



# Bellaggio Computer and Technology Club Newsletter August 2011

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## Next meeting

**September 19,  
2011**

**Guest Speaker:**

**TBA**

**Paul's Computer  
Proctology**

**session begins @  
6:00PM**

# Stay cool!



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## **Bing vs. Google**

Microsoft's search engine, Bing, continues to grow in popularity but most users are still defaulting to Google for their searches.

If you have ever wondered what the difference is, we've got a tip!

If you want to see what the differences would be for your searches, checkout [Bing-vs-Google.com](http://Bing-vs-Google.com) for side-by-side results.



[www.bing-vs-google.com](http://www.bing-vs-google.com)

**On advice of our lawyers, the firm of Dewey, Cheatham and Howe, we MUST mention the following:**

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Remember: Member discounts with membership cards

**Batteries Plus Lake Worth** ... located on the southeast corner of Lantana and Jog Rd., behind the Outback Steakhouse & Jiffy Lube. Save 10% on all purchases.

**United States CONTRACT Post Office** ... Target Shopping Center (across from Bellaggio) ... a few doors north of Sal's restaurant. 10% discount on non-postal items. When I was there they were selling swimming pool supplies. He hopes to expand, selling greeting cards and other sundry items. Please remember **POSTAL items (stamps & services) NOT INCLUDED.**

**HHGregg**... 10560 Forest Hill Blvd. Wellington (same shopping center as closed Circuit City store). Thanks to Judy we have a new "sponsor". While the final details (definition of "commercial pricing", for one) have to be worked out, things look promising. As soon as I know, you'll know.

**Boost Your Car's Key Fob Range**

Tech urban legend says that you can increase your car's key fob range by strategically holding it to your chin and pushing a button. I tried it and it works. Next time you're in the parking lot try a little experiment.... In your usual manner test your fob's range. Then move further away, hold the fob to your chin and test.... I bet you'll find that you probably extended the range by 25-50%.

Try it yourself if you don't believe me. Somehow I know you will.



The Florida Association of Computer User Groups (FACUG) has announced the details of their 3rd Computer & Technology Conference@Sea. The Bellaggio Computer & Technology Club is fully supporting this effort. In addition, the Association of Computer User Groups (APCUG), the largest computer group in the world, will be joining forces and holding their Annual Meeting aboard the ship. Combine this with User Groups from around the state and country and it promises to be one spectacular event. Don't miss it.

We thought we had a good deal in 2010, but the deal for 2012 cannot be matched. With the experience we have gained the past two years, we are acting as our own travel agents and working directly with Norwegian Cruise Lines to bring you one fantastic package. NCL has free style dining. You dine whenever you want and wear whatever you want. There are no jackets, ties or gowns.

Here is 2012's deal. Enjoy a 5 day 4 night conference aboard the Norwegian Sky. The cruise will leave from Miami on Monday, January 23, 2012 and return January 27th. Buses will be provided to and from the port at \$15.00 per person/each way. Ports of call are The Grand Bahamas Island, Nassau, and Great Stirrup Cay, NCL's private island. They are refurbishing the Island at a cost of \$20 million dollars. It will have a new dock, new restaurants and an amphitheater that will allow for programs to be presented outdoors. We are planning on having one of our two complimentary cocktail parties on the Island.



Those of you who attended the 2011 conference can testify that the variety and quality of the programs offered were outstanding. The final survey of the 350 attendees showed that 98% rated the conference an "A or B". We expect this year's to meet or exceed that event.

How much do you think a conference like this would cost? Inside cabins, including all port charges, fees and government taxes are only **\$294**. For an outside cabin it's **\$344**. Tips are extra and paid at the time of final payment. Insurance too, is extra. The FACUG registration fee is **\$75** for the first person in the cabin and **\$25** for the second. Now here is the best part. As an early bird incentive, **GOOD THROUGH AUGUST 15, FACUG will be refunding \$25 of the registration fee; YES, EVEN THOSE WHO REGISTERED AT THE \$25 SECOND REGISTRANT IN A CABIN RATE GET \$25.** Play mind games by yourself; does that lower the cost of the cruise, the conference, pay for insurance, or does it give you a few extra bucks to "do with as you please"?

