

# THE PRINTER

*Celebrating 25 Years of Users Helping Users*

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

# SUPER DOUBLE ISSUE

### **...And down the stretch they come...**

This is the final newsletter until September and we are wrapping up our season. I think the users group has had a lot of great meeting topics this season and I look forward to more beginning with the first meeting in September.

### **May 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Sketch Up by Special Guest Presenter Jonathan Brunelle**

*Google SketchUp 7 - Create 3D models and share them with the world.*

Google SketchUp is software that you can use to create 3D models of anything you like. Build models and add them to Google Earth. More details are inside this issue.

*Jon Brunelle is an assistant project manager for Tishman Construction Corporation. He has over six years of design & construction experience, mostly with specialized construction projects including Hospitals, Research Laboratories, Data Centers, and Machine Shops. He received his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park in 2004. He has also been a LEED accredited professional since 2006.*

**Editor-** As Jonathan will tell you, none of the above was necessary to work with SketchUp.

### **June 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting – Activating TechNet**

Two years ago users group offered subscriptions to the Microsoft TechNet program. We plan to do this again in May. There seems to be questions as to how to access the account properly and how to download and install the software provided. At the June 2 meeting, we will review the process of downloading the software from TechNet and how to make the optical discs from this software for installation.

### **September 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Office 2010**

Now that Office 2010 has been released, we will have a demonstration of the full product. Please let me know if there are particular program (there are a lot) or features that you would like to see demonstrated or emphasized.

More details will be forthcoming with the later meetings and as always, your input is welcome for upcoming meeting topics.

I hope to see you at the upcoming meetings!

*Michael*

## SketchUp - cont'd

alistic models of buildings, package designs, and more.

### Export TIFF, JPEG and PNG

SketchUp lets you export raster images up to 10,000 pixels square, so generating an image which you can send in an email, publish in a document, or project on a wall is as easy as choosing a few options and clicking Export.

## SUPERAntispyware - cont'd

15 day trial of the Professional version, and then purchase it if you like it and want the real-time protection and other features that it offers.

I like SUPERAntispyware, and use the different versions on a regular basis, as appropriate. You should try it, and see if your computer really is clean. If not, SUPERAntispyware can effectively clean it. Better safe than sorry.



***Celebrating 25 Years of  
Users Helping Users***

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# What makes SketchUp great?

**Google SketchUp is a tool for creating, editing and sharing 3D models.** The SketchUp “secret sauce” is a unique set of powerful tools that are designed to be easy to learn and use:

## Things that make SketchUp great

### Edges and Faces: That's all there is to it

Every SketchUp model is made up of just two things: edges and faces. Edges are straight lines, and faces are the 2D shapes that are created when several edges form a flat loop. For example, a rectangular face is bound by four edges that are connected together at right angles. To build models in SketchUp, you draw edges and faces using a few simple tools that you can learn in a small amount of time. It's as simple as that.

### Push/Pull: Quickly go from 2D to 3D

Extrude any flat surface into a three-dimensional form with SketchUp's patented Push/Pull tool. Just click to start extruding, move your mouse, and click again to stop. You can Push/Pull a rectangle into a box. Or draw the outline of a staircase and Push/Pull it into 3D. Want to make a window? Push/Pull a hole through your wall. SketchUp is known for being easy to use, and Push/Pull is the reason why.

### Accurate measurements: Work with precision

SketchUp is great for working fast and loose in 3D, but it's more than just a fancy electronic pencil. Because you're working on a computer, everything you create in SketchUp has a precise dimension. When you're ready, you can build models that are as accurate as you need them to be. If you want, you can print scaled views of your model, and if you have SketchUp Pro, you can even export your geometry into other programs like AutoCAD and 3ds MAX.

### Follow Me: Create complex extrusions and lathed forms

You use SketchUp's innovative, do-everything Follow Me tool to create 3D forms by extruding 2D surfaces along predetermined paths. Model a bent pipe by extruding a circle along an L-shaped line. Create a bottle by drawing half of its outline, then using Follow Me to sweep it around a circle. You can even use Follow Me to round off (fillet) edges on things like handrails, furniture and electronic gadgets.

### Paint Bucket: Apply colors and textures

You can use SketchUp's Paint Bucket tool to paint your model with materials like colors and textures.

### Groups & Components: Build smarter models

By “sticking together” parts of the geometry in your model to make Groups, you can create sub-objects that are easier to move, copy and hide. Components are a lot like Groups, but with a handy twist: copies of Components are related together, so changes you make to one are automatically reflected in all the others. Windows, doors, trees, chairs and millions of other things benefit from this behavior.

### Shadows: Perform shade studies & add realism

SketchUp's powerful, real-time Shadow Engine lets you perform accurate shade studies on your models.

### Sections: See inside your models

You can use SketchUp's interactive Sections feature to temporarily cut away parts of your design, enabling you to look inside. You can use Sections to create orthographic views (like floorplans), to export geometry to CAD programs

*cont'd on Page 4*

using SketchUp Pro, or just to get a better view of your model while you're working on it. Section Planes can be moved, rotated and even animated using SketchUp's Scenes feature.

## Scenes: Save views and create animations

We created Scenes to enable you to easily save precise views of your model so you can come back to them later. Need to create an animation? Just create a few Scenes and click a button.

## Look Around & Walk: Explore your creations firsthand

SketchUp lets you get inside your model with a set of simple navigation tools designed to give you a first-person view. Click with Position Camera to "be standing" anywhere in your model. Use Look Around to turn your virtual head. Finally, switch to Walk to explore your creation on foot; you can even climb and descend stairs and ramps, just like you're playing a video game.

## Dimensions and Labels: Add information to your designs

You can use the super-intuitive Dimension and Label tools to add dimensions, annotations and other glorious detail to your work.

## The Instructor: Catch on quickly

SketchUp's Instructor dialog box, which you can choose to activate at any time, provides context-sensitive help.

