

## VONTRONICS E-NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2008

Welcome back, everyone! Hop aboard!



My grandson and I had a great time during his recent visit. He loves to ride "shotgun" in the special backpack carrier we got him. And he's getting used to riding in a tow-behind bicycle trailer, but it may take a few more visits before he'll accept that crash helmet he has to wear!

Grandkids are great... You get to send them home when you're finishing playing!

*Remember, as always, if you don't want to be sent these e-newsletters, please check at the bottom of this e-mail to find out how to easily be taken off the list for future e-mailings. And if you are receiving more than one copy, please reply back and let me know your primary e-mail address.*

*And if you could help me out by forwarding this e-newsletter to a friend that might enjoy it, I'd appreciate it! Thanks.*

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### [Product Reviews](#)

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#### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WINDOWS MAIL, WINDOWS LIVE MAIL, WINDOWS LIVE HOTMAIL, WINDOWS LIVE HOTMAIL PLUS, MSN HOTMAIL AND MSN PREMIUM?

Microsoft has created a lot of confusion with how it names its e-mail products. And with the transition from MSN to Windows Live branding, it got worse. They did the same with their Windows XP operating system and Office XP productivity suite in 2002. Outlook and Outlook Express, plus Internet Explorer and Windows Explorer are other examples of their confusingly similar naming conventions.

**WINDOWS MAIL** is an e-mail program that's included with Windows Vista. It replaces Outlook Express which came with previous versions of Windows, and it has a very similar feature set. It renames Address Book to Contacts, and looks visually different to match the Vista scheme, but works like Outlook Express. You can only get Windows Mail by installing Vista.

**WINDOWS LIVE MAIL** is another, different, e-mail program. Windows Live Mail is confusing for several reasons: it's also a replacement for Outlook Express, it's slightly more full featured than Windows Mail. and it's a free download that also works on

Windows XP. It is also the replacement for Outlook Express; you can no longer find an official download of Outlook Express , but you can certainly download Windows Live Mail.

<http://get.live.com/wlmail/overview>

**WINDOWS LIVE HOTMAIL** is Microsoft's free web-based email service. Visit <http://mail.live.com> and what you're really visiting is Windows Live Hotmail. It's designed to be accessed via the web, meaning no program is used or needed, and you can access it from any machine on the internet using just a web browser. It directly replaces the old Hotmail.com web-mail.

**WINDOWS LIVE HOTMAIL PLUS** is a pay-for service that is the same as Windows Live Hotmail but removes some advertising, allows larger file attachments, and gives more online e-mail storage area.

<http://get.live.com/mailplus/features>

**MSN HOTMAIL** is the previous version of Windows Live Hotmail. The confusion exists because the transition from MSN (MicroSoft Network) Hotmail to Windows Live Hotmail was done slowly over time. That means that for a while both were available at the same time.

**MSN PREMIUM** is a collection of broadband features that must be accessed through a special browser: MSN Explorer. This is a pay-for service (approx \$10 US/month) that essentially provides everything that a combination of the free Windows Live Mail and the features built into Windows Vista do.

<http://join.msn.com/premium/overview>

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### *Tech Tips*

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## **FREE REMOTE ACCESS**

Wouldn't it be great to be able to access your home or business computer when you are away on a visit or business trip, so you could check your e-mail or use other familiar programs? To gain control of your home or office computer whenever you are away consider, using the free (at least for now) service, LogMeIn.com. After setting up an free account, you can remotely control your computer from afar, and accomplish the same things that you used to do while sitting in front of your computer.

And, if you want me to be able to remotely assist you when you are having a computer "issue", just call me at the time and let me know what your LogMeIn e-mail name and password is so I can connect to your computer and help you out! As long as your computer can still boot AND connect to the Internet, I will do whatever I can to assist you remotely; a service which I'm still offering for free for a limited time.

<http://www.logmein.com>

## JAWING FOR FREE

How about a free long-distance phone call from anywhere within the US or Canada? Just connect to Jajah, type in your phone number and the phone number of who you want to call. Each of you will receive a ring on your phone and then be connected. You can watch the call progress on your computer as it happens. Jajah is offering up to 5 minutes of connect time for free; you can then decide to sign-up for a small monthly fee membership if the service is useful to you.

<http://jajah.com/>

## HELLO? CAN YOU SEE ME?

Instead of free phone calls, how about free video-conference calls if you already have a working web-cam? SightSpeed offers a free download that allows you and your loved ones to keep in touch with both sight and sound. If you decide to use SightSpeed, let your other web-cam users know, so they can use the same product... it will make it easier for both ends to make it work.

<http://www.sightspeed.com/personal/compare-our-products>

## KEEP IT SAFE OUT THERE

As always, don't forget to keep your Windows updates current and your computer protected from malware. There are many free, yet excellent programs available so there is no excuse not to stay protected. However, there are many more free programs which are harmful, that will, instead of protecting your system, actually harm it. Choose from this list I've provided and you should have no problems of that sort. Most of these free programs are for individual home use, not commercial / business use, but I've noted those restrictions, plus the Windows versions each is compatible with. Here's the latest list of excellent, but free, security programs that I recommend. I added the **(NEW)** flag to items that haven't been on the list before this month.

### ANTI-VIRUS: *(fights viruses, worms & trojans)*

AVG 7.5 Free: *(home only, Win98-Vista)*

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

AVast! 4 Home Edition: *(home only, Win95-Vista, annual free renewal)*

[http://www.avast.com/eng/avast\\_4\\_home.html](http://www.avast.com/eng/avast_4_home.html)

Comodo 2: *(home or business, XP/2000 only)*

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

Clam-Win .91: *(home or business, Win98-XP, manual scanner only)*  
<http://www.clamwin.com/>

**ANTI-MALWARE:** *(fights spyware & adware)*

SpyBot 1.5: *(home or business, Win95-Vista, manual scanner only)*  
<http://www.safer-networking.org/en/mirrors/index.html>

Threatfire 3: *(home or business, WinXP-Vista, manual scanner only)*  
<http://www.threatfire.com/download/>

Microsoft Windows Defender: *(home or business, WinXP-2003, requires validation)*  
<http://tinyurl.com/c9p2f>

Webroot SpySweeper: *(home only, Win2000-Vista, 30-day free trial)*  
<http://tinyurl.com/2bp9xa>

McAfee SiteAdvisor: *(home or business, Win2000-XP) (NEW)*  
*Adds safety ratings to websites and search results to help protect you from adware, spam, and online scams.*  
<http://www.siteadvisor.com/download/ie.html>

**FIREWALL:** *(fights keyloggers and hacking)*

Your Router: *almost all routers have a hardware firewall built-in; the best type!*

ZoneAlarm Free: *(home only, Win2000-Vista)*  
<http://tinyurl.com/3yhkyk>

Comodo Firewall Pro: *(home or business, Win2000-XP)*  
<http://tinyurl.com/2o2p6d>

Outpost Free Firewall: *(home or business, Win95-XP) (NEW)*  
<http://www.agnitum.com/products/outpostfree/index.php>

**ANTI-SPAM:** *(fights unwanted email) (NEW)*

Spam Terrier: *(home or business, Win 98-XP, Outlook 2000-2003, Outlook Express 5.0-6.0) (NEW)*  
<http://www.agnitum.com/products/spam-terrier/index.php>

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plus many extras, are available to you at [www.familycomputerusa.com](http://www.familycomputerusa.com). Thanks for checking!

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