You WILL need to act quickly (**by AUGUST 15**) to take advantage of this offer.

We expect to have several non technical, fun type activities for spouses, so everyone attending can have a wonderful time. Come SAIL-ABRATE with us.

To register, you need to go to FACUG's website, [www.facug.org](http://www.facug.org). You will register for the conference and then be directed to the 800 number of NCL to book your cabin. The deposit is \$100 per person; it is fully refundable until 71 days prior to the cruise. Book now! Call me for more information.

## Essential survival plans from Red Cross



Families need to have a plan of action to secure themselves when natural disasters strike. It is a common and dangerous practice to assume catastrophes will not hit a given location, but those unlucky enough to have experienced nature's force will confirm that being prepared can be the difference between survival or tragedy.

Red Cross: learn from their experience

The Red Cross organization is the world's leader in emergency response, and since its founding in 1881 the group has documented invaluable plans and procedures resulting from first-hand experience with natural disasters. The assistance provided by Red Cross personnel has saved thousands of lives in conditions which many of us don't even know about — and that's a good thing — however we have all seen situations which chilled our blood just by watching the aftermath on the news. A perfect example is the recent earthquake/tsunami/nuclear disaster that hit Japan earlier on this year, with consequences that still plague the Japanese people till today.

When considering how effective the Red Cross interventions are, we should all be responsible enough to read what they recommend to families for being prepared in dire situations. Among their many documents, I highly recommend is the following disaster plan which can be downloaded as a PDF file from the Red Cross website.

The Family Disaster Plan

This PDF document provides essential information to put together a family disaster plan and what to include in a disaster supplies kit.



[http://www.redcross.org/preparedness/FinRecovery/FinPlan/pdfs/aicpa\\_ch1.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/preparedness/FinRecovery/FinPlan/pdfs/aicpa_ch1.pdf)

I know a few of you will be unable to open the above link. The reason is that you probably do not have a reliable .pdf reader. I use NITRO .pdf PROFESSIONAL (sells for \$99.) which I got "for free after rebate" from www.frys.com (an occasional promotion). You probably do not want/need such a powerful program... so you can download **FOR FREE** PRIMO .pdf reader, a reliable, secure piece of software.

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## Choose the perfect e-reader

[www.Komando.com](http://www.Komando.com)

E-book sales are skyrocketing. For many retailers, sales are outpacing those of traditional books. Barnes & Noble now sells three times as many e-books as traditional ones online. You can read e-books on computers and smartphones. But to really enjoy them, you'll want a dedicated e-reader.

There are many options when it comes to e-readers. New models are released regularly, as manufacturers seek to cash in. And prices are falling rapidly. It would be impossible to cover all models here. So, I will tell you about some more unique options. Incidentally, tablets like the iPad 2 handle e-books. However, I am omitting them, as the comparison would be unfair.

Visit [here](#) for a handy comparison chart of these e-readers and others. You'll also find links to thousands of free e-books.

### Kindle DX

Amazon's 6-inch Kindle started the e-reader revolution. It's the gold standard. In the past few years, Amazon has released several more models. You'll find it with or without 3G connectivity. You'll also find subsidized models; they'll save you a few dollars if you're willing to view ads and offers.

My favorite is still the Kindle DX (\$380), a larger version with a 9.7-inch E-ink display. The screen is easy to read, even in direct sunlight. The 3G connectivity lets you download books no matter where you are. Wireless delivery is free and takes about 60 seconds.

There's a keyboard for annotating books and looking up words. The DX holds about 3,500 books. And there are nice extras. The Read-to-me feature lets you listen to participating titles. Plus the screen rotates automatically as you turn the DX.

### Nook Simple Touch Reader

Barnes & Noble offers several versions of its Nook e-reader. The latest model is the Simple Touch Reader (\$140). It features a 6-inch E-ink display. Unlike most e-readers, though, it responds to touch. Simply swipe to flip pages. That's cool. You can also use the touch screen to highlight passages and look up words.