## Layers and the Outliner: Stay organized

When you're building a big, complicated model, things can get messy very quickly. SketchUp provides two useful ways to keep your geometry manageable:

## Google Earth: See your models in context

SketchUp and Google Earth are part of the same product family, meaning you can exchange information between them easily. Need a building site for your project? Import a scaled aerial photograph, including topography, directly from Google Earth to SketchUp by clicking one button. Want to see your SketchUp model in context in Google Earth? Click another button, and you can. Anyone can use SketchUp to build models which can be seen by anyone in Google Earth.

## Sandbox tools: Work on terrain

SketchUp's Sandbox tools let you create, optimize and alter 3D terrain. You can generate a smooth landscape from a set of imported contour lines, add berms and valleys for runoff, and create a building pad and driveway.

## 3D Warehouse: Find models of almost anything you need

The Google 3D Warehouse is a huge, online repository of 3D models which you can search through when you need something. Why build something when you can download it for free?

## Import 3DS: Get a head start on your modeling

You can import 3DS files directly into your SketchUp models. Have a piece of furniture in 3DS format that you'd like to use? Import it in, then keep on truckin'.

## Import images: Paint walls with photos

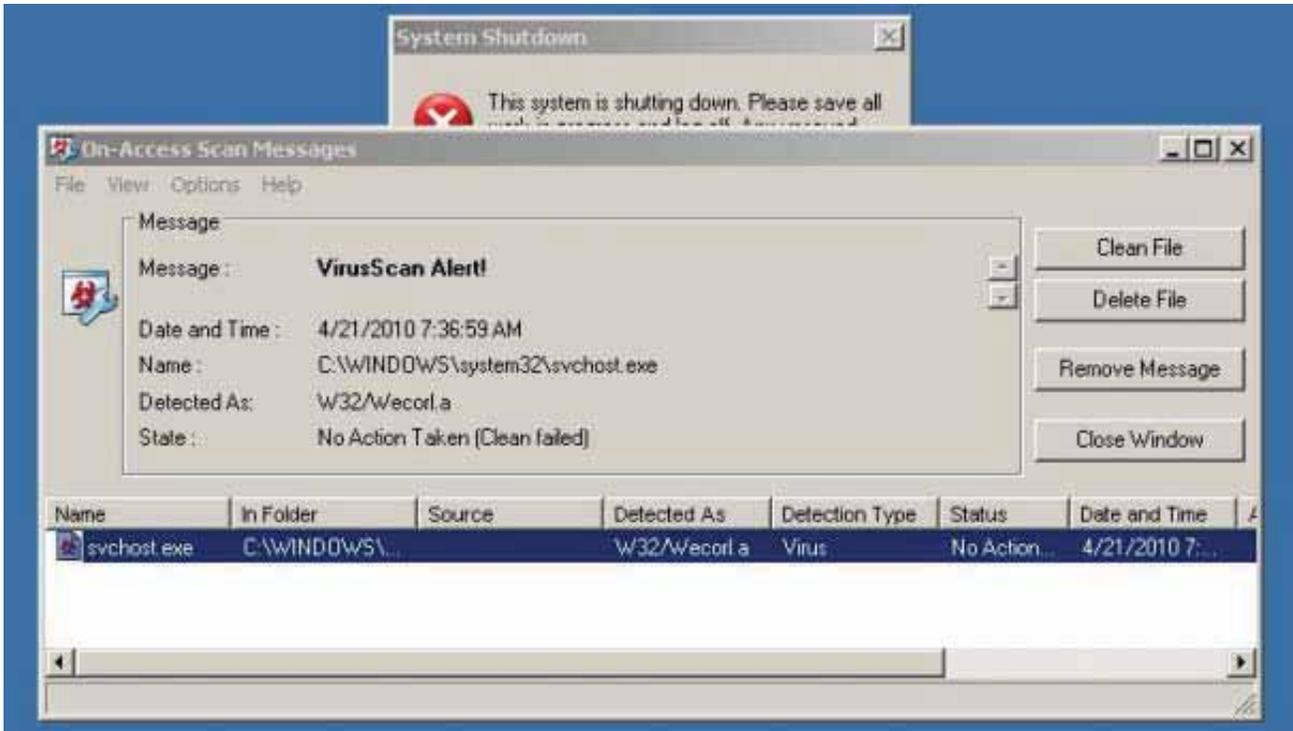
With SketchUp, you can import image files like JPGs, TIFFs, PNGs and PDFs. You can use them by themselves (kind of like posters), but you can also stick them to surfaces to create photo-re-

# Why it's time to move away from McAfee

by

Seth Rosenblatt

Last week, McAfee pushed out a virus definition file update the company now admits [did not meet](#) an acceptable level of quality assurance. Users found this out the hard way when the update crippled their computers. While the damage to individual computer systems has been repairable, I recommend that you look elsewhere for your computer's security.



Screen snapshot of CNET News editor's computer in Portland after McAfee was causing her computer to reboot.(Credit: CNET)

My recommendation comes down to a harsh reality: corporations should be accountable for their actions, and users have choices. In the security realm, there are at least a dozen top-shelf [paid and free security suites](#). Choose any one of them: you're not beholden to a company that will risk your data, time, and money--even accidentally.

Severe problems caused by buggy or false positive security updates are rare, but not unheard of, in the wide world of security software. Recent instances include an update from BitDefender that wreaked havoc on 64-bit [Windows 7](#) computers [last month](#), an Avast update that marked hundreds of legitimate files as threats in [December 2009](#), one from Computer Associates that flagged a Windows system file as a virus in [July 2009](#), a case of attacking the competition when freeware security giant AVG marked Zone-Alarm as malware in [October 2008](#), and McAfee itself pushed program executables for Microsoft Excel

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## Time to move - cont'd

and Adobe's update manager into quarantine in [March 2006](#). So why is McAfee's latest error egregious enough to merit a switch?

