



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



WIDESCREEN COMPUTING

The advent of the Internet has made a revolutionary impact on the use of computers, making them an essential part of our daily lives. While the computer is still not as ubiquitous as the television, the convergence of the two continues to increase at multiplying rates. The widescreen monitor is a true testament of these two technologies finally coming together.

Those of us who were early adopters of LCD flat screens couldn't wait to replace our old bulky CRT monitors. These screens were much easier on the eye and offered a smaller footprint; an island in a sea of new desk space. A few years later, and we see the standard 4:3 aspect ratio screens phasing out. Aspect ratio refers to the ratio of the display's width to the display's height. Most people think of computer monitors and television screens as having a square image or 1:1 aspect ratio, where the height is equal to the width. In actuality, traditional computer monitors and television screens have a 4:3 aspect ratio where the width is slightly larger than the height.

Wide Load Ahead

With the emergence of technologies such as HDTV, people are becoming more comfortable with alternate aspect ratios for their computers screens, which have a more rectangular look. Many of these displays carry a 16:10 aspect ratio (as opposed to the 16:9 used in widescreen televisions) and allow for two full pages of text to be shown side-by-side.

Since computer monitors are measured diagonally, it is important to understand the aspect ratio of a display compared to the screen size to make a proper comparison. While a 22" widescreen sounds large, since measuring a rectangle diagonally is a longer distance than measuring a

square (or near square) diagonally, its height looks small. In fact, the height of a 22" widescreen is actually smaller than the height of a 17" traditional (4:3) display. Suffice to say, once you 'drive' one of these widescreens, it's not easy going back.

Today's modern widescreens utilize various display standards such as WSXGA, or WideScreen eXtended Graphics Array, delivering up to a 1680 x 1050 resolution. And, since these wide-bodied monitors are affordable, you don't have to be rich to get behind one.

Of course, if you don't mind spending more, WUXGA, or Widescreen Ultra eXtended Graphics Array, boasts a sharp 1920 x 1200 resolution. In addition, WQXGA, or Wide Quad eXtended Graphics Array delivers an insane 2560 x 1600 resolution. See the display standards comparison chart listed on page 6 in this edition of The Download.

In any event, the 16:10 aspect ratio makes watching DVDs in widescreen format a real pleasure, but don't feel left out if you don't watch movies on your PC. The wider format brings you closer to your desktop by engulfing your senses with higher resolutions. OK, so it's no IMAX, but you'll appreciate the added pixels when you want to multi-task or if you use Google's Desktop sidebar or Windows sidebar.

Before you get any widescreen monitor, it's best to make sure your video card can support it. Simply give Fast Rhino a call and we'll consult with you on exactly what you need.

What's Inside!!!

A Phish Story - Be careful not to get caught up in the net with this whopper at the end of a line.

NAV vs. The Gauntlet - Sometimes, you should buy software when it has fewer features.

Tech Q&A - Deciphering +/- R/RW formats

Display Standards - Find your monitor resolution in this handy comparison chart

Tech Q&A

Question: I have a CD burner on my computer, but I'm not sure which blank discs to purchase. Should I get +R, -R, +RW or -RW? Thanks in advance! Linda Ochs

Answer: The age and type of CD or DVD optical drive you have has a lot to do with what type of media (+/-) you purchase. Check the date marked on the drive itself to find out how old it is. Most drives built after 2005 support multiple formats, so you should be able to use any media (+/-) you wish. These newer drives are also very affordable and can save you a lot of headache trying to find the right match.

The R vs. RW issue, however, depends on what your goals are with the data to be burned. 'R' media allows you to write once over an area of a disc. This is great for backing up files that you don't ever want to lose, since the data cannot be accidentally written over. We actually prefer the CD-R and DVD-R discs for this very reason. 'RW' media, on the other hand, allows the user to re-write over space that has previously been written on the disc. Be careful not to overwrite something you don't want to lose.

Got a question you'd like to see covered in The Download? Send it to info@fastrhino.com and mention 'Tech Q&A' in the subject line.

Holiday Hours

Fast Rhino will be closed for Thanksgiving,
November 22 & 23, 2007.

