Chesapeake PC Users Group, Inc.
THE PRINTER

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This months meeting is kind of a Potluck type of meeting. We have a little of everything.

First off, how to join the Chesapeake PC Users Group, Yahoo Group message board. There are still some folks who want to know about this, and we will give a demonstration on how to join and participate in the group. This is the best and quickest way to have a question answered between meetings.

It's that time of the year again, Tax Season! One way to save money is to file your own taxes, if you want the convenience of electronically filing and would like to have the computer check your math. For $10 your can file your Federal and State taxes on-line at Taxslayer.com. This is one of the more popular and easy to use tax preparation sites on the Internet. Here is a little more information from the website:

Growing out of an established firm with a solid reputation and over 30 years in the Tax Preparation business, TaxSlayer has the full expertise of a professional tax service behind it. TaxSlayer is proud to assist you in preparing and e-Filing your taxes.

The TaxSlayer Mission is…

To provide a quality product, exceptional customer service, while providing our fellow employees with an enriched and financially rewarding career.

The TaxSlayer Story

Our Professional Tax Package, TaxSlayer Pro was introduced to professional tax practitioners in 1992. Starting in 1998, we used the basic technology from our professional package to develop our individual version for online preparation and e-Filing.

Our tax preparation software has been used to complete millions of returns over the past eleven years. Our aim is to provide you with the highest quality program and online technical support. Our TaxSlayer Individual program is a fully featured tax preparation program that is designed for you, the individual taxpayer. This program provides all the forms, calculations and communication links to allow you to prepare and e-File your tax return electronically with the IRS.

And finally, the technical topic of the night, VMware. VMware is Virtual Machine software to run multiple operating systems simultaneously on

cont'd on Page 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - cont'd

your computer. This process is know as Virtualization. Virtualization is an abstraction layer that decouples the physical hardware from the operating system to deliver greater IT resource utilization and flexibility.

Virtualization allows multiple virtual machines, with heterogeneous operating systems to run in isolation, side-by-side on the same physical machine. Each virtual machine has its own set of virtual hardware (e.g., RAM, CPU, NIC, etc.) upon which an operating system and applications are loaded. The operating system sees a consistent, normalized set of hardware regardless of the actual physical hardware components.

Virtual machines are encapsulated into files, making it possible to rapidly save, copy and provision a virtual machine. Full systems (fully configured applications, operating systems, BIOS and virtual hardware) can be moved, within seconds, from one physical server to another for zero-downtime maintenance and continuous workload consolidation.

Virtualization was first introduced in the 1960s to allow partitioning of large, mainframe hardware -a scarce and expensive resource. Over time, minicomputers and PCs provided a more efficient, affordable way to distribute processing power, so by the 1980s, virtualization was no longer widely employed.

In the 1990s, researchers began to see how virtualization could solve some of the problems associated with the proliferation of less expensive hardware, including under utilization, escalating management costs and vulnerability.

Today, virtualization is in the forefront - helping businesses with scalability, security and management of their global IT infrastructure.

I hope everyone learns a little bit from this meeting.

Michael

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Cameras Offer More Features for Fewer Bucks

New models from Fujifilm, Olympus, and Panasonic take a run at March's number one advanced camera, the Canon PowerShot G6.

The Fujifilm FinePix S5200 takes great photos at a resolution of just 5 megapixels.

Three new models nabbed spots on this month's Top 5 chart—and two of them are less expensive than any previously tested advanced camera. Each of the newcomers brings plenty of features, including a powerful zoom lens.

None of these upstart models could knock the Canon PowerShot G6 off its first-place perch, but the Fujifilm FinePix S5200 came close, earning a rating of Superior for image quality despite having the lowest megapixel rating of any camera on the chart. It just goes to show that you need more than lots of megapixels to make great pictures. The S5200 has fast startup, its shutter lag is minimal, and it focuses quickly. Some unconventional focus modes help you lock on to such difficult subjects as high-contrast or off-center objects. On the downside, the LCD is a bit small at 1.8 inches, and the software is nothing special. Also, though the S5200 is the only camera on this month's chart that can shoot at ISO 1600, noise was quite noticeable in images shot at the higher settings.