For one thing, McAfee's faulty virus definition file flagged the Windows system-critical file SVCHOST.EXE as a threat and quarantined it. Among other problems, this had the effect of forcing the computer to shut down every 60 seconds, and preventing USB drives from connecting to the computer. For many users, replacement versions of SVCHOST.EXE had to be copied to CD before they could be used. [The original fix](#) was labor-intensive and complicated by the fact that the bad update prevented many affected people from accessing the Internet in the first place. McAfee [finally announced](#) a simple tool to apply the fix on Thursday night, but it still requires a second computer to download it, and it cannot be applied remotely.

Second, McAfee wasn't forthcoming with answers, and even initially downplayed the fact that [hospitals, police departments, and supermarket chains](#) were affected along with individual consumers. In disastrous situations like this, it's important to communicate clearly with your customers, which McAfee didn't. Not only did Barry McPherson, executive vice president of support and customer service, not publish a blog [addressing the problem](#) until mid-afternoon Wednesday, but IT professionals also felt McAfee's attempts to help them were less than professional.

Computer support specialist for the College of Business at Illinois State University Pete Juvinall was directly involved with fixing around 40 computers crippled by the update. He told me that the fix that McAfee originally published "didn't really quite work as intended." He added, "it really surprised me that it was two or three hours before 5959 surfaced." Knowledge Base article

5959 was the first source from McAfee to fix the problem.

Another computer support specialist, Charles Winston at the University of Washington, only had to fix three computers but said that he had "never seen anything like it. It was unbelievable that something of this scale happened." The IT department at the University of Michigan Medical School, which was also affected, refused to talk to me because they were still fixing computers as of Monday morning.

Neither McPherson's original post nor a follow-up written at 11:14 p.m. on Wednesday and titled "[A long day at McAfee](#)" contained an apology; that didn't arrive until late on [Thursday night](#). Angry comments in response to a post by McAfee President and CEO David DeWalt [written on Friday](#) take far greater issue with his tone and terminology than the incident itself.

To its credit, McAfee announced Monday [a plan to reimburse](#) home users and extend their antiviral subscriptions for two years free of charge. [Details of the program](#) are still developing, but that doesn't excuse the incredible spread of damage that the update caused in the first place, nor the tone-deaf handling of the situation.

I say all this in light of the fact that McAfee's consumer security suite has made some impressive improvements this year. However, more than any other third-party program, security vendors have unfettered access to your system. Combine the worst of bad updates with gross errors in communicating to their customers about how to fix a problem that they caused, and I feel that it is irresponsible to continue to recommend McAfee for now.

# HTML5, Hardware Accelerated: First IE9 Platform Preview Available for Developers

When we started looking deeply at HTML5, we saw that it will enable a new class of applications. These applications will stress the browser runtime and underlying hardware in ways today's websites don't. We quickly realized that doing HTML5 right – our intent from the start – is more about designing our browser's subsystems around what these new applications will need than it is about a particular set of features. From the beginning, we approached IE9 with the goal of enabling professional-grade, modern HTML5 support on top of modern hardware through Windows.

At the [MIX conference](#) today, we demonstrated how the standard web patterns that developers already know and use broadly run better by taking advantage of PC hardware through IE9 on Windows. This blog post provides an overview of what we showed today, across performance, standards, hardware-accelerated HTML5 graphics, and the availability of the IE9 Platform Preview for developers.

First, we showed IE9's new script engine, internally known as "Chakra," and the progress we've made on an industry benchmark for JavaScript performance. With the differences between script engines on benchmarks approaching the duration of an [eye-blink](#), we described our approach for making real-world sites faster. Chakra compiles JavaScript in the background on a separate core of the CPU, parallel to IE.

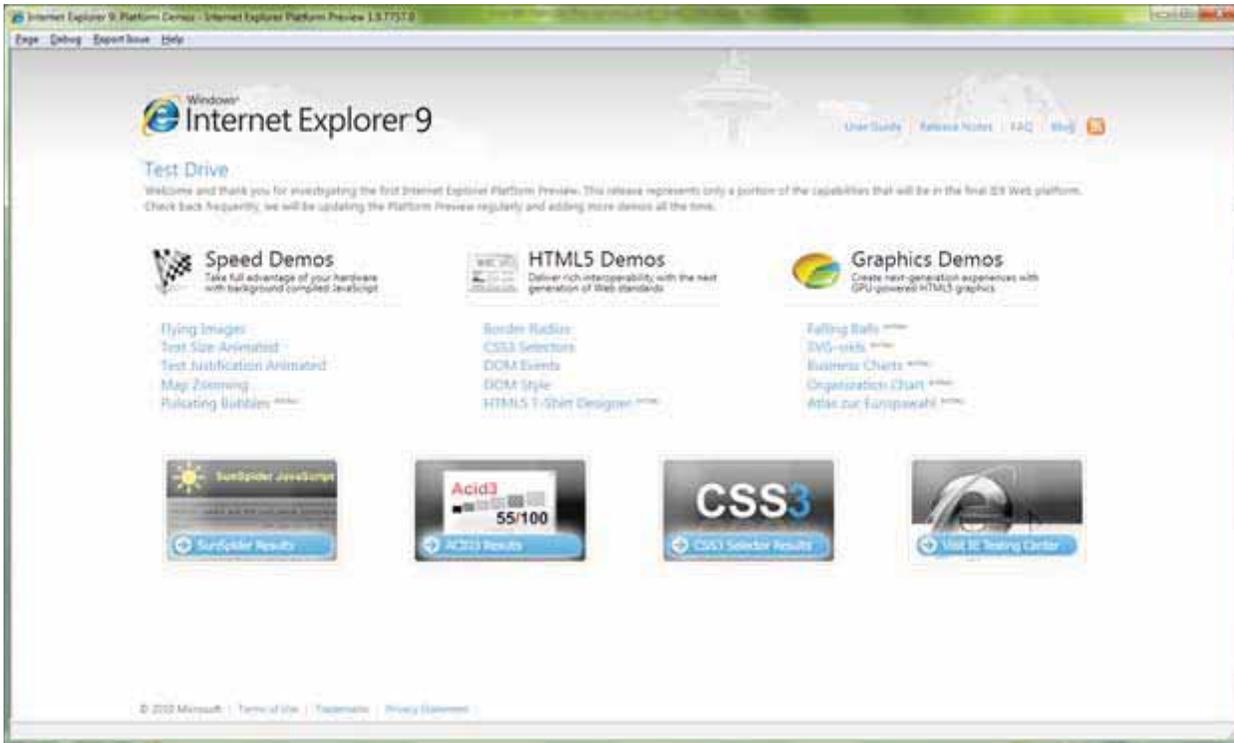
We showed our progress in making the same standards-based HTML, script, and formatting markup work across different browsers. We shared the data and framework that informed our approach, and demonstrated better support for several standards: HTML5, DOM, and CSS3. We showed IE9's latest Acid3 score (55); as we make progress on the industry goal of having the same markup that developers actually use working across browsers, our Acid3 score will continue to go up. As part of our commitment to the standards process, we submitted test cases to the standards bodies. We also made these tests available for everyone to try in any browser.

