

NOVEMBER 2002

WELCOME TO THE NOVEMBER 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

WE'VE MOVED!

I thought I'd remind you again. Many of you are getting into town and can't find us when you drive down to the old shop behind Mel's Diner. We are in Naples Park now, about 5 miles north of our old shop. Call ahead, 597-0001, to make sure I'm going to be in. With a busy season, we are opening the shop on an "appointment only" basis.

TIRED OF POP-UP ADS?

Here's a link to a free Pop-up Ad Blocker. It even works with AOL's browser! Just download and install it. Every time an ad pops up that you don't want to see again, click on NoAds and add it to the reject list.

<http://www.southbaypc.com/NoAds/>

In October, AOL Time Warner announced that they would no longer run pop-up ads from third parties. However, they will continue to run pop-up ads for their own services and offers.

SPAM SPAM SPAM SPAM SPAM SPAM SPAM SPAM

The junk mail of the electronic world. It's getting out of control, folks. Instead of heaving a brick of salty ham-like meat product at your computer screen, here are a couple of ways to combat it.

[MailWasher] is a free download that works by bouncing back your address to the SPAM sender. It makes it look like they sent email to an invalid address, so they take you off their list as a time waster. You get to preview what is in your mailbox before downloading to your computer. Give it a try.

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

[SpamBuster] removes known spam email from your mail server before it can be sent to you. It works much like MailWasher. They are both free and only work on POP3 email accounts, like Outlook Express. They don't work with AOL or JUNO or web-based email like Hotmail or Yahoo.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,4936,00.asp

For AOL, here is a similar free SPAM blocker. [GarbageMan] works with the AOL emailer and blocks or removes junk mail as you choose.

http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,17320,00.asp

URBAN LEGENDS

Ever wonder if there's any truth to some of the emails, chain letters, and rumors you hear online? Here's a place that specializes in tracking down and either verifying or disproving these fabrications. Yes, it is also a waste of time to read about them, but it seems more constructive than perpetuating these myths.

<http://urbanlegends.about.com/>

AOL 8 BLUES

I've had many calls recently about problems upgrading to the latest version of AOL. Most of the problems have to do with trying to run this new high-powered version on an older, underpowered system. Use the tried and true wisdom: if it's not broke, don't fix it!

AOL, like many software manufacturers, publishes the "minimum requirements" to run their software. What is important to realize here is that these minimums are established in their test laboratories with systems that only had an operating system and their program on it. Since everyone has several programs on their computers, many running invisibly in the background, the minimums don't apply. Generally, you should double the amount of RAM required and double the speed of the CPU to have sufficient performance. And don't forget about hard drive space! You can read the "minimum requirements" for each version here:

<http://tinyurl.com/2nqb>

INTEL DROPS PRICES

On November 10th, there was a price move on the Intel® Celeron® Processor family and select Intel® Pentium® 4 Processors to coincide with the launch of the latest and fastest Pentium 4 Processor 3.06Ghz. As a result, you should see even lower prices on basic computers.

We still build custom desktop computers including Pentium 4 3.06GHz. Just give us a call. If you need a basic starter computer, we recommend Office Depot, Office Max, Sam's Club or Costco. They have name-brand basic systems for less than we can sell them. We'll be happy to help you customize or modify these systems to your needs, including transferring documents, address books, printers, scanners, etc.

VIRUS DETECTOR

With the ongoing wave of computer viruses spreading, I thought many of you would appreciate this Foxtrot cartoon:

<http://tinyurl.com/2ogw>

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

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