We will also be closed from December 24,
2007 to January 1, 2008 and will reopen on
Wednesday January 2, 2008

We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday
season this year!

The Download

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Anonymous Computer Quotes

"Pentiums melt in your PC, not in your hand."

"Error, no keyboard -- press F1 to continue."

"Artificial Intelligence usually beats natural stupidity."

"How do I set my laser printer on stun?"

"Philosophy is a game with objectives and no rules. Mathematics is a game with rules and no objectives."

"If debugging is the process of removing bugs, then programming must be the process of putting them in."

"Smith & Wesson — the original point and click interface."

"The Lottery: A tax on people who are bad at math."

"There are three types of people in this world: Those who can count, and those who can't."

"Those parts of the system that you can hit with a hammer (not advised) are called hardware; those program instructions that you can only curse at are called software."

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The Rhino Thesaurus

A Guide for the Rest of Us

Keeping up on the latest computer jargon can help you navigate today's technology hurdles and help you make better buying decisions.

Link Farm - Any group of web sites that all hyperlink to every other page in the group. Although some link farms can be created by hand, most are created through automated programs and services. A link farm is a form of spamming the index of a search engine (sometimes called spamdexing or spamdexing). Other link exchange systems are designed to allow individual websites to selectively exchange links with other relevant websites and are not considered a form of spamdexing.

Social Engineering is a collection of techniques used to manipulate people into performing actions or divulging confidential information. While similar to a confidence trick or simple fraud, the term typically applies to trickery for information gathering or computer system access and in most cases the attacker never comes face-to-face with the victim.

Resolution is often used as a pixel count in digital imaging. Normally, pixel resolution is referred with the set of two positive integer numbers, where the first number is the number of pixel columns (width) and the second is the number of pixel rows (height), for example as 640 by 480. Another popular convention is to cite resolution as the total number of pixels in the image, typically given as number of megapixels, which can be calculated by multiplying pixel columns by pixel rows and dividing by one million. Other conventions include describing pixels per length unit or pixels per area unit, such as pixels per inch or per square inch. None of these pixel resolutions are true resolutions, but they are widely referred to as such; they serve as upper bounds on image resolution.

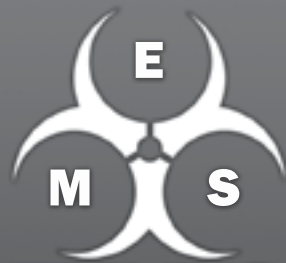
Vector graphics (also called geometric modeling or object-oriented graphics) is the use of geometrical primitives such as points, lines, curves, and polygons, which are all based upon mathematical equations to represent images in computer graphics. It is used in contrast to the term raster graphics, which is the representation of images as a collection of pixels, and used as the sole graphic type for actual photographic images.

Find it at **Wikipedia**  **com**

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NAV vs. The Gauntlet

Symantec, like many other security software manufacturers, has never been capable of leaving well enough alone. When a company is blessed to own and market an exceptional product, somehow their marketing department tends to either destroy it or attempt to create a host of other competing products by including what works with what doesn't.

Norton AntiVirus is the perfect example of this phenomenon in the household computer software market. This product is probably one of the world's single best virus protection products for the home user. This statement is made simply from years of experience working with a host of infected computers. The majority of these virus-ridden systems either had no anti-virus protection or they were running some other inferior or free anti-virus product. Keep in mind that the word, "free" almost always is not.

It didn't take long, however, for the marketing gurus to start running psychological models against consumer purchasing behaviors and discover that almost all home computer users are flat-out paranoid when it comes to their home computer's security. This, coupled with extreme media coverage of identity theft, only fueled the flames for Symantec to roll out products like System Works, Internet Security, and the new Norton 360. Although a few of the features in these products may possess merit, in whole, the software is bloated with redundant features that slow your system and can make managing your internal network an ongoing nightmare.

Consumers are being shell-shocked with every kind of security buzzword in the hopes of upselling a 'better' mousetrap. The truth is: Sometimes less is more. Internet Security, for example, includes Norton AntiVirus, but it also locks down your local network with an extremely difficult to manage firewall. It might be a reasonable choice for a business, but it is overkill for the average home user.