In several demonstrations, we showed the significant performance gains that graphically rich, interactive web pages enjoy when a browser takes full advantage of the PC's hardware capabilities through the operating system. The same HTML, script, and CSS markup work across several different browsers; the pages just run significantly faster in IE9 because of hardware-accelerated graphics. IE9 is also the first browser to provide hardware-accelerated SVG support.

Finally, we announced the availability of the first [IE Platform Preview](#) for developers, and our commitment to update it approximately every eight weeks. We want the developer community to have an earlier hands-on experience with the progress we're making on the IE platform. The Platform Preview,

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and the feedback loop it is part of, marks a major change from previous IE releases.



## Performance

IE9 has a new JavaScript engine, “Chakra.” Here’s a chart of IE9’s performance on a particular industry benchmark for JavaScript performance, the Webkit Sunspider test:

You’ll notice that IE9 is faster at this benchmark than IE8 and several other browsers. It’s interesting to note that the difference between today’s IE9 preview and the browsers to its right in this graph. It takes about 70 seconds to identify a 300ms difference between browsers.

As we continue to make IE9’s script engine faster for real world sites, IE will continue to become faster at this particular benchmark as well. To date we’ve done very little specific tuning for Webkit Sunspider. As with most benchmarks, depending on your machine, the differences may vary.

The performance you experience browsing actual websites often has less to do with JavaScript than with other subsystems in the browser. For example, some sites spend more of their time in laying out the page or rendering it than running script. The first chart in [this blog post](#) from the Professional Developers Conference illustrates this with data. Today’s PCs have specialized hardware to accelerate graphics performance. IE9 uses that widely available hardware to speed up all text and graphics rendering on webpages and make webpages faster.

To improve JavaScript performance even more, Chakra does something quite different from other

## IE9 - cont'd

script engines today. It has a separate background thread for compiling JavaScript. Windows runs that thread in parallel on a separate core when one is available. Compiling in the background enables users to keep interacting with webpages while IE generates even faster code. By running separately in the background, this process can take advantage of today's multi-core machines – so, users with a Core2Duo or QuadCore or i7 can apply that power to making webpages faster without any additional effort.

Developers get the performance benefits of modern PC hardware without having to change anything on their sites. Users simply wait less and interact more, like a native program. This design enables better performance for the web development patterns that occur on many real world sites. The key here is bringing the best technology available to most important language you use, JavaScript.

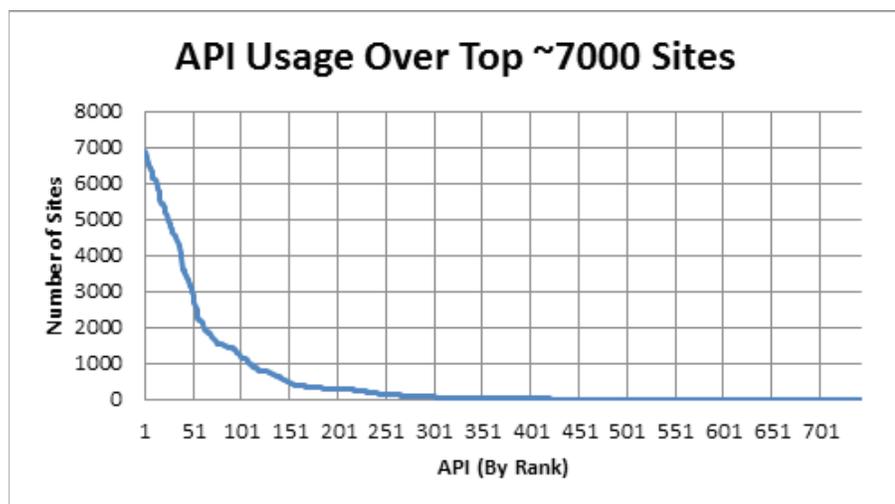
### Standards

The goal of standards and interoperability is that the same HTML, script, and formatting markup work the same across different browsers. Eliminating the need for different code paths for different browsers benefits everyone, and creates more opportunity for developers to innovate.

Many standards are still emerging. They are in committee in draft form, or partially implemented, often in different ways, across different browsers. Developers face a hard challenge here: they need to work harder than they should, to write more and different HTML, script, and markup, just to get similar but not always the same results across different browsers.

We want the same markup to just work across different browsers. In IE9, we're doing for the rest of the platform what we did for CSS 2.1 in IE8. IE8 delivered a high-quality CSS 2.1 implementation, sticking to the standard, and looking to other implementations in places where the standard is ambiguous. Developers should expect more from across the industry on this front in order to make HTML5 applications easier for developers to write.

Our approach here starts with data. The DOM and JavaScript APIs that developers actually use on the web set the baseline for which standards to support in IE9. To get this data, we built a tool that examined the web API usage of 7000 top sites. Here's a graph of the distribution – how many sites used each of the APIs. This is data we will blog about in great detail separately.



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We set out to do every standard that showed up in the data. In IE9 you'll also see support for several standards that don't appear in the data – in order to complete scenarios that HTML5 applications will need.