Barnes & Noble claims the Simple Touch has the longest battery life. Read up to two months on a single charge. The Nook supports a variety of formats, including ePub. This means you can borrow books from your local library. There's also Wi-Fi and built-in storage for about 1,000 titles. Store thousands more by adding a microSD card.

### Pandigital Novel Color

Pandigital's Novel 7" Multimedia eReader (\$180) uses an LCD instead of e-ink. That means battery life will suffer. However, its color touch screen will appeal to many readers. You can listen to music and view photos and video. That's in addition to reading popular e-book formats.

Onboard storage holds hundreds of e-books; it can be expanded with a standard SD card. You can surf the Web and send email, thanks to built-in Wi-Fi. You can also look up words, highlight text and add bookmarks. The Novel lets you download e-books from Barnes & Noble's e-bookstore.

#### Sony Reader Daily Edition

Sony's Reader Daily Edition (\$300) features a 7-inch touch screen with a virtual keyboard. As the name implies, it is particularly suited for downloading newspapers and periodicals. You can read in horizontal or vertical format.

Use the built-in Wi-Fi and 3G to download publications and e-books anywhere. The Reader Daily supports various formats. You can download from many stores, including Sony's own. Store up to 1,200 books with the built-in storage. Add an SD card or Memory Stick to carry thousands more.

The e-reader market is rapidly changing. In the past year, many e-reader manufacturers have succumbed to the competition. But the big boys are all doing well. Expect to see new models from Amazon and Sony this fall.

**Abbreviations for seniors...** I thought the following listing was appropriate... after all, the kids have all their little codes...like BFF, LOL, WTF, etc. So here are some codes for seniors:

ATD - At the Doctor's

BTW - Bring the Wheelchair

CBM - Covered by Medicare

DWI - Driving While Incontinent

FWIW - Forgot Where I Was

GGPBL - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low

HGBM - Had Good Bowel Movement

LMDO - Laughing My Dentures Out

LWO - Lawrence Welk's On

OMSG - Oh My! Sorry, Gas

WAITT - Who Am I Talking To?

WTP - Where's the Prunes

BFF - Best Friends Funeral

BYOT - Bring Your Own Teeth

CUATSC - See You at the Senior Center

FWBB - Friend with Beta Blockers

FYI - Found Your Insulin

GHA - Got Heartburn Again

IMHO - Is My Hearing-Aid On?

LOL - Living on Lipitor

OMMR - On My Massage Recliner

TTYL - Talk to You Louder

WTFA - Wet the Furniture Again

WWNO - Walker Wheels Need Oil

ROFL...CGU - Rolling on the Floor Laughing...Can't get Up!

Hope these help!

GGLKI - Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking in!

Visit (y)our website

[www.thebctc.com](http://www.thebctc.com)

## 8 rules of email etiquette

By Petra Guglielmetti Shine by Yahoo

Committing a major email faux pas is a lot easier than you think. One minute you're forwarding a seemingly-innocent email to friends and family, only to find out that you've unwittingly offended half of your contact list the next. Many of us think of cyberspace as a casual arena where anything can be said and done for laughs. However, as email becomes an increasingly popular form of communication, it's important to choose your words wisely—and to be conscious about who you send them to. So before you dash off a hasty message, make sure you avoid these eight all-too-common email blunders.

### 1. Don't Abuse the Reply All

"Reply all is like salt—it should be used only when needed, and with caution," says etiquette expert Jodi Smith. Only use reply all when everyone on the list of addresses requires your response. Most of the time, it is sufficient to only reply to the person who sent you the email. Of course, every email program displays things differently, so sometimes you don't even realize you've replied all until your cubicle neighbor gently informs you that the entire company just received your snippy response about the new vacation-approval policy. When responding to an email, it's always a good idea to take a moment and confirm that it's only headed to your intended recipient.