The Olympus SP-500 Ultra Zoom has the lowest price here. In fact, its price originally persuaded us to test it as a point-and-shoot model. Its impressive performance in that category, however, encouraged us to test its mettle against advanced cameras—and it delivered similarly good results. The SP-500 matched the image quality of much more expensive models, and it offers features such as a large 2.5-inch LCD and the ability to store four customized scene modes. Both Canon units on the chart let you store two custom modes; the Fujifilm and Panasonic products don't have this option. But the SP-500's shutter speed tops out at 1/1000 second, while most advanced cameras we've tested offer a 1/2000-second shutter, and Canon's Pro1 even hits 1/4000 second.

Panasonic's $700 Lumix DMC-FZ30 is the only newly tested model with image stabilization. This capability can help prevent blurry images when you're using the camera's long, 60-second shutter speed or its powerful 12X zoom lens. The DMC-FZ30 uses a moving element in its lens for stabilization, rather than performing electronic compensation after the image is taken, as some cameras do. But photos taken with the Panasonic at high ISOs had more digital noise than many other models' images did.

Two cameras we tested this month didn't make the chart. The $400 Konica Minolta DiMage Z6 turned in subpar scores for image quality and had limited controls. Sony's Cyber-shot DSC-R1, on the other hand, earned a Superior rating for image quality; but the camera's $1000 price tag, weak zoom, and unpredictable autofocus held it back.

Cameras Offer More Features- cont'd

**The Very Latest Advanced Camera Chart
Top 5 Advanced Cameras From the March 2006 Issue of PC World Magazine**

	ADVANCED CAMERA	PCW Rating	Performance	Features and specifications
1	Canon PowerShot G6 **Best BUY** $579 find.pcworld.com/44872	**86** Very Good	• Image quality: Very Good • Battery life: Superior • Overall design: Superior	• 7.1 megapixels • 35mm to 140mm zoom • 4 scene modes • 21.7 ounces
	▶ **Bottom line:** The chunky G6 held its best-in-show crown by performing well in our image-quality tests and providing many useful controls.			
2	Fujifilm FinePix S5200 $400 find.pcworld.com/50942	**84** Very Good	• Image quality: Superior • Battery life: Superior • Overall design: Very Good	• 5.0 megapixels • 38mm to 380mm zoom • 5 scene modes • 16.8 ounces
	▶ **Bottom line:** Snappy autofocus and great image quality make the S5200 hard to beat. It can shoot at ISO 1600, but images looked noisy.			
3	Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ30 $700 find.pcworld.com/50950	**84** Very Good	• Image quality: Very Good • Battery life: Good • Overall design: Very Good	• 8.0 megapixels • 35mm to 420mm zoom • 14 scene modes • 26.4 ounces
	▶ **Bottom line:** This model offers a focus ring, 12X zoom, and dual control wheels. Images are noisy at higher ISOs, and battery life is limited.			
4	Olympus SP-500 Ultra Zoom $380 find.pcworld.com/50946	**83** Very Good	• Image quality: Very Good • Battery life: Superior • Overall design: Good	• 6.0 megapixels • 38mm to 380mm zoom • 21 scene modes • 13.6 ounces
	▶ **Bottom line:** The low-priced SP-500 has strong image quality, long battery life, and a powerful zoom—but it lacks image stabilization.			
5	Canon PowerShot Pro1 $699 find.pcworld.com/43164	**81** Very Good	• Image quality: Very Good • Battery life: Good • Overall design: Good	• 8.0 megapixels • 28mm to 200mm zoom • 7 scene modes • 22.0 ounces
	▶ **Bottom line:** The Pro1's compact case makes it a pleasant camera to tote. Its battery life could be better, however.			

