

SEPTEMBER 2002

WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF FAMILY COMPUTER NEWS
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If you have received this newsletter by mistake or do not wish to receive it in the future, then we apologize. Please email us with details at support@familycomputerusa.com

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY

The transition from Family Computer USA to VONTRONICS is nearly complete. Our new ads will be in the Yellow Pages in September. We will retain the old phone number for a while, but our direct number is 239-597-0001. We will continue to offer free pickup and delivery of your system.

Because Eric is out on the road so often, we now offer bench appointments and consultations by appointment only. Just call so we can confirm availability.

CD BURNER BASICS

Several recent inquiries have been concerning proper (or improper) use of CD Burners. Most current CD burners are both CD-R and CD-R/W capable, but you need to know when to use which type of media. Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

CD-R (Writeable) media, the original writable CD, is the least expensive and most compatible, but it can only be used once. They can be burned (written to) faster than CD-R/W and are excellent for making backup copies of critical CD's or sharing data with others, even long-term archival storage. To burn one, you create a list of files or folders that you want to copy to it, and then send the entire list as a batch.

CD-R/W (Re-Writeable) media is more expensive but has the advantage of being reusable (erasable). Some older CD drives cannot read a CD-R/W format, so this makes them less compatible. CD-R/W media is excellent for temporary daily or weekly backups or saving projects while you are working on them. To burn one, you can use the same method as for CD-R or you can pre-format them so you can use them "on-the-fly" like you would a floppy disk. There are many versions of utilities that are used to pre-format a CD-R/W disk; InCD and DirectCD, being the most popular. These formats are not usually compatible, so you may not be able to share a pre-formatted CD-R/W with someone else.

The newest CD burners entering the market now are known as DVD burners. They can burn the previous types of CD-R and CD-R/W media, but have the ability to burn in the higher density DVD-R or R/W mode, either as data or movie. They are still very expensive (\$700+), but can hold up to 4.5GB worth of data compared to 650-700MB on the earlier media.

VIRUS ACTIVITY RISING

We keep saying it, but ... Keep your Anti-Virus software updated! We serviced a small business recently that had a new record for us: over 4000 infected files on each of the 3 different workstations! The number of viruses continues to increase daily with at least 55,000 varieties known to date.

You can even check and remove viruses yourself, for free! Here are links to three different on-line anti-virus software sites. Each has a free download to temporarily install on-line anti-virus software which will scan your computer for viruses, then report and remove them if found. The drawback is that this software does not stay active in your computer to prevent you from becoming infected; it only checks to see what your current status is.

<http://www.centralcommand.com/downloads.html>

<http://www.trendmicro.com/download/>

<http://housecall.antivirus.com/>

If you need more information, just call us.

SPECIAL ORDERS DON'T UPSET US...

We still design and assemble custom computer systems to fit your special needs. If you are a home video editing whiz, a music specialist, a photographer in need of digital assistance, or even a stock day-trader, we can help build a custom system especially for your needs. We work with dentists, doctors, lawyers, real-estate offices, and many other small businesses.

If you need a basic personal system, we suggest Office Depot, Costco or Sam's. Their prices are excellent and we can't offer a better price on a basic system. We'll be happy to assist you in installing it, tuning it to your needs, or providing training.

If you need personal service, on-site or on-the-bench, that's our specialty and we love to help.

Thanks for reading. Now you're one of the Family!

Eric Von Leue
Service Manager
service@familycomputerusa.com

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