### 2. Be Careful with the Bcc

The "Bcc:" option allows you to "blind carbon copy" someone on an email without any of the other recipients knowing. It's useful in certain instances, like when you're sending a message to a large mailing list and wish to keep peoples' email addresses private, or when you are requesting information from a group and want to make sure replies only come to you. But Bcc'ing can also backfire, big time. Say you email that snippy woman from the PTA and Bcc your best friend so she can take a peep; if the best friend hits reply all, PTA lady will get her response, and you'll be busted. The best Bcc rule of thumb: Never use it for sneaky reasons!

### 3. Avoid Casual Cursing

Its fine to %\*@\* this or \$&@# that, as long as you're emailing a friend or close coworker, right? Wrong. "You may think you're venting to someone close to you, but if the recipient forwards that email, you no longer have any control over what you said," Smith explains. And you know how things can get forwarded again, and again, and again. "Email is a permanent document that can always be retrieved and used against you," warns etiquette consultant Jacqueline Whitmore. For people who aren't familiar with your sense of humor, cursing can make you look ignorant or extremely frustrated, so keep that in mind next time you want to let off a little steam via email.

### 4. Don't Be Lazy About Grammar

It's a slippery slope: First, you stop capitalizing the first letter of sentences. Then you stop forming complete sentences. Next thing you know, even backspacing to fix a blatant spelling error feels way too strenuous—never mind double-checking your grammar usage. When even your boss's emails lack grammatical correctness, it's easy to relax your standards.

However, keeping your grammar bar high makes you stand out—in a good way. “In this economy, you need to be as polished and professional as possible,” Smith says. “Especially in business, your competence is judged by observable behaviors. Poor grammar, punctuation and spelling can signal incompetence.”

#### 5. Always Respond

After plowing through the contents of your inbox on a busy workday, it's easy to forget to circle back and respond to messages. Take the time to reply as you go (even just to say you got the email), and you'll avoid that constant, nagging feeling that you've forgotten something. In general, aim to reply to emails within 24 hours. However, “you don't have to respond to every email,” Whitmore says. “For example, if someone thanks you in an email, you don't have to email them to say thank you for the thank you. Use your best judgment.”

#### 6. Watch Out for Uppercase Overkill

In email land, writing in all capital letters means YOU ARE YELLING AT SOMONE. Unless that's what you're going for, better unclick that caps lock button. “To emphasize one word, place \*asterisks\* around it instead,” Whitmore suggests.

#### 7. Be Wary of Attachment Overload

The 11 photos of your new puppy you sent to your best friend won't seem as cute when they're causing her email to take 11 minutes to load—or crashing her computer completely. “Always ask permission before sending large attachments,” Whitmore advises. When in doubt, save documents in a PDF format, which will help prevent download problems.

#### 8. No Unnecessary Use of Cuteness

If you enjoy using emoticons (smileys, the “surprised” face) and acronyms (LOL, BTW, TTYL), at least banish them from your professional correspondence. They can be distracting, confusing, or worse, make you seem more like a high schooler than a trusted colleague. One thing you should be including in all your business emails: a signature that provides your full name, title, work address and phone number.

## **Make It Darker**

By lowering the brightness level of your laptop's display, you can get additional battery life. Depending on your laptop, you may be able to get as much as an extra hour of runtime, simply by lowering the brightness. Lowering the screen resolution and color depth can help too, since these things can decrease the workload on the GPU. Navigate to Start, Control Panel, Display to change these settings. Other features, such as ClearType fonts and fade effects can consume CPU power; disabling these features can help extend your battery life, too. Navigate to Start, Control Panel, System, Advanced, Performance Settings to make these changes.

## How Do Computers Get Infected? [www.askbobrankin.com](http://www.askbobrankin.com)

There are many ways a computer can become infected by a virus, Trojan, spyware, or other malware. Many of them depend on your cooperation, or at least your inattention. Below are some of the most common ways that your computer can get infected, and suggestions for preventing it.