CHART NOTES: Ratings are as of 12/23/2005. Features listings are not exhaustive.
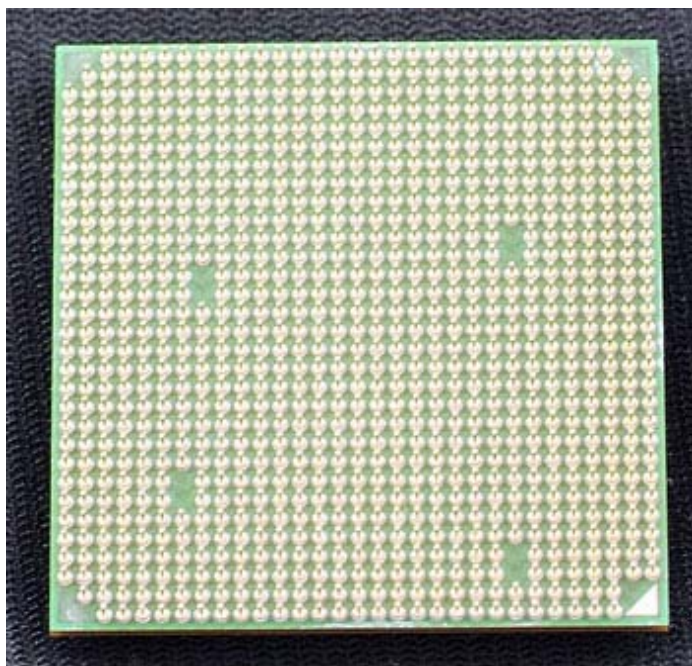

Chesapeake PC Users Group

AMD AM2: More than just a Memory Change

The new AMD technology refresh, now called AM2, will bring DDR2 memory to the Athlon64 on-processor memory controller. Many in the industry have speculated about the impact of this low latency memory controller on DDR2 performance, which to this point has suffered under the impact of the higher latency Intel Netburst architecture. We are looking forward to the opportunity to take a closer look at DDR2 performance on AM2 - which is everyone's big question.

There will be more than just new memory with AM2, however. We now have details on the new Socket 940 for AM2. It has been widely reported that the new Socket 940 won't be compatible with the existing Socket 940 used for Opteron and early Athlon 64.

Photos of the back of the new AM2 processor show how very close the new design is to the current Socket 940.
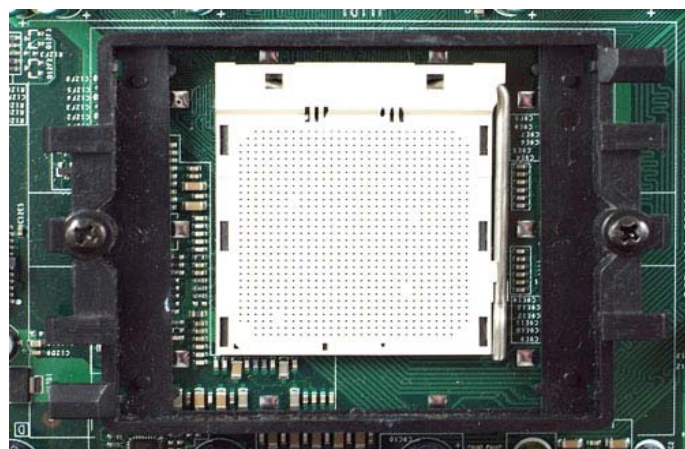
AM2 Processor

Current Socket 940 (Reversed)

By flipping the current 940 socket photo and comparing pin-outs to the back of the AM2, you can clearly see the

top 2 "lands", areas without pins, are identical in the current Socket 940 and the AM2 Socket 940. However, the bottom two lands are in different locations. The bottom right land is the same 2 pins up, but 7 pins form the edge instead of the 5 in the current 940 design. The left land is also in the same row position as the current 940, but it is 6 pins from the left edge instead of 8 as in the current 940 design.

