'
Also are there any packages due, Purchased or Birthday gift.

What is Malware?

Malware is a general term referring to all of the damaging viruses that can infect your computer, from adware to spyware! Malware is actually short for 'malicious software' ... that's not surprising, considering what it can do to your computer!

You can unknowingly download malware from free music sites, pirate movie sites and patched commercial software sites commonly known as 'Warez' sites. They are pirated software that's been patched to over ride the registration code. Others to avoid are Keygen software tools that replicate the registration/activation process of a genuine software product and generate the necessary keys to activate the software.

The information above is stating ' **You are the best malware defender**'

Keep away from these web sites

Grandchildren playing with the Grandparents computer can be dangerous if they have access to the administrator account. Make a special 'Guest Account' for them to play with.

**See Coffee Break on how to turn 'on'
Guest Account.**

Christmas hamper



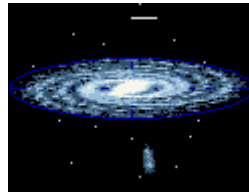
Christmas hamper donation box is at the entrance to the computer room, please make a

contribution.

Raffle tickets will be sold and prizes drawn on the day to add to the fun.



Web Site for the astronomy buff.



The Atlas of the Universe Web site

This web page is designed to give everyone an idea of what our universe actually looks like. There are nine main maps on this web page, each one approximately ten times the scale of the previous one. The first map shows the nearest stars and then the other maps slowly expand out until we have reached the scale of the entire known visible universe.

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

The articles and comments on Viruses & Malware and Old Hard Drives are not associated with The Penrith Valley Seniors Computing Club Inc . Articles are intended as opinions and items of debate only.



TURN ON THE GUEST ACCOUNT

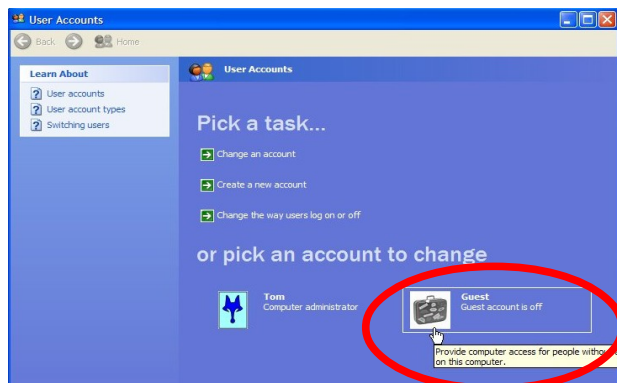
Creating a guest account is a great way to allow visitors to use your computer without giving them access to your personal files, your browsing history, saved passwords and so on. Guests accounts allow your friends to use your computer to do just about everything they might need to do but stops them from making changes to your system.



In Windows XP go to [Start] and click [Control Panel]



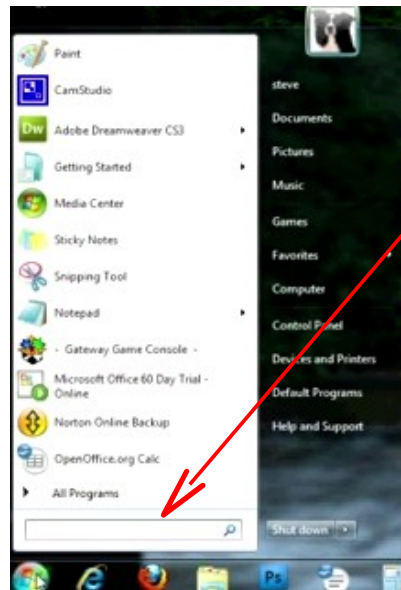
In the [Control Panel] options click [User Account]



Click [Guest] icon to turn it on.

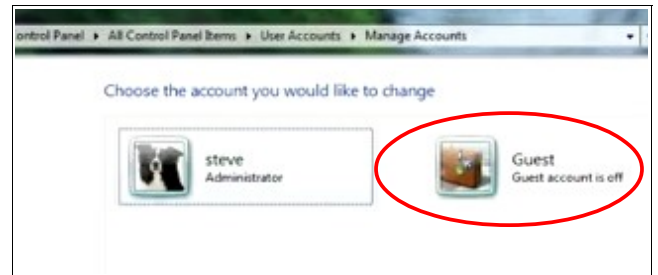
Vista is much the same as Windows XP.

Windows 7 Guest Account.

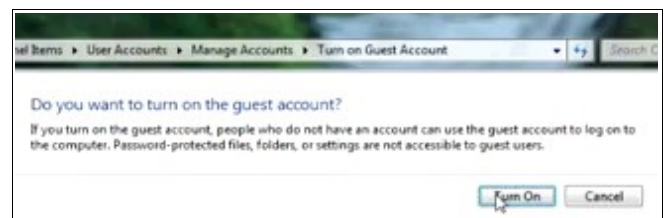


Go to the [Start] button, in the small search box type... **guest account** then press [Enter].

This opens the Guest Account menu.



In the next menu click [Guest]



After clicking [Guest] another menu appears, now just click the [Turn On] button.

To turn OFF the Guest Account just follow all the previous procedures and click the options to turn OFF the account.

Note: When you make a Guest Account you will have two (2) options on the start menu. The same as the club computers.