Clicking without questioning is one of the best ways to get a virus. Whether browsing the Web or installing new software, many people just "follow the prompts" given to them by a Web site or installation program. Malware distributors take advantage of this mindless behavior, prompting users to plays that seem crude but actually work quite often.

A favorite trick is to pre-check "permission" buttons in installation programs, implying that the "default" thing to do is accept whatever malware-laden toolbar or add-on program that is offered.

Scare tactics are often used to induce hasty clicks. A pop-up window may scream, "YOUR PC IS INFECTED!" and urge you to click for a cure. Often the "cure" is really the disease, which did not exist on your PC until you downloaded it by clicking. "This Web page requires the Aardvark plugin; click here to install" is another con that malware pushers use. ("Aardvark" is a made-up name, not a real plug-in.)

### Attachments and Free Stuff

Clicking on email attachments is another way to activate a spyware or virus. Curiosity often plays a role in getting people to click on attachments from unknown senders. Sometimes an email attachment that seems to come from someone you know is actually a forgery.

There is a common misconception that only executable file attachments - those ending in .exe, .com, or .bat - are dangerous. In fact, malicious code can be hidden in files of other formats to exploit vulnerabilities in the programs that open them. Thousands of malware payloads have been delivered via Adobe PDF and Microsoft Office files. If a file can be opened with a click, it can be dangerous.

Pirated music, movies, and software from "warez", "file sharing" or "torrent" sites often contain hidden payloads of malware. If you hang out with dishonest people, it should come as no surprise when they burn you with malware. Similarly, so-called "adult" sites are often traps for the unwary.

Downloading freeware, shareware, and other software from unfamiliar Web sites can bring an infection to your computer. Stick with well-known download libraries, such as Tucows (<http://www.tucows.com/downloads>) or Download.com, that scan files for malware before posting them for visitors to download.

Sharing files via USB flash drives or CDs is another potential way to pass malware between friends and co-workers.

Not keeping your operating system, browser, and other software up to date with the latest security patches is asking for malware trouble. Even the best anti-virus program can't do its job if you fail to keep its malware signature databases current.

Turning off firewalls or anti-malware software, or never installing them at all, is like wandering into the jungle without insect repellent.

Let's sum it up... Malware comes in many forms and from many directions. Think before you click. Be wary of email attachments. Keep your software up to date. Always keep your firewall and security defenses up. Stay out of the shady parts of the Internet. Following these tips, and giving regular reminders to others who use your computer, will go a long way toward keeping you virus free.

## **How to Buy an HDTV** [www.askbobrankin.com](http://www.askbobrankin.com)

Whether you are buying your first HDTV or replacing an older one, there are state-of-the-art specifications that will make your investment more enjoyable today and protect it against early obsolescence. Here are some things to look for in your next HDTV...

### **Your HDTV Buying Decision**

Let's start with the most important factor, the screen. The screen resolution should be 1080p, equivalent to 1920 by 1080 pixels. Virtually all HDTVs sold today that are 40 inches or larger support 1080p, while smaller screens may be limited to 720p (1366 x 768 pixels). A 720p device must rescale a 1080p image to make it fit the lower-rez screen, and that can result in sub-optimal viewing. More and more television content is being produced in 1080p, so spend the extra bucks and get it.

Contrast ratio is the second most important factor after resolution. A low contrast ratio means washed-out images and blah colors. High contrast means more details and colors that "pop." Technically, the contrast ratio refers to the difference between the darkest and lightest images that an HDTV can display. Subjectively, it means "how black are the blacks." Compare sets side by side in the store.

And size does matter when it comes to TV viewing. HDTV screen sizes vary from 19 inches to 70 inches, measured on the diagonal. Of course bigger means more expensive, and for the larger models, mounting can be an issue. You may wind up spending a couple hundred bucks for a wall mount that can support a 100+ pound TV. And if you're not 100% certain of your ability to install it safely, you'll need to pay for professional installation as well.