The AM2 940 and current Opteron 940 are so close in design; you have to conclude that AMD could have used the same socket design. But there are numerous electrical differences and different memory is required. AMD apparently used a revised Socket 940 to prevent any possibility that AM2 chips might get accidentally mounted in current Socket 940 motherboards. That is probably a very wise decision.

New AM2 Cage

With the two 940 sockets so similar, you would reasonably expect existing heatsink/fans to work on the new AM2.
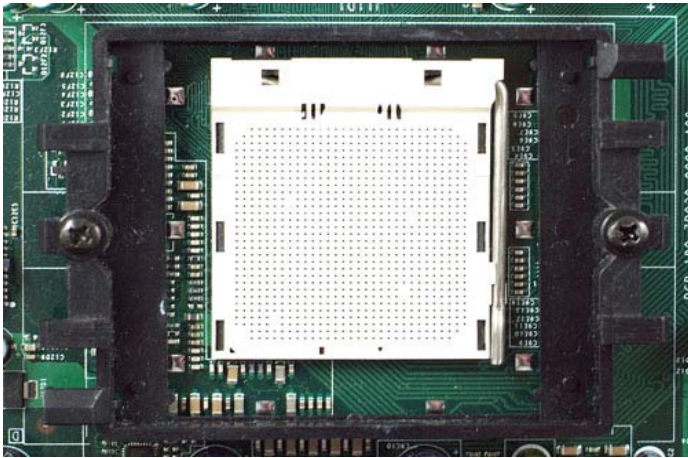

After all AMD has maintained the same "cage" design though 754, 940, and 939 sockets. The same heatsink/fan can be mounted on any of these sockets without concern about compatibility.. Those with large and exotic cooling solutions have other concerns about whether motherboard layout may block their cooling device, but overall there is one HSF design through all the Athlon 64 socket designs.

It appears AM2 will change this ongoing HSF compatibility with a brand new, and mostly incompatible, heatsink cage design. The new AM2 design, if it makes it to final production, is a nice upgrade to the existing **Athlon 64 HSF** mounting design, but there are almost no current Athlon 64 HSFs that will fit the new design.

If you look at the designs side-by-side you can see the differences more clearly.

Socket 939/940/754 HSF Cage

AM2 HSF Cage
While the spacing width of the center mounting lug is the same on both the current cage and the AM2 version, that's about all that is the same. Most current basic designs connect with the center lug and have push down cam locks that lock onto the extra lug near the cage corners. There are no extra lugs on the

new AM2 cage, so designs that require cam locking won't work. Neither will most of the "step-up" 3 lug mounting clips. AM2 only has one lug per side, and the 3-lug clip is normally intruding on the new screw locations (just a little too wide) to mount on the new AM2 cage.

In addition the current high-end designs, which replace the existing cage with a new mounting system just simply won't work. The current Athlon 64 design uses one screw on each side in the center of the mounting lug. The new AM2 design uses four corner mounted screws - more secure but not useful for mounting current 2 screw mounting schemes.

Current Athlon 64 heatsinks that use a single lug for mounting and no cam for locking will likely work on the new AM2 cage. Recently shipped AMD retail heatsinks have a single lug connection and a lever lock without the locking cam. Those should work fine on the new AM2. However, not a single third party HSF in our lab - the kinds our readers most likley use - would mount properly on the new AM2 cage.

Bottom Line

The upcoming move to AMD Athlon64 AM2 will introduce a new Socket 940 design. The new Socket is very close in design to the current 940 design used on Opteron motherboards. It appears the pin-outs have been changed just enough to prevent the new AM2 processors from accidentally being plugged into older Socket 940 boards.

It was already clear the new CPU would require DDR2 memory, but it appears AMD is also using this architecture change to upgrade the current mounting scheme for Athlon 64 heatsink/fans. The new design is certainly very secure - more stable than the current design - but there are very few existing heatsink/fans that will work on the new cage. From Socket 754, 940, and 939 the same heatsinks have all worked on all Athlon 64 sockets. With AM2 that compatibility basically ends. For those buying a retail CPU with the HSF this news won't matter at all. For enthusiasts that have invested in more exotic air, water or phase-change cooling solutions for Athlon 64 this could be important news.

