

<computerusers>

Computer Answers, Tips & Information

by Jeff Hudson- YCAR Computer Coordinator

Send email to: jeff@ycar.org

10 THINGS TO DO WITH OLD PCs

PC Magazine online (pcmag.com) is an excellent source for advice, suggestions and tips on using and maintaining your computer. A top ten list was recently featured of things you can do with an old computer, and they are:

- 1 Learn networking
- 2 Make a multimedia player
- 3 Try multiplayer games
- 4 Install Linux
- 5 Make a printer/file/Web server
- 6 Donate your old PC to a local school
- 7 Take it apart
- 8 Strip it and sell the parts
- 9 Turn it into an aquarium
- 10 Recycle it

Although I do not consider all of the above suggestions to be practical for the average computer user, I do feel that if your older system is only 2 or 3 years old, at the very least it's worth networking with your newer system and sharing internet access. If you have broadband internet access, consider creating a small network in your home or office. You can find information on how to network your computers and printers at the **World Of Windows Networking** web site www.wown.com

It makes sense as well, once you create your network, to consider connecting your printers to the old computer and then configuring them as network printers. You can leave this one computer, your dedicated printer server, on all the time and then be able to print from any networked machine to any of the network printers. This comes in real handy when you get around to adding a wireless laptop to your network!

If you really have no use for your old computer, call your local school district and ask them if they accept old systems and what their minimum donation standards are. They may not take anything older than a 486-based system, so be sure to ask.

If your old computer is just too old or no longer even works, you may be inclined to just throw it away. Well don't! Dumped computers leak toxic materials such as lead, cadmium, barium and mercury in our landfills. It may well be that your waste pickup company does not allow curbside pickup of computer equipment.

So what now? Call your city department to find out if your area has a computer-recycling program. You can also check the Yellow Pages or do an internet search for *computer recycling* in your area. Some computer vendors, like Dell and HP, accept PCs for recycling and reward you with gift certificates or discounts on future purchases.

For more details, go to pcmag.com/solutions

FASTER DIAL-UP INTERNET ACCESS

NetZero HiSpeed

NetZero is offering a new type of dial-up Internet access that claims to speed up your web surfing experience by 5 times, with no additional equipment required. At \$14.95 per month, this may be a viable alternative to the slower, more expensive dial-up service you may be currently using! Be aware though that NetZero HiSpeed does NOT increase the transmission speed of files or attachments. What DOES get accelerated? Web pages... or more specifically, the text, JPEG and GIF graphics, HTML markup (hyperlinks) and JavaScript that make up a web page. What does NOT speed up are audio and video files, files and attachments such as music files, digital photos or PDF documents, streaming media and secure pages used with online banking and credit card forms. How is this accomplished? The text and graphics on a web page are compressed before being sent to your phone line. This means that less data is being sent, which speeds up the web pages loading in your internet browser. To further speed up the process, NetZero HiSpeed stores parts of frequently visited web sites so that they will load faster when visited again. With the added function of a pop-up blocker, time is not wasted waiting for pop-up ads to load. Be aware that pop-up ad blocking can prevent certain necessary functions from working, such as those utilized in Rapattoni MLS. You can either de-activate the blocker or select to allow pop-ups from any site you are currently viewing.

If you are in an area where broadband internet access is not offered, you might want to sign up for just a month and give NetZero HiSpeed a try!

USING RAPATTONI MLS

Printing Landscape Reports in IE

Q. "How do I print the HTML version of a CRIS Client Synopsis-Landscape report so that the information in the far right hand column is not cut off?"

A. In Internet Explorer, click **File**, then **Print Preview**. Click the **Page Setup** button on the toolbar at the top of the Print Preview window and change the orientation to **Landscape**. Click **OK**, then click **Print**.



To further improve your printed page, delete the entries in the Header and Footer boxes and then change all margins to 0.2". This will tend to prevent that extra page with that one extra line that always wants to print!