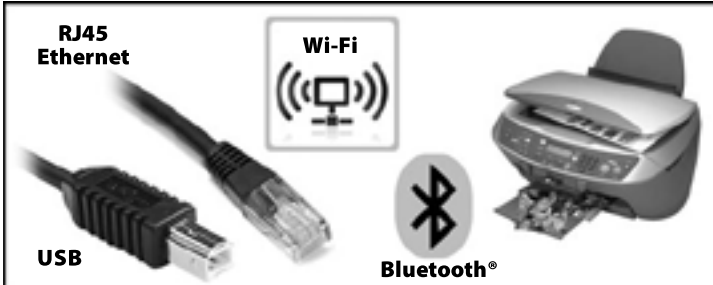




A Quarterly Publication From Your Friends At **FAST RHINO**



## PRINTERS SHARED or STAND-ALONE?

**Q**uestions abound when customers are faced with the sometimes confusing task of choosing a new printer. The simple part is picking which additional features to get; such as scanning, copying and/or faxing. But should you go with one that offers USB, Ethernet, or even a wireless connection? It really depends on how you use it.

**When to choose a USB only Printer:** If the printer will only be used by one computer in your home or office, then a USB printer may be your best choice. When connecting a printer via USB, this is known as a local connection, since the printer will be physically connected to a local computer. It is possible to share this printer across your network so that other computers can use it, but the primary computer must be on, since it is acting as the printer's host. This hosted environment does work, but it isn't the best solution if you plan to print from multiple computers.

**When to choose an Ethernet Printer:** Several of today's printers now offer an Ethernet (RJ45) port which connects directly to your router. This enables multiple computers access to the printer without the need of a host. The benefit lies firmly in the fact that this printer is now stand-alone, allowing any networked computer to print to it regardless of any other computers running. For multiple computers, an Ethernet connected printer is by far the best scenario for initial setup, reliability and support when adding new computers to your network.

**When to choose a Wireless Printer:** Look Ma, no wires! The first wireless local area network (LAN) came together in 1971 when networking technologies met radio communications at the University of Hawaii as a research project called ALOHAnet. It wasn't until just a few years ago, however, when wireless printing made the scene.

Since the advent of wireless routers, wireless networking has become commonplace in homes and offices, thus printer manufacturers began offering models that connect through the air. This technology works on the same stand-alone principles provided by Ethernet printers, sans wires. The only drawback is that they are not nearly as reliable; since several factors can affect a wireless (Wi-Fi) signal.

**When to choose a Bluetooth® Printer:** Bluetooth®, is a short-range (30 feet), wireless networking protocol that connects computers to each other or to peripherals such as printers, pocket PCs, and cell phones. This connection is similar to that of the wireless printer, mentioned above in that it is stand-alone, and yet again, not as reliable as Ethernet. Only consider a Bluetooth® printer if it will be within close proximity of the computer(s) from which you plan to print.

## Proper Network Configuration

No matter which printer you decide to purchase, if you plan to print to it from multiple computers, you'll want to make sure that your network is configured properly to support it.

Fast Rhino technicians are certified professionals that can quickly determine the best way to get you more from your entire computing experience. Printing is almost an absolute requirement in any home or office network and Fast Rhino can make the process simple and worry-free. Call us at (520) 818-9650 today and we'll get you printing in a flash.

## What's Inside!!!

Welcome Kim LaFaver

Just For Fun - New Office Slang

Solid State of Mind (SSD's)

Tech Product Review

Tips & Tricks

## We've added a new Rhino to our Crash!

All of us at Fast Rhino are proud to introduce our newest member, Kim LaFaver. Kim started with us in February. Among her many duties, she will be making courtesy follow-up calls, scheduling appointments and handling advertisement sales for the newsletter.

If you see her in person or speak with her on the phone, please give her a big welcome!

To contact Kim, please call 520-818-9650 or you can email her at [sales@fastrhino.com](mailto:sales@fastrhino.com)

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# Just For FUN

## New Office Slang

Excerpts from [www.OfficeSlang.com](http://www.OfficeSlang.com)

**404** - Someone who is clueless. From the Web error message, "404 Not Found," which means the document requested couldn't be located. "Don't bother asking John. He's 404."

**Alpha Geek** - The most knowledgeable, technically proficient person in an office or work group. "I dunno, ask Rick. He's our alpha geek."

**Blamestorming** - A group discussion of why a deadline was missed or a project failed and who was responsible.

**Chainsaw Consultant** - An outside expert brought in to reduce the employee head count, leaving the top brass with clean hands.

**Chips and Salsa** - Chips = hardware, salsa = software. "First we gotta figure out if the problem's in your chips or your salsa."