The main technologies to call out here broadly are HTML5, CSS3, DOM, and SVG. The [IE9 test drive site](#) has more specifics and samples. At this time, we're looking for developer feedback on our implementation of HTML5's parsing rules, Selection APIs, XHTML support, and inline SVG. Within CSS3, we're looking for developer feedback on IE9's support for Selectors, Namespaces, Colors, Values, Backgrounds and Borders, and Fonts. Within DOM, we're looking for developer feedback on IE9's support for Core, Events, Style, and Range.

Some people use Acid3 as a shorthand for standards. Acid3 tests about 100 details of a dozen different technologies. Some are still in "under construction." Some of the patterns, like SMIL animations, are inconsistent with other parts of HTML5, like CSS3 animations, and need to be reconciled. Here's a screenshot of how today's IE9 Platform Preview runs today's Acid3 test:

As IE makes more progress on the industry goal of "same markup" for standards and parts of standards that developers actually use, the Acid3 score will continue to go up as a result. A key part of our approach to web standards is the development of an industry standard test suite. Today, Microsoft has submitted over 100 additional tests of HTML5, CSS3, DOM, and SVG to the W3C. You can try out some of the tests we've submitted to the W3C [here](#).

Microsoft [works with the standards organization](#) as part of the standards process to create comprehensive tests. We submit our tests to the appropriate group, and work together with other browser vendors as part of that group to establish a fair, accurate, and comprehensive test suite. Today, there are still too many scenarios in which developers need to use different HTML, script and formatting markup and get different results. A comprehensive test suite from the standards body helps developers and the industry.

## GPU-powered HTML5

HTML5 applications will need great script performance and consistent "same markup, same results" across browsers. Great HTML5 applications will build on that foundation and go further, providing game-like interactivity and movie-like graphical richness to the user experience.

Today's standards-markup web pages and today's browsers are limited in this regard because they can use only a fraction of what PC hardware and the operating system can do. HTML5 applications will demand more.

In anticipation of these applications, IE9 uses Windows' modern graphics APIs and the PC's hardware to accelerate all the graphics and text that the browser draws on the screen. A [basic example](#) involves a small, simple web page that animates images, having them follow the mouse pointer:



Notice that running the same HTML, script, and markup, IE9 provides more responsiveness and more frames per second. Many of today's websites spend much of their time drawing objects to the screen, as described above in the performance section.

IE9 is the first browser to provide fully hardware-accelerated SVG support. The IE9 developer tools support SVG as well, and we are excited to see what developers build on top of [modern hardware](#) with a platform that has great performance and internal consistency. We will discuss SVG in depth in a future blog post.

## IE Preview

Today we also announced the availability of the first [IE9 Platform Preview](#) for developers, and our commitment to update it approximately every eight weeks. The Platform Preview, and the feedback loop it is part of, marks a major change from previous IE releases.

With these Platform Preview builds, developers have earlier access to the progress we're making on the IE platform. They have a better forum to share and discuss feedback, available directly from the Platform Preview. Combined with our engagement with standards bodies and the development of industry standard test suites, this open community discussion and earlier and more frequent builds reflect our commitment to the web.

As an example of additional standards support to come in an update to the Platform Preview, we showed HTML5 video support at the MIX conference, as well as how HTML5 video (specifically industry standard HD-encoded, H.264 720p) has much better performance when it uses the operating system to take advantage of PC hardware for video decoding.

If you're a developer or technical enthusiast, please download the Platform Preview. It's the first preview of how standard web patterns that developers know and use broadly can run better by taking advantage of PC hardware on Windows.

# SUPERAntispyware Offers Excellent Malware Detection & Removal

by  
Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES;

<http://www.superantispyware.com>

<https://zeustracker.abuse.ch/statistic.php> ZeuS Statistics

<http://www.superantispyware.com/onlinescan.html>

<http://www.virustotal.com>

<http://www.superantispyware.com/portablescanner.html>

The attacks on our computers continue at record levels. It would be great if I did not have to write so many columns on malware, and how to detect and remove it, but our computers are still being infected in record numbers. While our antivirus software publishers push frequent updates to our computers, and continuously improve their offerings, the malware authors are often a few steps ahead, and regularly penetrate our defenses. According to the Swiss website “Zeus Tracker” ([zeustracker.abuse.ch/statistic.php](https://zeustracker.abuse.ch/statistic.php)), the ZeuS trojan, which is one of the most prolific in circulation, can penetrate the major antivirus software, and infect our computers in large numbers. In fact, the average antivirus detection rate for the ZeuS trojans, and its variants, was a dismal 47.1% on May 1, meaning that ZeuS will not be detected or stopped by our updated antivirus software over half the time, allowing it to infect a computer that has the most recent antivirus updates! I have been a strong proponent of protective software that offers a layered defense in addition to our antivirus software. Recently I came across another product that does precisely that.

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- **First Chance Prevention** examines over 50 critical points of your system each time your system starts up and shuts down to eliminate threats before they have a chance to infect and infiltrate your system.

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Core : 4880 Trace : 2692  
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**Threat Research**  
Newly Added Threats  
Top Threats Link Back

In one of the technical support blogs that I read regularly, was a discussion about what independent computer technicians use on-site to clean infected computers. Two of the three products most often mentioned have been reviewed here in the recent past (Malwarebytes and a-squared), which I carry on the USB flash drive on my car keychain. The third product that was widely used by the technicians I was unfamiliar with, but several technicians raved about it so I had to research it and give it a try. That product was SUPERAntispyware.



SUPERAntispyware is available in four flavors from [superantispyware.com](http://superantispyware.com); a freeware version, a fully featured (paid) professional version, a free portable version, and a free online version. My first experience was with the freeware version. This version will detect and remove malware from hard drives, removable and portable drives, memory, and the registry. It offers excellent detection and removal of spyware, adware, malware, trojans, dialers, worms, keyloggers, browser hijackers, and other threats. SUPERAntispyware has a slogan that says that it will, "Remove all of the spyware, NOT just the easy ones!" As an unscientific experiment, I purposely ran SUPERAntispyware (free edition) on several badly infested computers after I had cleaned them with the other two very reputable products that I have been using in the past. Before each scan, I manually updated all three products to be certain that I had the latest updates. On each computer, SUPERAntispyware detected and removed some malware that had been missed by the other products. Just to be fair, no product can offer absolute 100% detection and removal all the time, which is precisely why I purposely use multiple products in serial order to clean infected computers, a practice followed by many other independent professionals that I communicate with. When used last, SUPERAntispyware almost always detected some malware that was missed by the previous two products; when I used it first, at least one of the other products caught something that it missed (usually traces of malware). Still, in my experience, the detection and removal rate of SUPERAntispyware was excellent.