Norton 360 is another Frankenstein project where Symantec took the best of Norton AntiVirus and mixed it with parts that don't work so well. Although the online backup feature sounds cool, it is rarely used and takes an exorbitant amount of time and system resources to run. (Our recommendation: Buy an external hard drive). The firewall leaves the user clueless as to which programs are being blocked and the spam-filter quarantines items to the hard drive, wasting drive space until the end of time. As for its disk cleanup feature, Norton 360 decides who lives and who dies. This can be especially annoying with browser cookies that you might actually want to keep.

By sticking with Norton AntiVirus, which happens to be Symantec's flagship product, you'll save more money and tax your system less. While you're at it, go ahead and mark yourself off the list of countless statistics who buy their security software strictly based on fear.

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A Phish Story

For those of you who are not familiar with the word, "phishing", the term refers to a form of online identity theft that employs both social engineering and technical subterfuge to steal consumers' personal identity data and financial account credentials. Social-engineering schemes use 'spoofed' e-mails to lead consumers to counterfeit websites designed to trick recipients into divulging financial data such as account usernames and passwords. Hijacking brand names of banks, e-tailers and credit card companies, phishers often convince recipients to respond. Technical subterfuge schemes plant crimeware onto PCs to steal credentials directly, often using key logging systems to intercept consumers online account user names and passwords, and to corrupt local and remote navigational infrastructures to misdirect consumers to counterfeit websites and to authentic websites through phisher-controlled proxies that can be used to monitor and intercept consumers' keystrokes.

The Anti-Phishing Working Group is a global pan-industrial and law enforcement association focused on eliminating the fraud and identity theft that result from phishing, pharming and email spoofing. They provide a list of things you can do to avoid becoming a target to phishing scams:

Be suspicious of any email with urgent requests for personal financial information unless the email is digitally signed, you can't be sure it wasn't forged or 'spoofed'.

Phishers typically include upsetting or exciting (but false) statements in their emails to get people to react immediately.

They typically ask for information such as usernames, passwords, credit card numbers, social security numbers, date of birth, etc.

Phisher emails are typically NOT personalized, but they can be. Valid messages from your bank or e-commerce company generally are personalized, but always call to check if you are unsure.

Don't use the links in an email, instant message, or chat to get to any web page if you suspect the message might not be authentic or you don't know the sender or user's handle. Instead, call the company on the telephone, or log onto the website directly by typing in the Web address in your browser.

Avoid filling out forms in email messages that ask for personal financial information.

You should only communicate information such as credit card numbers or account information via a secure website or the telephone.

Always ensure that you're using a secure website when submitting credit card or other sensitive information via your Web browser.