**Cobweb** - A WWW site that never changes.

**Dead Tree Edition** - The paper version of a publication available in both paper and electronic forms.

**Egosurfing** - Scanning the Net, databases, etc., for one's own name.

**Idea Hamsters** - People whose idea generators are always running.

**Irritainment** - Entertainment and media spectacles that are annoying, but you find yourself unable to stop watching them. The O.J. trials were a prime example.

**Keyboard Plaque** - The disgusting buildup of dirt and crud found on some people's computer keyboards.

**Mouse Potato** - The online generation's answer to the couch potato.

**Percussive Maintenance** - The fine art of whacking an electronic device to get it to work again.

**Swiped Out** - An ATM or credit card that has been used so much its magnetic strip is worn away.

**Uninstalled** - Euphemism for being fired. Also: decruitment.

**Xerox Subsidy** - Euphemism for swiping free photocopies from one's workplace.

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# Solid State of Mind

## SSD's are changing the way we store data

### What is an SSD?

SSD stands for Solid State Drive. SSD's are similar to the thumb drives (or flash drives) that many of us carry around to transport data from one computer to another. It is also similar to the flash disks that are used in digital cameras. Unlike the traditional hard drives that have been used in computers for the last 30 years, SSD's have no moving parts. The risk of an SSD having a mechanical failure is minimal compared to that of a traditional hard drive.

Sound too good to be true? Well, maybe it is, maybe it isn't. Here is a list of some of the advantages and disadvantages of this new technology:

### What are the advantages?

Faster boot times. Data is stored on a flash-memory based platform versus the platter and head architecture of traditional hard drives; therefore, there is no spin-up required. The random access of data is near instantaneous.

Because the memory used in SSD's is "non-volatile" memory, if you suddenly lose power to your computer, the SSD's will retain memory so that your data is still retrievable.

SSD's are tougher than traditional hard drives. They can withstand bumps and jolts, high altitudes and extreme temperatures.

They are lighter and smaller than traditional hard drives, require less electricity to run and emit less heat.

Due to a lack of moving parts, SSD's do not create noise. Although higher end SSD's may include cooling fans.

### What are the disadvantages?

Capacity – SSD's are not available in the higher Gigabyte range that traditional hard drives have.

Price – The current price per Gigabyte in an SSD is about \$15 - \$20 compared to \$1 with traditional hard drives.

They have a higher vulnerability to sudden power loss, magnetic fields and electric or static charges.

Slow write speeds. This is due to the SSD's large erase block making them slower than traditional hard drives when performing random write tasks.



**Traditional Hard Disk Drive**



**Solid State Hard Drive**



## iTunes finally works with Vista64

With January's release of iTunes 7.6 for Windows, users running Windows Vista 64-bit edition are being prompted to install the 64-bit version of iTunes. Indeed, a look at the "About iTunes.rtf" file in the c:\Program Files\iTunes directory reveals that there is, in fact, a 64-bit version of iTunes for Windows Vista.

Included with iTunes 7.6 for Windows Vista 64-bit is a 64-bit version of Quicktime, a 64-bit version of the iPhone driver (Apple Mobile Device Support) and a 64-bit version of Apple Software Updater.

This marks the first release of software for 64-bit Windows from Apple. Other tidbits include the ability to manually manage music on the iPhone and support for the newly announced movie rental service through iTunes, including High Definition content downloads.

**And, speaking of iPhones**, a trojan has made its way onto the iPhone, yet is more annoying than malicious. The press was abuzz recently with what security experts at Symantec billed as the first iPhone trojan, although they say it is more of a nuisance and not a threat to data or performance of the handheld device.

The trojan, known as "iPhone firmware 1.1.3 prep" or "113 prep", is the first to be seen in the wild and played off the anticipated forthcoming iPhone software update to tempt users to install it. "This is technically the first Trojan horse seen for the iPhone; however, it does appear to be more of a prank than an actual threat," Symantec researcher Orla Cox wrote in a blog post. "The impact of uninstalling the 'Trojan' would appear to be an unintended side effect."

Cox wrote that those affected need to uninstall the Trojan and re-install affected files. Symantec also restated the obvious, warning that users should be cautious when installing unauthorized third-party iPhone applications.

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# TECH Product Review

## MTron Solid State Drive

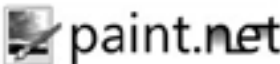


**S**olid State Drives or flash drives have no moving parts inside, withstand rough handling and bumps and falls. With all these benefits, one would have expected them to be inside every new PC. Ironically, conventional hard drives still rule the market, the reason being speed (though theoretically, accessing data from any point on a flash drive should be faster).

However, things are looking up for flash-based hard drives if MTron's achievement is any indication. MTron's newest offering, the MSD-S2516 has posted speeds that surpassed even the 10,000rpm Western Digital Raptor. And the speed tests simulated everything we do on a daily basis, like booting XP to launching Photoshop.