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# SUPERAntispyware - cont'd

cont'd from page 13

Product Feature	SUPERAntiSpyware Free	SUPERAntiSpyware Pro
		
<b>Quick, Complete and Custom Scanning</b> of Hard Drives, Removable Drives, Memory, Registry, and More!	✓	✓
<b>Detect and Remove</b> Spyware, Adware, Malware, Trojans, Dialers, Worms, KeyLoggers, Hijackers and many other types of threats.	✓	✓
<b>Trust Items and Exclude Folders</b> for complete customization of scanning	✓	✓
<b>Repair broken Internet Connections</b> , Desktops, Registry Editing and more with our unique Repair System!	Limited	✓
<b>First Chance Prevention</b> examines over 50 critical points of your system each time your system starts up and shuts down to eliminate threats before they have a chance to infect and infiltrate your system.		✓
<b>Real-Time Blocking</b> of threats! Prevent potentially harmful software (spyware, adware, worms, dialers, hijackers, keyloggers) from installing or re-installing.		✓
<b>Registry Protection</b> against Browser Hi-Jackers and other threats.		✓
<b>Schedule</b> either Quick, Complete or Custom Scans Daily or Weekly to ensure your computer is free from harmful software.		✓
<b>Auto-Scanning</b> on application startup ensures a clean system daily.		✓
<b>Automatic Updates</b> check for program and definition updates every 8 hours.	Manual Only	✓
<b>Daily Definition Updates</b> provide immediate detection of new threats		✓
<b>Free System Diagnostic</b> to locate new threats on your computer		✓
<b>Free E-Mail Support</b> to help resolve issues immediately		✓
<b>Price</b>	<b>FREE</b>	<b>\$29.95</b>

Regardless of what product is used to detect and remove malware, there is always the very real chance of a false positive, and that a critical file may be erroneously detected and deleted in error. For this reason, I recommend that any files detected be quarantined, rather than deleted; if the file is needed later, it can be recovered from the quarantine directory. If I have no problems with missing files after several weeks, I delete the quarantined files. Sometimes the detection software, regardless of brand, detects files that appear to be legitimate and necessary; when this happens, I upload the suspicious file to Virus Total ([virustotal.com](http://virustotal.com)) which will scan the file against 41 major security products, and display each of their findings. If those 41 other products used by Virus Total indicate that the file is OK, then I obviously do not delete or quarantine it, and then use the malware

scanners' "report false positive" feature to notify the publisher of the false positive.

While the freeware version is intended explicitly for detection and removal, the Professional version (\$29.95 retail for a lifetime subscription) offers those services and much more. The Professional version is designed to be installed and run on a computer that already has security software installed, and does not interfere with the existing security software. It uses few system resources and does not significantly degrade system performance, while providing an additional layer of strong protection. One interesting feature in the Professional edition is the "First Chance Prevention (which) examines over 50 critical points of your system each time your system starts up and shuts down to eliminate threats before they have a chance to infect and infiltrate your system."

cont'd on Page 15



Virustotal is a **service that analyzes suspicious files** and facilitates the quick detection of viruses, worms, trojans, and all kinds of malware detected by antivirus engines. [More information...](#)

[Analysis](#)

[Hash Search](#)

[Statistics](#)

[Email/Uploader](#)

[About VT](#)

Upload a file

Service load ?

Options

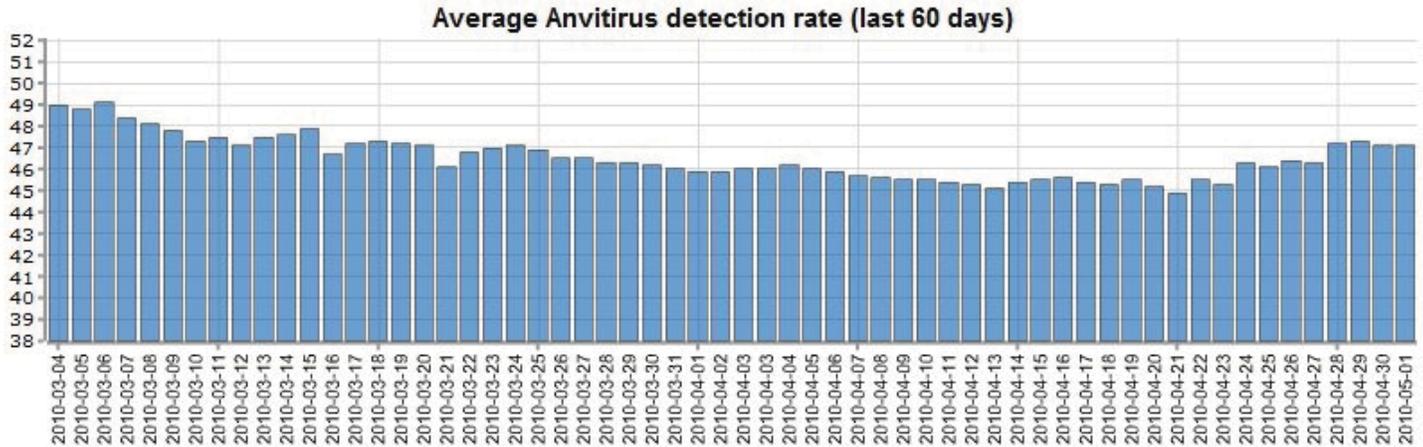
Send it over SSL ?