For more information, visit www.antiphishing.org

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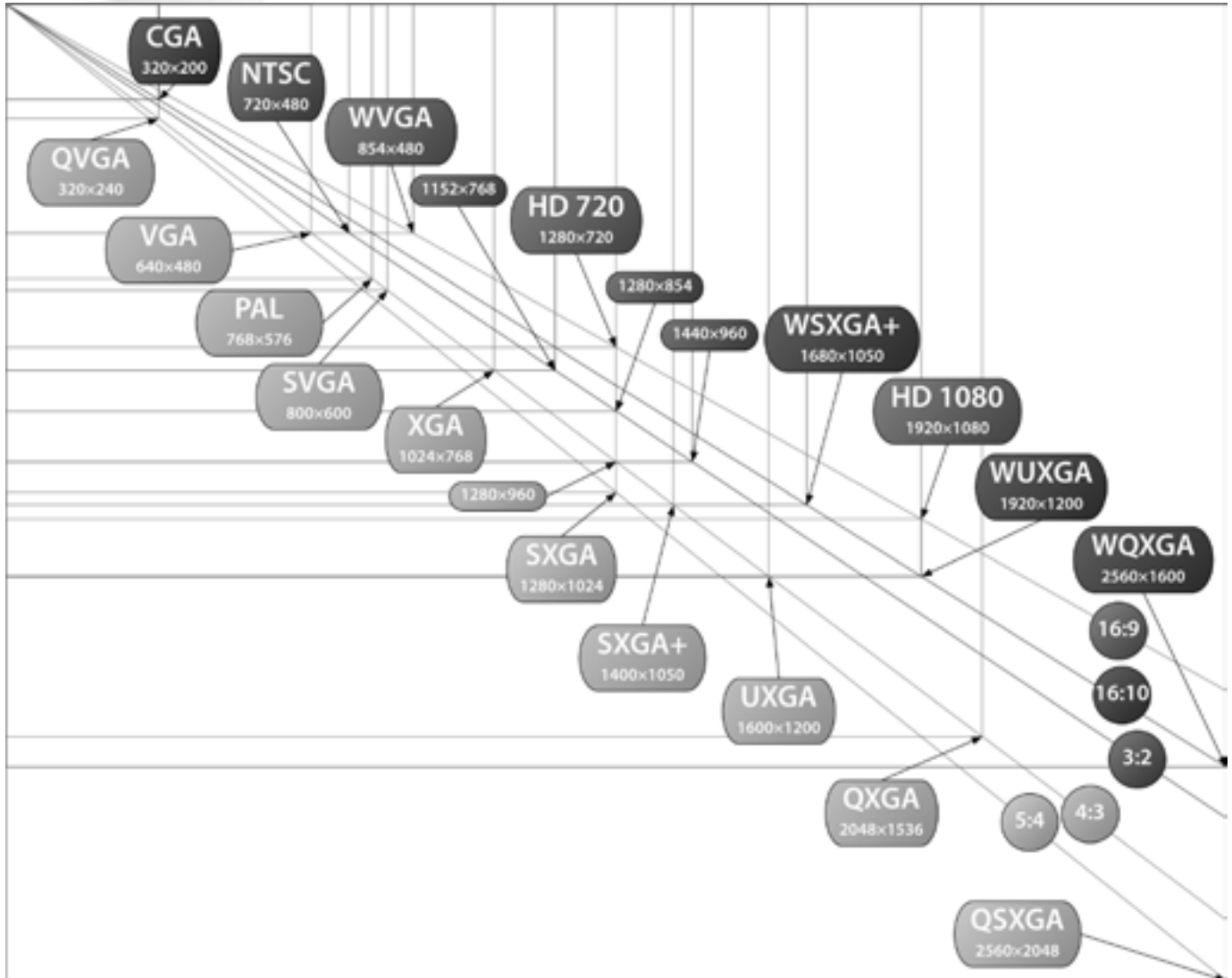
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Display Standards Comparison Chart



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Software RANTS

Last Issue's Crossword Answers

Here are the answers to the crossword puzzle from the third quarter issue of The Download. Congratulations go out to Kim LaFaver for being the first person to call in with the correct answers!

1	G	2	R	3	U	4	M	5	P	6	S	7	E	8	A	9	S	10	A	11	W
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40	D	E	B	T	O	R	43	A	P	L	O	M	B								
45	I	S	L	A	M	46	B	Y	T	E											
47	E	T	A	48	P	E	A	50	F	A	R	A	D								
54	G	E	M	55	O	R	B	56	O	S	A	K	A								
57	O	R	E	58	M	A	Y	59	R	E	P	A	Y								

Vista users have had to deal with a plethora of software compatibility problems since January. Surprisingly, most of these issues cannot be blamed on Microsoft. Third-party software developers are usually the culprits behind such glitches. Unfortunately, until they get their act together, we as users, end up paying the price.

Welcome to the New & Improved Past

Apple recently released the new 7.4 version of iTunes to support their iPod shuffle and new iPod nano. In the process, however, it no longer works on 64-bit Vista. Recent versions of iTunes worked fine under the 64-bit operating system, but Apple seems to have taken one step forward and two steps back.

Quicken to Forget

Intuit doesn't seem to be in to it lately. Their Quicken 2007 financial software works great with Vista64, but someone forgot to tell the TurboTax development team about it. If you're running Vista64 and Quicken 2007, your only choice at the end of the year is to use the TurboTax online version, since the desktop version doesn't work.

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