Still, it's too early to expect an immediate upheaval in the hard drive market. There's more to be done, because the tested drive was a paltry 16GB while the SSDs still have to catch up with the conventional HDDs in terms of size. Of course, pricing is a factor too. MTron's 64GB SATA-based SSD costs \$3,000.

## Paint.NET



**W**indows users rejoice! Now you can download a totally free, feature-rich photo editing program called Paint.NET, found online at [www.getpaint.net](http://www.getpaint.net). This application is fairly easy to use and it offers many of the bells and whistles only found in expensive software like Adobe® Photoshop® and Corel® Paint Shop Pro®. Features include layers and filters that handle everything from blurring/sharpening to color control. The software does require that you get Microsoft's .NET Framework 2.0 prior to installation and it is recommended that you have a minimum of 800MHz CPU and 512MB of RAM. Regardless, this is one very cool program and at the right price!

## Logitech Squeezebox Duet



**E**ver had the urge to stream music from your computer to your home stereo unit? Now you can with Logitech's new Squeezebox Duet. The original unit was made by Slim Devices until the company was acquired by Logitech last year. Since Logitech has taken over, the device has a slick new design and added capabilities. The box itself is much more compact and loses its screen, making the remote, with its bright and colorful 2.4-inch LCD, the star of the show. iTunes users and even fans of Slacker Internet radio can stream from their online accounts to their home stereo systems without the need of a computer. The audio playback quality is excellent, with very few defects resulting from streaming, but the device is not without issues. The worst is an incredibly big lag time between pressing some remote-control buttons (Volume, for example) and their respective responses. Still, the cool outweighs the bad here. Especially for those lacking the budget for a pricey Sonos system, the Squeezebox is a more affordable alternative, priced at around \$400.



**Got a cool new device you'd like to see us review?**

**Call us at (520) 818-9650**

**and let us know.**

# Tips N' Tricks

## Disk Cleanup

The Disk Cleanup tool helps you free up space on your hard disk, which allows your processor to access files faster, since it doesn't have to trape through trash. Let's walk through the process:

1. Go to: START | ALL PROGRAMS | ACCESSORIES | SYSTEM TOOLS | DISK CLEANUP
2. Left-click on Disk Cleanup. A small window will appear on your screen. Be sure that the drive being cleaned is your C: drive. At this point, the utility is calculating how much garbage exists. Once this is done, you will see a list of files to delete. To the left of each name on the list is a small box which you can either check or uncheck. To the right is the amount of disk space you will gain. Below the list is a description of each of the file types.
3. Go down the list and check everything except 'Office Setup Files'. If you accidentally delete these, you will need your MS Office disks in order to add Office programs or repair an installation.
4. Now, let Disk Cleanup do its job. When this finishes, the little box will disappear. Now start Disk Defragmenter (Defrag).

## Disk Defragmenter

1. Go to START | ALL PROGRAMS | ACCESSORIES | SYSTEM TOOLS | DISK DEFRAGMENTER.
2. Left-click on Disk Defragmenter. A window will appear displaying your partitions. You should choose (C:).
3. There are two areas underneath that display before and after stages of the process as it progresses, and below are two buttons; 'Analyze' and 'Defragment'. If you click on 'Analyze', the utility will determine whether or not you need to defrag.
4. Left-click on 'Defragment' and then let the program run. You are still able to use your computer while this is running, but it may seem slower than usual.
5. When Defrag finishes, a window will appear informing you that it is complete. You have a choice to View the Report or Close. Choose Close, unless you are interested in reading the report of course!
6. Restart your computer. That's it!

**NOTE:** *Fast Rhino suggests you run the above two utilities at least once or twice a month.*

## Chkdsk (CheckDisk)

Chkdsk (Chkdsk.exe) is a Windows tool that can check your hard drive for problems. The tool then tries to repair any that it finds. You can manually run Chkdsk from either My Computer or Windows Explorer:

1. Double-click My Computer, and then right-click the hard disk that you want to check.
2. Click Properties, and then click Tools.
3. Under Error-checking, click Check Now. A dialog box that shows the Check Disk options is displayed,
4. Use one of the following procedures:
  - To run Chkdsk in read-only mode, click Start.
  - To repair errors without scanning the volume for bad sectors, select the Automatically fix file system errors check box, and then click Start.
  - To repair errors, locate bad sectors, and recover readable information, select the Scan for and attempt recovery of bad sectors check box, and then click Start.

**Note:** *If one or more of the files on the hard disk are open, you will receive the following message:*

*The disk check could not be performed because the disk check utility needs exclusive access to some Windows files on the disk. These files can be accessed by restarting Windows. Do you want to schedule the disk check to occur the next time you restart the computer?*

Click 'Yes' to schedule the disk check, and then restart your computer to start the utility.



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