It also offers real-time protection from harmful software that may try to install itself on your computer, as well as protection of your registry and browser. Automated scans can be scheduled as desired to ensure that the computer is free from malware. Any application that is loaded and run will be scanned automatically to verify that it is not a vector that can load malware, and that the application itself is safe to run. The Professional version is automatically updated at least every eight hours, and can be configured to check for updates before any scans are started. SUPERAntispyware offers a totally functional 15 day free trial of its Professional version, so users can try all of the features before making a purchase decision. As a point of fact, I now have the Professional version installed and running on my computer in addition to my major brand security suite.

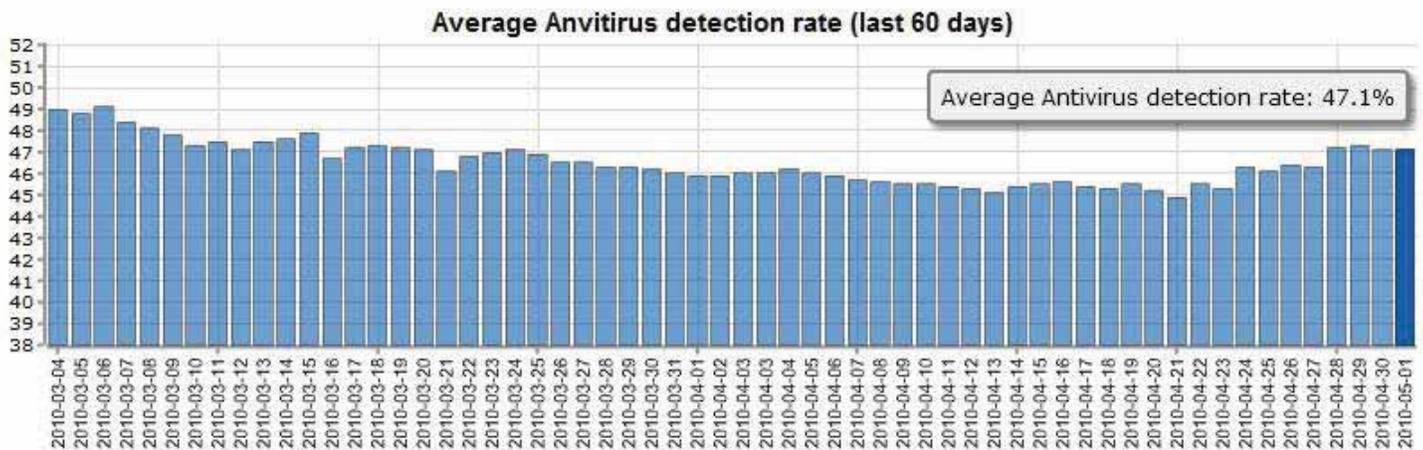
Hardly a day goes by that someone does not ask for help in cleaning an infected computer. On a regular basis, I download the free

portable version to the USB flash drive I have on my keychain. This version is free, and does not require any installation or updates, as it is updated regularly, and is run directly from the flash drive (or CD drive). The portable version uses a randomly assigned filename as much of the common malware prevents the popular detection software from running. Yesterday, using the SUPERAntispyware Portable version, I scanned a badly infected computer that had a major security suite installed. This particular computer was infected with the ZeuS malware, which penetrated the security software, neutralized it, and opened the computer to additional infections. One of the infections, a common function of ZeuS variants, loaded the infamous "rogue antivirus" on the computer, which totally took over the computer, effectively holding it for ransom unless the registration fee was paid to a foreign crook. The Portable version detected and removed over 900 threats from that computer, including the rogue

cont'd on Page 16



antivirus and the ZeusS. A follow-up scan with another malware detector only found some traces of the malware which had been removed previously. As is often necessary, I had to totally reinstall the security suite software on the computer. I strongly recommend that the Portable version of SUPERAntispyware be downloaded periodically to a flash drive, just in case it is needed; I use mine on an almost daily basis on someone's computer.



SUPERAntispyware offers a free online scan for malware at [superantispyware.com/onlinescan.html](http://superantispyware.com/onlinescan.html). I tried it, and it is substantially the same as the portable version, but runs on the host computer, rather than a flash drive. It does not install anything to the start menu or program files, and does not need to be uninstalled after running.

In the short time I have been using it, I have become one of the 30 million loyal users of SUPER-Antispyware. At a minimum, I would recommend that users download and install at least the freeware version, and copy the Portable version to a flash drive "just in case". Performing a scan on your computer would be a good exercise and learning experience, and may also detect malware on your computer that may have penetrated your existing security software. You may want to consider the fully functional, free,

# Work smarter, let Google Alerts do your grunt work

by

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The web is a treasure-trove of information. But maybe you are too busy doing other things to always remember to look, or maybe you just do not think of it.

Then let Google do it for you on a regularly-scheduled frequency and deliver it to your inbox.

I do. I have Google search all sorts of things for me—material for my *Taro Leaf* publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association, personal things, family obituaries for my family tree—all sorts of very helpful items.

It's with Google Alerts. Let me explain.

Google Alerts are email updates of the latest relevant Google results (web, news, etc.) based on your choice of query or topic. Some handy uses of Google Alerts include:

- monitoring a developing news story
- keeping current on a competitor or industry
- getting the latest on a celebrity or event
- keeping tabs on your favorite sports teams

Interested? It's really quite simple. Here's how.

Open Google, i.e., [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). Click on “more.” And then on “even more.”

Google Alerts is the first entry under the Search products listing. Click on it, and you will see the form shown below.

**Create a Google Alert**  
Enter the topic you wish to monitor.

Search terms:

Type:

How often:

Your email:

Google will not sell or share your email address.

*cont'd on Page 18*

# Google Alerts - cont'd

cont'd from page 17

Place your search term in the first box, "Search terms." That can be, in my case: "Thiel +obituary" or "24th infantry division" +obituary" or "Lake Sumter Computer Society" as examples.

