



Hendersonville Area Computer Society Newsletter

<http://hacs.org>

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October 2006

Meetings are held twice a month, January through November. A SIG group meets the second Thursday of each month from 1-3 PM and on the third Monday of the month an educational meeting is held at 6:30 pm with the regular meeting following at 7:30 pm. All meetings are held at the Opportunity House in Hendersonville, NC.

HACS Upcoming General Meeting Topics

October 16, 2006

"Digital Imaging"

by

Tom Kaczmarek, Lead Instructor, Digital Media Institute, BRCC

Hot News

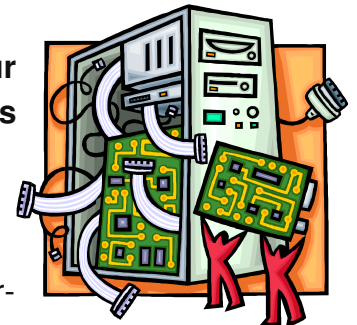
Samsung Electronics says notebook users will get an extra half hour of battery life and be able to boot up their computers faster using its hybrid hard drive, which will come out in PCs in 2007.

A hybrid hard drive is a hard drive that contains a flash memory chip that stores data and applications. Because the processor can retrieve data from flash, the drive--which spins constantly in an ordinary computer--can stay asleep most of the time.

Spinning drives are one of the most power-hungry components in a computer, so allowing it to idle will lead to about an extra half-hour of battery life on a notebook, said Don Barnetson, director of flash memory at Samsung Semiconductor. "We can cut about 70 to 90 percent of the power consumption" of hard drives, he said.

The drive will also be less prone to break down, he added. Boot-up time is also decreased, because applications can be retrieved from much speedier flash memory, which takes only a few milliseconds. Although slower, the drives can store more data for less money.

The flash chips will perform a couple of different functions. When consumers write a word-processing document, the data will go straight to flash. When the flash chips are almost full, the drive will wake up and take the data. Some PC makers will also likely embed media or music



players along with other commonly used applications to ensure that boot time will be somewhat rapid.

Intel is working on a similar concept called Robson that lets the processor pull data out of flash. Although the end result is the same, the interaction among flash, the processor and the drive in Robson are different, Barnetson said.

South Korean electronics giant Samsung showed off a prototype of its hybrid hard drive last year at WinHec. This year, the company will show off the commercial version of the drive at the show, which takes place next week.

Samsung's hybrid drives, which work with Microsoft's Vista, will come in a variety of capacities when they appear in computers next year. The drives, though, will contain either 128MB or 256MB of Samsung's OneNAND flash memory. OneNAND is much faster than typical NAND memory.

Samsung will make the drives themselves but also coach other drive makers on how to incorporate its flash into their drives. (Samsung is the world's largest NAND flash maker, and OneNAND is a proprietary twist available only from the company.)

Technically speaking, hard drives already come with flash inside them, said Barnetson, but not enough to store applications or data.

The hybrid drives will be marketed under the ReadyDrive moniker, which is a Microsoft brand name. Notebook specification sheets thus will likely say something like "100GB drive enhanced with Windows Ready Drive."

Samsung is also working with Microsoft on ReadyBoost. In ReadyBoost (also known as EMD), a flash memory key stuck into a computer can act as supplemental main memory. With this technology, it will be easier to load Windows Vista, the upcoming update of the operating system, onto current computers. Vista will require more memory than Windows XP. One problem that Microsoft has had in the past is that consumers don't upgrade the operating systems on their existing computers much, because a software upgrade would entail a hardware upgrade.



Software News -

Getting Started with Podcasts

By Mike Hall



A podcast is an audio or video file that you can subscribe to online. The advantage to a podcast is that you don't need to remember to go back and get the newest information from your favorite online source. Once you subscribe to the podcast it will automatically show up in your reader. The readers are usually free or low cost. The majority of podcasts are available as audio files in MP3 format, syndicated through an RSS (XML) file. Other formats and other types of files, such as video, can also be podcasted. The content is downloaded to your desktop PC or mobile device. It's not streamed, so you can access the content when you want.

Podcast Readers

For your desktop computer:

Doppler --- <http://www.dopplerradio.net/>

IPodder --- <http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/>

Using a Podcast Reader

Download one of the Podcast readers listed above. For these instructions I'll use the iPodder UI, though both desktop tools work in a similar way.