Heatsink, water-cooling, and phase-change designers can make a few changes to existing designs that will allow their products to work with both the new AM2 design and the existing A64 754/940/939 design. Keep in mind, though, that it is not likely your current favorite cooling solution for Athlon 64 can go with you to the new AM2 platform.

Speculation is still circulating on exactly when the new AM2 will be launched. Several weeks ago, it appeared likely an AM2 launch would happen in the Cebit (early March) to end-of-April time frame. Announcements of delays the last few weeks now point to a July release date. Whenever the launch happens, those moving to AM2 will at a minimum need a new processor for a new Socket 940, new DDR2 memory to replace existing DDR memory for Athlon 64, and a new or revised heatsink/fan cooling solution.

6

Desktop Replacement Notebook

A Good Choice - The Sony VAIO VGN-AX580G

Guide Rating - ★★★★★

The Bottom Line

Sony's VAIO VGN-AX580G is a great addition to their notebook line of computers with very strong multimedia functionality.

Pros

Excellent Storage Capabilities
Very Strong 3D Graphics
Good Multimedia Functions

Cons

Media Bay Only Allows DVD drive or TV Tuner To Work at a Given Time

Description

·   Intel Pentium M 760 (2GHz) Mobile Processor

·   1GB PC2-4200 DDR2 Memory

·   Two 80GB 5400rpm Hard Drives

·   8x DVD+/-RW Dual Layer Burner

·   17" WXGA+ (1440x900) Wide Screen LCD Panel

·   ATI Mobility X700 Graphics with 256MB Memory

·   v.90 56Kbps Modem, Gigabit Ethernet and 802.11b/g Wireless

·   Three USB 2.0, One FireWire, MS/SD Slot and One Type II PC Card Slot

·   15.8" x 11.7" x 1.7" @ 8.8 lbs.

·   Windows XP Media Center Edition, Works 8, Photoshop Elements, Roxio Digital Media SE, Quicken

Guide Review - Sony VAIO VGN-AX580G
2/7/06 – Powering the VAIO VGN-AX580G is the Intel Pentium M 760 (2GHz) mobile processor. This is a good mix between performance and battery life. It is matched up with 1GB of PC2-4200 DDR memory, that lets you run most applications without any slowdowns.

Storage is very strong with the VGN-AX580G. The system uses two 80GB 5400rpm hard drives for a total of 160GB of storage space. This gives the system plenty of space for storing digital media files. It also has an 8x DVD+/-RW dual layer burner allowing for the creation of music, movie and data DVD or CDs.

Graphics are very important for media centric notebooks. Like most desktop replacements, Sony has chosen to use their 17" wide screen LCD panel with a 1440x900 resolution. Driving the graphics, is the ATI Mobility Radeon X700 with 256MB of memory. This is a very capable graphics card that allows the system to also do well at 3D gaming. It would have been nice to see Sony use a 1680x1050 LCD panel instead.

The system uses the Windows XP Media Center Edition operating system. This is a good selection for Sony, even with their very capable VAIO Media software suite. With the TV Tuner media bay, the system is very capable at multimedia. The only drawback is that the DVD drive can't be used when the TV Tuner resides in the media bay.

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AMD Athlon 64 X2 4800+ Processor

Guide Rating - ★★★★★
The Bottom Line
AMD's Athlon 64 X2 4800+ is a very strong processor that will benefit those looking to do multimedia or gaming applications that take advantage of AMD's architecture, but it does come with a high price tag.