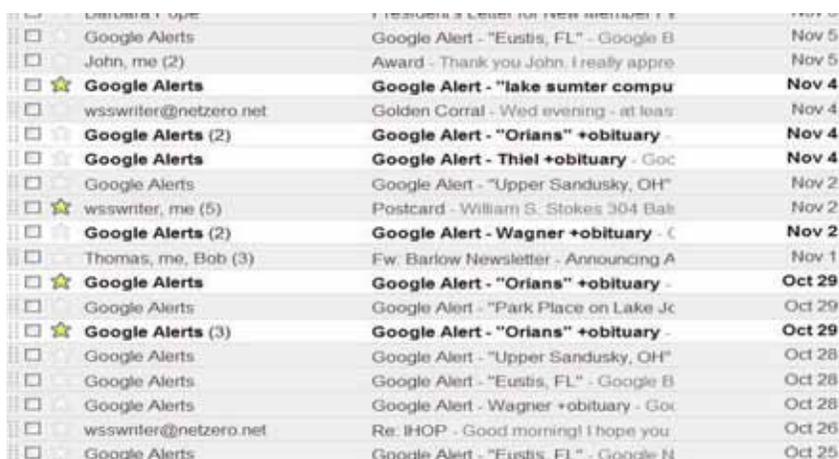
Type offers you six choices: News, Blogs, Web, Comprehensive, Video and Groups. I use Comprehensive for all of mine.

For How often, you can select from: as-it-happens, once a day, or once a week. Most of mine are as-it-happens.

For the Your email block you may enter any valid email address, it does not have to be Gmail.

With my Gmail Google Alerts, it also gives an option of email or feed. I have never used feed.

Well, what might you expect when you send in your Google Alert? The two figures below are two examples of my Gmail inboxes.



From	Subject	Date
Google Alerts	Google Alert - "Eustis, FL" - Google B	Nov 5
John, me (2)	Award - Thank you John. I really appre	Nov 5
★ Google Alerts	<b>Google Alert - "lake sumter compu</b>	<b>Nov 4</b>
wsswriter@netzero.net	Golden Corral - Wed evening - at leas	Nov 4
Google Alerts (2)	<b>Google Alert - "Orians" +obituary -</b>	<b>Nov 4</b>
Google Alerts	<b>Google Alert - Thiel +obituary - Goc</b>	<b>Nov 4</b>
Google Alerts	Google Alert - "Upper Sandusky, OH"	Nov 2
★ wsswriter, me (5)	Postcard - William S. Stokes 304 Bah	Nov 2
Google Alerts (2)	<b>Google Alert - Wagner +obituary - C</b>	<b>Nov 2</b>
Thomas, me, Bob (3)	Fw: Barlow Newsletter - Announcing A	Nov 1
★ Google Alerts	<b>Google Alert - "Orians" +obituary -</b>	<b>Oct 29</b>
Google Alerts	Google Alert - "Park Place on Lake Jc	Oct 29
★ Google Alerts (3)	<b>Google Alert - "Orians" +obituary -</b>	<b>Oct 29</b>
Google Alerts	Google Alert - "Upper Sandusky, OH"	Oct 28
Google Alerts	Google Alert - "Eustis, FL" - Google B	Oct 28
Google Alerts	Google Alert - Wagner +obituary - Goc	Oct 28
wsswriter@netzero.net	Re: IHOP - Good morning! I hope you	Oct 26
Google Alerts	Google Alert - "Eustis, FL" - Google N	Oct 25

The two "Orians +obituary" hits highlighted near the bottom of the above figure pointed me to the obituary of my third cousin, Rev. Father David M. Orians, 57, of Newark, OH, who died Monday, Oct. 26, 2009. I did not know David, but a quick Legacy Family Tree index search revealed that he was indeed in my list of Orians family members. So, I now have much new information to add to my genealogy family file, albeit, as a secondary source.

I also am editor of the *Taro Leaf* publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association, which is a quite nice glossy 48-page +/- that is sent to 2,200 members every quarter. As such, I am always looking for materials to publish, especially, TAPS notices of our members, historical or feature articles, and sometimes just filler materials.

**Editor: My wife has been using Google Alerts for several months to keep track of a murder case.**

# *from the Secretary's desk*

## **Minutes from the April 21, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting**

**Attendees:** The Mikes Young, Regimenti, and DeLucia, Fran Damratowski, Sam Shepherd,

Bill Somers, Kris Johnson

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**May Meeting:** Sketch-Up from Google

**June Meeting:** Tech Net Review

**September Meeting:** Office 2010

**October Meeting:** Windows 7 SP1/More TechNet

### **SIGS:**

**Technology:** Leo will be doing Excel Macros.

**CRSIG:** Fran reported that Microsoft is changing the way they will be handling the licensing of their operating system. One change is that the cost per license has increased to \$6.00.

Fran reported that she has another computer class coming up at the Annapolis Senior Center in June. The classes have proved good publicity for the club.

The ordering of shirts for the computer class instructors has been delayed until further information on costs is obtained.

**Finances:** The cost for our mail box is going to be increased but Bill will be able to lock in the current rate if we sign up for 12 months. It was agreed that this was a prudent thing to do.

**MSCUG:** Mike Young and Mike Regimenti will be contacting the president of the MSCUG to determine how best to proceed. The secretary will be checking on the papers concerning the goals for the MSCUG.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mike Young will be buying 50 TechNet subscriptions and 25 MSDN subscriptions. He will also be ordering Adobe CS5 from TechSoup when it is available.

The cost of printing the Printer will be increased starting in September.

Mike Young will be putting information on Facebook in the next issue of the Presidents Corner

This will be the last board meeting until late August.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

The Next Regular Meetings will be at  
The Severn River Middle School

**Presentations**  
**Wednesday**  
**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
*Google SketchUp*  
*by*

**Jonathan Brunelle**

**&**

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**

*TechNet Plus*

*by*

**Mike Young**

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 points 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 onto 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\*\***

**The meetings are held at the SRMS in the Library.**



1783 Forest Drive #285  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**FIRST CLASS**

## **INSIDE THIS VERY ISSUE!**

**President's Corner**

**Google SketchUp 3**

**IE9**

**from the Secretary's Desk**

**... and a whole lot 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.

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