When you see a symbol or link for an RSS feed of content or a podcast, and you click on it, it may be confusing at first. What you'll see is an XML file. You might think – what do I do with this – it doesn't do anything!

You need to cut and paste the URL into your reader. On the iPodder, do this by selecting Tools, then Add a Feed, or click the plus icon on the toolbar. Now all you need to do is download the content. Select **Tools >Check All**. This will examine each of the podcast feeds you've signed up for and download the content to your hard drive. The content is downloaded to **My Documents** and a subfolder called **My Received Podcasts**.

The podcasts will also show up in **My Playlists** on your Windows Media Player. Open Windows Media Player and click on the name of the podcast to play. If you want to watch or listen to your podcast on your Windows Mobile powered device, and you have Windows Media Player 10, you can sync it to your device for later viewing.

Two sources of Podcast Readers plus other information on podcasting are:

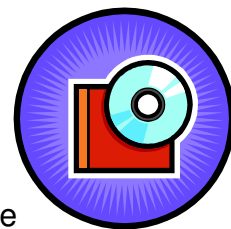
<http://www.dopplerradio.net/>

<http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/>

Computer Hardware - HD-DVD or Blu-Ray playback

By Koen Crijns

In the last few weeks the first HD-DVD and Blu-Ray drives for PC's have slowly trickled onto the market, but up to now it has not been clear what system you need to actually be able to play HD-DVD and Blu-Ray discs on your PC. The operating system was the main cause of concern; many rumors cropped up that the new generation of video discs would not work under Windows XP. We put the question to Cyberlink, the company behind Power DVD, if the lack of a *protected videopath* like in Windows XP would make it impossible to enable HD-DVD or Blu-Ray playback. They have answered our questions and given us a complete checklist of what you need to play Blu-Ray and HD-DVD movies in HD resolutions on your home PC.



Blu-ray or HD-DVD drive?

Pretty obvious point. Important to know is that all current first generation HD-DVD and Blu-Ray drives are suitable to play video discs, so no problems there.

Graphics card, driver and monitor have to be HDCP compatible

To enable HD resolution playback of an HD-DVD or Blu-Ray videodisc your monitor, graphics card and the driver you use have to be compatible with the HDCP standard. Nowadays the majority of new TFT monitors will feature HDCP support, but most of the older models unfortunately do not. Graphics cards are even worse, there is only a handful of cards out there that sport HDCP support. When your system lacks HDCP compatibility, it will not be possible to play the content in full HD resolution. Future releases of software will be able to play Blu-Ray and HD-DVD movies on a system without HDCP support, but only in standard resolutions. The purchase of a HD-DVD or Blu-Ray player will therefore have no added value to a normal DVD player without HDCP.

Windows XP SP2 or Windows Vista

Playback of Blu-ray and HD-DVD discs is possible in Windows Vista as well as Windows XP SP2.

Dual-core processor + 256 MB graphics card

HD content from a Blu-ray or HD-DVD disc requires quite a bit of processing power; Cyberlink recommends using a dual-core processor like the Intel Pentium D, Core 2 Duo or AMD Athlon X2. As a graphics card you should at least use a nVidia GeForce 7600 or ATI Radeon X1600 series with a minimum of 256MB video memory.

If you want to know if your systems is powerfull enough to play HD-DVD and/or Blu-Ray discs Cyberlink has released BD/HD Advisor, a small program that checks your system. The program can be downloaded from:

http://www.cyberlink.com/english/support/bdhd_support/diagnosis.jsp



Hint of the Month – Shortcuts May be Useful



Shortcuts in Word Using Keystrokes



Key Strokes	Action Microsoft Word
CTRL and A	Selects all in the current document.
CTRL and B	Bold text.
CTRL and C	Copies the item or text to the Clipboard and can be pasted using CTRL and V.
CTRL and D	Displays the Font dialogue box.
CTRL and E	Centre Alignment.
CTRL and F	Displays the Find dialog box, to search the current document.
CTRL and G	Displays the Go to dialog box, to go to a specific location in the current document.
CTRL and H	Displays the Replace dialogue box.
CTRL and I	Italic text.
CTRL and J	Full Justification.
CTRL and K	Create Hyperlink
CTRL and L	Left Alignment
CTRL and M	Tab
CTRL and N	Creates a new document.
CTRL and O	Displays the Open File dialogue box.
CTRL and P	Displays the Print dialog box.
CTRL and R	Right Alignment.
CTRL and S	Displays the Save dialog box.
CTRL and U	Underline text
CTRL and V	Pastes the copied item or text from the Clipboard into the current position in the document.
CTRL and X	Cuts the item or text selected to the Clipboard.
CTRL and Y	Redo the last undone action.