Pros·
Strong Multitasking ·
Excellent Gaming Performance ·
Overclocking Potential
Cons·
Expensive ·
Windows Hotfix/Driver Required for Many Games

Description

· AMD Athlon 64 X2 4800+ Toledo Dual Core

· 2.4GHz Operating Frequency

· 1GHz Front Side (Hyper Transport) Bus

· 1MB Case Per Core

· Support for SSE3 Instructions

· 64-Bit Extensions

· 1.35v-1.4v Operation

· 90nm Process

· Heatsink Included

· Three Year Warranty

Guide Review - AMD Athlon 64 X2 4800+ Processor

With the introduction of AMD's Athlon 64 FX-60, AMD's previous flagship processor the Athlon 64 X2 4800+ has dropped dramatically in price. The dual core X2 4800+ offers a high level of performance, dual cores for improved multitasking and 64-bit software support.

Testing of the Athlon 64 X2 4800+ was conducted using a DFI LanParty NF4 SLI-DR board and OCZ 2GB Platinum PC3200 DDR kit.

For applications that are designed for multiple processors, the X2 can really boost performance. Testing of Adobe's Premiere Elements 2 showed that using both cores over a single core netted a 50% increase in the rendering time. This can save a large amount of time for intensive applications such as desktop video.

Even though the X2 4800+ is very strong for gaming, there is a problem for some games in the multiprocessor environment. Downloading the AMD Athlon 64 Processor Driver for their appropriate version of Windows is recommended. This can help prevent stuttering or crashing in many of today's games, that have yet to be developed around dual core processors.

Overclocking is not officially supported by the manufacturers and will void any warranties, but this doesn't stop people from getting extra performance out of their processors. The OCZ memory and stock heatsink prevented the CPU from being pushed as far as it could go, but a 10% overclock to 2.64GHz was achieved with little effort.

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5 Power Supplies Get the Full Juice Treatment

The **Silverstone ST56ZF Zeus** had the highest efficiency rating. With a high efficiency rating that never dips below 83%, it leads the pack, and permits only a small amount of energy to be wasted as heat. But this device suffers from excessive noise; even when only lightly loaded, noise output grates on the ears.

The **ST56F Strider** from the same manufacturer makes a convincing showing with its quiet operation and also offers high efficiency ratings, though it falls behind at lighter loads. Its price of about $130 is just about right for a PSU in the 560-Watt class.

The **Cooler Master Real Power 550 Watt** earned the single-highest overall efficiency rating. At 86.3% it out performed any other power supply we've ever tested in the THG labs. But it dips to 79.9% efficiency at light load, and that cost its maker a first place finish. This device still suffers from a poorly designed power meter, whose small indicator makes it hard to read and only of questionable use and value.

We were pleasantly surprised by manufacturer **Hiper**: They fixed all their earlier failings from our live test . Today, they offer solid power supplies that follow the specifications and operate without malfunction. They must still improve on their efficiency ratings, however.

Enermax offers its first modular power supply with the **ELT500AWT** that also comes with power cables nicely packed inside a well-designed roll-up pouch. At a price of under $100, its buyers can take home a solid power supply with an efficiency rating of 82% at medium load (50% of rated power). If we awarded a prize for design, **Hiper** would walk away with it hands-down with its **Type R** power supply. This power supply, with its cable management based on modular avionics-style connectors, will be sure to raise the pulse of any case modder.

Security Watch: Windows, Firefox

Name: Spyware.WatchRight (Symantec)
Affects: Windows 2000, Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows Me, Windows NT, Windows Server 2003, Windows XP

What it does: WatchRight is a serious spyware program. It can be configured to log, among other things, AIM and AOL IM sessions. Thanks to Symantec for their description.