Internet connectivity is relatively new to HDTVs. It allows you to connect your HDTV to a router (wired or wirelessly) and retrieve content from Internet services such as Hulu.com or Netflix, or from video libraries stored on other devices in your home network. If you've ever thought about canceling your cable or satellite TV subscription, an Internet-connected HDTV might fill the void with the ability to download and watch your favorite shows and movies.

continued on next page

## LED, LCD or 3D?

So-called "LED TVs" are LCD TVs with an LED backlight instead of standard fluorescent backlighting. LEDs consume less power and produce better color response than traditional backlights, and enable thinner HDTV sets. Dynamic backlighting (or "local dimming") is a feature that reduces backlighting on dim portions of an image, significantly boosting contrast. The standard refresh rate of 60 Hz may be sped up to 120 or 240 Hz in some HDTV models. The increase in refresh rate can help eliminate motion blurring on LCD TVs.

3D TV is now an option on certain HDTV models offered by all the major manufacturers. There isn't much 3D content yet, so this is more of a future-proofing option. Check your cable or satellite TV provider's 3D offerings. If they include programming you really want to watch in 3D, you may want to shell out the extra dollars (up to \$150) for this option and wear those funky 3D glasses. The more expensive active shutter 3D glasses provide better viewing quality than lighter-weight passive glasses. Yes, you can still watch 2D TV on a set that supports 3D.

HDTVs come with a bewildering array of video connectors. The most important one is HDMI, the latest version of which is 1.4. Look for at least three HDMI connectors on any set you consider; more is better. Component video, VGA, S-video, and composite video have their uses, depending on what other equipment you need to connect to the HDTV. Check out the connectors on your cable TV box, VHS/DVD player, and gaming systems to make sure your new TV will accommodate them.

Automatic brightness control adjusts the set's brightness in response to changes in room lighting. This can save a significant amount of power. Automatic volume leveling reduces the differences between volume levels in programming, so you can hear whispered dialogue without being blown away when the bomb goes off.

You should visit a store, check out competing models side by side, decide how much screen real estate you can afford, and which features are the most important. Even then, sometimes it boils down to what's on sale.

Don't forget to check out HHGregg (Forest Hill Blvd store only). Bring your BCTC membership card, ask for a manager, and see what the "commercial" discount saves you.



*"Your handwriting is atrocious, not encrypted."*

## Prescription Drugs

We all need them, we all take them. Often times they are our best friends....

Find answers to your questions about prescription drugs at USA.gov, which is the official Web portal for the United States.



[www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Health/](http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Health/)

**Figure out your smartphone's data plan before it's too late** [www.komando.com](http://www.komando.com)

You don't think how much data you use when you fire up an app or send an email. But the days of unlimited data usage on smartphones are ending. New AT&T and Verizon subscribers must now choose a limited data plan. Exceeding your monthly data allotment will cost you.

Both carriers offer a basic, 2-gigabyte plan. Most users will opt for this. What can you do with 2GB of data transfer? Let's take a look.

**Video**

Video is one of the worst offenders when it comes to data usage. It doesn't matter if you're streaming videos from YouTube or video chatting. It will really tax your data plan.

One minute of YouTube-quality video uses about two megabytes of data. Watch a half-hour television show daily, and you could exceed your data plan. Don't let your smartphone become your substitute for television. And save the videos for Wi-Fi whenever possible.

**Music**

Streaming audio uses much less data than video. However, it is more dangerous. You listen to music when you're working or taking a run. It's easy to lose track of how long you're listening.

Suppose you listen to two hours daily. You'll reach your monthly data limit. If you must listen to streaming music, stick to Wi-Fi connections. Of course, smartphones offer ample storage for music files. Load your own music and refresh the selection periodically.

**Photos**

The size of digital photos varies from phone to phone. The photos' content also affects file size. Figure that each photo uses about 500 kilobytes. That's half a megabyte.

You can send about 4,000 photos under a 2GB plan. That's more than enough for most users. If you're worried about overages, wait for a Wi-Fi connection to upload photos.

**Navigation**

In most cases, you'll use mapping and navigation apps on the road. You won't have access to Wi-Fi. Unfortunately, these apps may use up to 1MB a minute when retrieving map images. Use one for an hour a day, and you're near your limit.