CTRL and Z	Undoes the last action.
CTRL and ENTER	Insert Page Break.
CTRL and F2	Show Print preview.
CTRL and F4	Closes the active document window.
CTRL and F6	Opens the next document window.
F1 key	Get help or use the Office assistant.
SHIFT and F1 Key	Context sensitive help.
F2 Key	Move text or image.
SHIFT and F2 Key	Copy Text.
F3 Key	Insert an autotext entry.
SHIFT and F3 Key	Change the case of the selected text.
F4 Key	Perform last action again.
SHIFT and F4 Key	Perform a Find or Go to action again.
F5 Key	Displays the Go to dialogue box, from here you can also Find and Replace.
SHIFT and F5 Key	Move to a previous revision.
F6 Key	Go to the next frame or pane.
SHIFT and F6 Key	Go to the previous frame or pane.
F7 Key	Launch the Spell checker.
SHIFT and F7 Key	Launch the Thesaurus.
F8 Key	Extend the current selection.
SHIFT and F8 Key	Shrink the current selection.
F9 Key	Update the selected fields.
SHIFT and F9 Key	Switch between a field code and it's result.
F10 Key	Activate the menu bar.
SHIFT and F10 Key	Display a Shortcut Menu. Same as right clicking.
F11 Key	Go to the next field.
SHIFT and F11 Key	Go to the previous field.
F12 Key	Save file As, equivalent to tools menu.
SHIFT and F12 Key	Save document, equivalent to tools menu.



Computer humor – My Wacky Spell Checker

by Samuel Clemens Ghost

I have a spelling checker It came with my PC. It plane lee marks fore
my revue Miss steaks aye can knot see. Eye ran this poem threw it.
Your sure real glad two no. Its very polished in it's weigh, My checker
tolled me sew. A checker is a blessing. It freeze yew lodes of thyme. It helps me
right awl stiles two reed, and aides me when aye rime. Each frays comes posed up
on my screen Eye trussed too bee a joule. The checker pours o'er every word To
cheque sum spelling rule. Bee fore a veiling checkers Hour spelling mite decline, And
if we're laks oar have a laps, We wood bee maid too wine. Butt now bee cause my
spelling Is checked with such grate flare, There are know faults with in my cite, Of



num eye am a wear. Now spelling does not phase me, It does knot bring a tier. My pay purrs awl due glad den With wrapped words fare as hear. To rite with care is quite a feet Of witch won should be proud, And wee mussed dew the best wee can, Sew flaws are knot aloud. Sow ewe can sea why aye dew prays Such soft wear four pea seas, And why eye brake in two averse Buy righting want too please.

HACS News –

Nominations



October is the month for nominations for next year's officers. We will vote for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer in November. The nominating Committee is Harold Johnson, Fred Haddad and Dave Cooley. Let them know of your suggestions.

Planning For Next Year



Now is the time to get suggestions to your Board for next year. What changes would you like to see? What types of programs are of interest? Is the scheduling of our meetings OK? How do you suggest we expand our membership? For this year we have been operating in a deficit to see if we could expand our membership significantly but to no avail. To work within a balanced budget we will need to address all aspects – expenses and income. On the expense side our big ones are room rental, door prizes, and advertising. We will be looking at these to see how and what can be reduced. For example, we could reduce some programming and that would cut down our room rental expenses. Of course, we can always look into our yearly dues that have not changed in years. We need your input on programming coupled with our budget problems to make next year better than ever!

HACS Officers/Executive Committee

President - Jerry Liedl - jerry@liedl.org

Vice-president – Jack Sokol -

jsokol@bigfoot.com

Past-president – Brian Fifiield -

brian@cyberclix.com

Secretary – Joy Capps - joy@tds.net

Treasurer – Jim Bailes -

jimbailes@highstream.net

Public Relations – Fred Haddad - f.haddad@mchsi.com

Program Committee – Interim chair is the Vice President

Membership – Interim chair is the Treasurer

Door Prizes – Harold Johnson - hjohnson1131@mchsi.com