WatchRight is a standalone program, which the user must be tricked into installing. It puts the following files onto the system:

· %System%\wrexec.exe

· %System%\wrie.dll

· %System%\wrmont.exe

· %ProgramFiles%\Watch Right\bpscomm.dll

· %ProgramFiles%\Watch Right\BPSSI1.exe

· %ProgramFiles%\Watch Right\rwfaa.plh

· %ProgramFiles%\Watch Right\wrclock.exe

· %ProgramFiles%\Watch Right\wrin.inz

· %UserProfile%\Start Menu\Programs\BPS SoftWare\BPS System Info.lnk

· %UserProfile%\Start Menu\Programs\BPS SoftWare\Watch Right.lnk

· %SystemDrive%\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application

· Data\BPS SoftWare\wbps47l.wdt

It also adds a number of third-party program files to the system:

· %System%\Dwsbc36.ocx

· %System%\Dwshk36.ocx

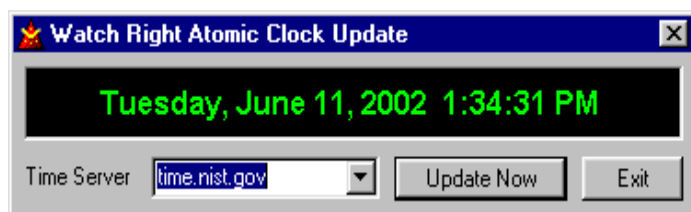· %System%\Dwspy36.dll

· %System%\ssa3d30.ocx

Security Watch: Windows, Firefox - cont'd

·   %System%\sssplt30.ocx

·   %System%\Vsflex7L.ocx

·   %System%\XceedZip.dll

·   %System%\ffJmpWeb.dll

·   %System%\Mscomctl.ocx

·   %System%\Mswinsck.ocx

·   %System%\Richtx32.ocx

Some of these third-party files come from legitimate libraries (for compression for example) and might appear on a system for other purposes. Be careful removing them. The program appears as an Internet atomic clock update utility:

Logging is activated by entering a value into the time server field.

WatchRight adds this value to the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE run key so that it is loaded every time Windows starts up:
          wrexec" =
          "C:\WINDOWS\system32\wrexec.exe"
It also creates these registry keys:

·
     HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\CLSID\{38D5592B-1B6F-4F9B-9879-58B696405AC1}

·
     HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Interface\{7BD2EFF2-817C-11DA-B913-00A0C9E16DEE}

·
     HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\TypeLib\{91B2E6E3-96EE-4AFA-A5EA-90D2F8F6909A}

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE

\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion

\Explorer\Browser

·   HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\wrie.clsIEWR

·   Helper Objects\{38D5592B-1B6F-4F9B-9879-58B696405AC1}

.   HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE

.   \Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion

\Uninstall\Watch Right

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\BPS SoftWare\Watch Right

·   HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\BPS SoftWare\Watch Right

How to avoid it: Don't run executable programs from untrusted sources. Run anti-virus software and a personal firewall and keep them updated.

How to remove it: Boot into safe mode by pressing F8 before Windows starts. Remove all the registry keys and files listed in the description above, taking care that you don't remove third-party DLLs on which other programs rely. Try moving them to a temporary directory first, rebooting into normal Windows, and testing your other programs. If there are no problems you can delete the files.

Multiple Mozilla Vulnerabilities
Multiple Mozilla products, including Firefox, are vulnerable to a variety of attacks, [http://www.mozilla.org/projects/security/known-vulnerabilities.html] one labeled 'critical' by the Mozilla Group. Firefox 1.5.0.1 has been released to address the problems, but Firefox 1.0.7 is still vulnerable; version 1.0.8 is expected soon.

Altec Lansing AHP712i
Noise Cancelling Headphones

EDITOR RATING

VERY GOOD

BOTTOM LINE
The reasonably priced AHP712i headphones from Altec Lansing offer good noise cancellation for travelers.

PROS
Good overall sound quality. Very good noise cancellation. Very comfortable, even for longer periods of time.

CONS
Bulky. Inadequate carrying bag.