Frequent drives don't need to give up on navigation apps. Some navigation apps don't require data access. Rather, they store map data directly on your smartphone. They require more storage space, but they'll save you in the long term.

**Web surfing**

Many people worry about basic Web surfing. There are no hard-and-fast rules when it comes to the size of Web pages. Sites with heavy graphics and lots of photos use the most data. Simple pages, like Google's home page, won't use much at all.

Continued on next page

You'll be fine if you visit less than 100 pages a day. If your data usage is heavier in other areas, stick with mobile versions of websites. These usually load automatically. They're smaller and use less data.

You can also download a more efficient browser. Opera Mini compresses the data it transfers. It says it can reduce data charges up to 90 percent. Download this free browser from [here](#).

### **Social networking and email**

Facebook uses about the same amount of data as Web surfing. Just watch out for your friends' photos and links to videos. Twitter users don't have much to worry about. That is, unless you click a lot of links and follow a lot of people.

Likewise, basic email messages don't use much data. Messages with photos and other files attached are the exception. You might stop your phone from checking for messages automatically. You can then wait for Wi-Fi to download your messages.

Finally, both Verizon and AT&T offer tools for monitoring data usage. Go to their website for links. If you consistently hit your monthly limit, upgrade to a bigger plan. And use Wi-Fi instead of 3G connections whenever possible.

### **Font Size On-The-Fly** [smartcomputing.com](http://smartcomputing.com)

When you're working on a document, it can be tedious to constantly have to adjust font sizes manually. Or perhaps you're working on a project with various types and sizes of fonts and need a way to quickly compare sizes. Whatever your needs, you can easily increase or decrease font sizes in Microsoft Office applications. Highlight the text and press CTRL-SHIFT-< to make the font smaller and CTRL-SHIFT-> to make the font larger.

### **eReaders Outselling Tablets** [smartcomputing.com](http://smartcomputing.com)

Despite the tablet hype, more Americans have opted for an eReader. In November 2010, Pew reports that 6% of U.S. adults owned an eReader. Just six months later, that number had doubled to 12%. During the same period, however, 4% of U.S. adults owned a tablet last year and 8% owned one as of May 2011. Most of the growth in tablet ownership came between November 2010 and the following January, when 7% of adults reported owning one of the devices.

### **It's hurricane season**

Besides the usual normal preparation we all do to protect our mansions, here's a tip, just in case the worst case scenario does happen...

Take pictures and/or videos of the inside and outside of your castle to aid in the insurance process.

Another tip: borrow a few VanGoghs and Monets and place them strategically in the pictures... (wink, wink)

## Get Published!

Do you like to write? Do you have a favorite piece of software, or hardware, you want to let others know about?

We are always looking for some home grown articles for the newsletter. You do not have to be an expert, and you don't have to be an experienced writer.

Submit your article, review, commentary, etc., to: [ourbctc@gmail.com](mailto:ourbctc@gmail.com)

If anything has to be corrected, or edited, you will be advised of the changes before it would be published.

There is no deadline but the earlier a submission is received the better, as time is needed for editing, for content, as well as spacing.

Join the Newsletter staff. It's (almost) painless.

## Check the Strength of Your Password

If you're not certain about the strength of your password(s), head to Microsoft's password checker. This free tool couldn't be simpler to use: Just type in your password and get an instant strength rating: Weak, Medium, Strong, or Best.

Password:   
Strength: Medium



[https://www.microsoft.com/security/pc-security/password-checker.aspx?](https://www.microsoft.com/security/pc-security/password-checker.aspx)



PLACE YOUR AD HERE, FOR  
FREE!

Email... [ourbctc@gmail.com](mailto:ourbctc@gmail.com) if interested.

## Buy, Sell, or Trade

Have you got something to sell? Something to trade? Something you're trying to find? Post it here and maybe a fellow member can help match things up.

Email your 'ad' to [ourbctc@gmail.com](mailto:ourbctc@gmail.com)

