

Stan's Komputer Korner

This will be a regular column. The author is a watch-maker and he is retired from the Navy as a Supervisory General Engineer. He has been involved with computers since the early sixties. He used to purchase all the hardware and software for a group of 40 scientists and engineers. He has marketed swim meet programs nationally. He was an associate editor of the Apple II section of the 'Washington Apple Pie,' a computer user's group based in Washington DC.

This column includes computer information for IBM compatible computers in the form of hints, helps, suggestions and news. Please submit your questions to Stan Palen, 8283 Oakwood Drive, King George, VA 22485 or via email to spalen@crosslink.net. Stan also has a web page located at www.stanpalen.com (Please note that this column is often submitted for publication 30 to 60 days before publication.) My phone number is 540 775-7027.

There have been several mentions of my HP iPAQ in previous columns. A question was asked if I would buy the same thing again. There have been a lot of developments in the small pocket computers since I bought the iPAQ. If I was going to do it over again, I would probably get one of the smaller tablets.

iPad by Apple is the most widely known of the small tablet computers. Most major companies have one now and they all have different features. The small ones are mostly phones. The medium size ones are 7" and the large ones are around 10". If you are in the market for one, please do your homework. I do not have one, so I cannot help you with your choice.

Competition is a great thing. Amazon has a new Kindle reader called Fire. Fire is color and will do email and web surfing through Amazon's servers. I am not sure what all that implies. Industry analysts have stated that it is being sold at or probably under cost. Amazon is planning on recovering their costs by selling books and many other products. Fire is WiFi. Barnes and Noble is also marketing new readers Nook and Nook Color. Their prices are very reasonable too. Nook is black and white. Nook Color has the added capability of email and web access.

HP recently decided to get out of the Touch Pad business. They had a fire sale. They sold their \$400 touch pad for \$99. I would have gotten one for that price, but they were all gone by the time I found out about it. The pad had a unique operating system that now has no support because the company has abandoned it. That could be a significant problem.

In my last column I mentioned Radiocatch that will capture any audio that passes through your computer. It is available at radiocatch.com. I attached the audio from my cable TV system to my microphone input to my computer. I played about 8 hours of the music I like and then was able to put it on a thumb drive. I could have made an audio DVD also. It worked as advertised and was free.

Last week I was using a computer on a direct connection to a cable modem. I needed to use a different computer on the same connection. When I hooked up the second computer, the computer would not see the connection. There are about 3 solutions to this problem. 1. Call your cable company and have them reset your cable modem. 2. If your cable modem has a reset button, push it. Or 3. Disconnect the incoming cable from your modem. If you disconnect the power to your cable box, it will retain it's settings for a while, so it is not a good option.

This problem also came up this week when I was installing a router on a system that only had one connection to a computer and more connections were needed. After the router was installed, I had to reset the box to get the system to see it and then when I added the second computer to the router, I had to do it again. It took a while to get both computers to see the Internet. I should not have to do it more than once. I kept getting messages to contact my system administrator. That was me in that case, so it was not useful.

Internet Explorer 9 has been out for some time now. Everything I have read says it is reliable and solid. It is more secure than earlier versions. You should definitely upgrade to it. You may have noticed that the earlier versions have also been recommending that you upgrade. Lots of things at the top have changed. Search is now in the same place as the address bar at the left. Favorites, Tools, and Home are under pull downs on the right. It takes a little bit of getting used to. In my case, it also got rid of the extra tool bars that some programs had installed. (Mostly unused and unwanted) I should have taken the pains to get rid of them. Some of them would not go away when I tried the easy or quick solutions.

Do you have a lot of pictures on your computer? Are there any duplicates taking up space? I download my camera to my computer and am sure some of them were downloaded more than once. Also some of them were edited and renamed. Duplifinder will find some of these duplicates and help you to keep the ones you want. You can find it at duplifinder.codeplex.com. I have downloaded it, but have not had a chance to experiment with it. Some of the reviews indicate that it may not find all of your duplicates,

Several folks have followed my advice about signing up for TechNet and are quite happy with the results. One had difficulty with the ISO file type. This is a file that will create a CD or DVD disk. You run the file and it will prompt you for a disk. After the disk is created, you use it to install the program. You will also need to get the product key from TechNet for your product before you can install it.

I am webmaster for several sites. Some of them send me material to update their site with. I update the site and notify them. Occasionally they say the update did not work. Their computer thinks it has the latest information already. Sometimes clicking on refresh (the opposing green arrows in the bar at the top) will make the computer go and get the latest information. For difficult sites it is necessary to click on Tools and then Internet options and delete cookies and browsing history.

Most of the things I write about are problems that I have run into in the past three months. I need input from you about problems you have encountered and solved. If you are having problems, I might be able to help you and it would also give me something to write about. My contact information is at the top of the article.