If you travel a lot on noisy planes and trains, the new Altec Lansing AHP712i noise-canceling headphones should be on your short list of must-have items. They're large, but comfortable for extended periods because they cover your entire ears, rather than pinning them against your head. The AHP712i provide very good noise cancellation with only a tiny bit of background hiss, and the sound quality is certainly musical, if not audiophile-accurate. The AHP712i are fairly large cans and they have a comfortably padded headband covered in soft black "leatherette." The silver ear cups swivel out 90 degrees, but you can't flip them all the way around like DJ headphones. A single cord comes out of the bottom of the left cup and goes directly into the silver battery module, which runs on a single triple-A battery. There's a belt clip on the back of the power supply, a power switch on the front, and a volume wheel on the side; all controls are easy to access and operate. There are no LEDs on the headphones themselves, just on the power supply, so you won't get as many funny looks from those around you. We found the AHP712i to be very comfortable on our ears. The headband has the right amount of tension, and the cups' padding and depth and the soft headband actually made us (mostly) forget we were wearing headphones, even after extended listening periods. They're also pretty light for their size. We were able to get a good seal around our ears, which (in addition to the active cancellation) helped reduce noise a bit. We tried our headphones on while wearing sunglasses and didn't find any difference in comfort. If you have large ears, however,

you may not find these quite as comfortable. The headphones' noise-cancellation circuitry doesn't introduce a whole lot of noise into the mix. There is a slight background hiss that's audible during silence or very quiet music, but it's certainly not enough to be distracting. The amount of cancellation met our expectations—we got about 17 dB of quieting, though these headphones are not quite on the level of the far pricier Bose QuietComfort 2. The cancellation is reasonably even and smooth across the audible spectrum, and we didn't hear any distortion of our test music when noises occurred close to the microphones on the outside of the earcups. The sound quality with the noise cancellation turned off isn't very good. The music we listened to sounded very distant and unbalanced. The midrange sounded suppressed and far away, while the bass and highs were very prominent. But once we turned on the active noise canceling, the midrange popped back to where it should be. The overall quality is very good, with a full, clear, pleasing sound. Bass is just punchy enough, highs have good presence without being harsh, and there's some detail in the midrange. Our formal testing showed that the frequency response in the bass range is particularly good, in part because the earcups provide a good seal against your head. Though the midrange is mostly flat, there are some peaks and dips in the upper mids and highs that color the sound significantly, making horns and vocals prominent but with soft edges. The overall effect is pleasing, though like the QuietComfort 2 these are not accurate enough for serious audiophiles. Overall, we like the AHP712i headphones as much for their comfort as for their sound quality and noise-canceling capability. We are a bit disappointed in the carrying bag, which provides very little protection, and the bulky, non-folding design (despite the advertised "foldable design," these actually don't fold up at all). If money is no object, you may want to check out the QuietComfort 2, which provides even better noise cancellation, but the AHP712i do provide a solid (and cheaper) alternative.

11

**The Next Regular Meeting will be at
The Severn River Middle School**

**Wednesday,
March 8th, 2006
Meeting will be held in the large meeting room.
It starts at 7:00 PM with club business
and a short discussion period.**

There will be Presentations on

Yahoo Groups,
VMWARE Beta
Q & A

**Members and their friends are welcome to
come, ask questions and become enlightened.**

How to Find: Severn River Middle School

SRMS is close to the Arnold, MD campus of the Anne Arundel Community College. From Annapolis and parts south, take Rte 2 (Ritchie Highway) north about 3 miles from the intersection of Rt. 50, **turn right on College Parkway**. At the first light, turn left on Peninsula Farm Road. (Of course, if you are coming from points North, you would turn left on to College Parkway) about a half-mile down the road the large SRMS school building, set back off a large two level parking lot, will be visible on your right. Park here and go to the main entrance. Signs will be posted to direct you to the **Large Group Room** where we will be meeting.

How to find: The Technology SIG, A ChPCUG Special Interest Group**
Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM

The meetings are held at the SRMS in the Library.

Chesapeake PC Users Group

1783 Forest Drive #285

Annapolis, MD 21401   **FIRST CLASS**

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**New Digital Camera
President's Corner
Security Watch
Noise Cancelling Headphones
Juicy Power Supplies
  ... and a little more!**

Note: *The date above your name on the mailing label is the expiration date of your membership. Contact the Membership Chairman (page 2, column 2) to update.*