



S V E C C

SVECC Newsletter

Sunland Village East Computer Club

April 2011

Volume 8 Issue 4

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Monthly Reminders:

- Run Disk Cleanup
- Run CC Cleaner
- Defrag your hard drive
- Manually Update Windows
- Update Super Anti-spyware
- Run your Anti-virus

Computer Club taken over.

In a surprise Coup the Sunland Village East Tennis Club takes over the Computer Club.

The Sunland Village HOA announced today (4/1/2011) that the Tennis club had petitioned the HOA to take over the assets and facilities of the Computer Club.

The tennis club petition states that the weather has not allowed its members proper time to practice their pathetic games.

As part of the takeover the Tennis club states they will purchase 18 Wii Games from Microsoft.

These games will allow the Tennis Club members to practice indoors during inclement weather.

In addition they will also be able to open

a 18 lane Wii bowling alley.

This move was supported by a number of other clubs in the HOA.

As a result the board members of the Computer Club led by President Dolores Bruno staged a night time attack on the Sunland Village Quilters group.

During this attack they deprogramed all of the Quilters computerized sewing machines, and scattered fabric swatches all over the Palo Verde building floor.

NBC announced that they have moved their most senior correspondents from Libya to cover this takeover.

They stated that the American people were far more inter-

ested in the outcome of this revolt then they were of what Moammar Gadhafi is doing to world oil prices.

President Obama said through his press office that the Federal Government will take no action at this time, but rather let this Coup play itself out.

The Computer Club on the other hand has called for a no fly zone at Sunland Village. They state that the Tennis Club is well armed and is being supplied by dissidents from other Tennis clubs in the East Valley, and that this support includes F4 fighters from the Korean War.

Happy April Fools Day.



Using System Repair Disk



Having the whole operating system on disc isn't necessary if you just need to repair your Windows installation. You should have a repair disc on hand to deal with the following situations:

You've made a change to your PC and it now won't boot into Windows.

You get a message such as NTLDR is missing but your hard drive is healthy.

You get a virus on your PC and need command line access to fix the issue.

Windows starts to boot and then your PC power cycles.

In this guide, we show you: Where to download a Windows 7 or Windows Vista Repair Disc.

How to make a Windows 7 repair disc yourself.

How to make a Win-

dows 7 repair USB drive.

How to boot from a disc/USB drive and use it to repair your PC.

Note: A repair disc cannot be used to install Windows and provides no functionality beyond a Windows installation disc. If you already have an installation disc, you can use that for system recovery.

Download a Windows 7 or Windows Vista Repair Disc

If you don't want to create a disc yourself or you're using Windows Vista, you can download one. The instructions to do so are here:

Windows Vista:
<http://neosmart.net/blog/2008/windows-vista-recovery-disc-download/>

Windows 7:
<http://neosmart.net/blog/2009/windows-7-system-repair-discs/>
Make a Windows 7

Repair Disc Yourself

To make a Windows 7 repair disc yourself:

1. Click *Start*, type **create** and click *Create a System Repair Disc*.
2. Insert a CD/DVD, choose the DVD drive in which the disc resides and click *Create Disc*.

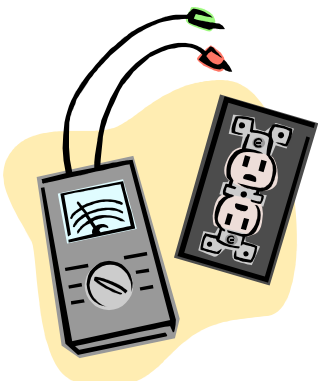
Once the disc is finished, I recommend booting from the disc to test it before you need it and find it burned incorrectly.

Make a Windows Vista/7 Repair USB drive

If you own a netbook, don't have an optical (CD/DVD/Bluray) drive, or just don't keep good track of your discs, you may find you run in to trouble when trying to repair your PC in the event of an operating system failure.

To make a bootable Windows repair USB drive you'll need to: Download the Windows recovery

In this guide, we show you: Where to download a Windows 7 or Windows Vista Repair Disc.



Using System Repair Disk (continued)

ISO. Make your thumb drive bootable. Copy the recovery files to your thumb drive. Boot from it.

2. Make your Thumb Drive Bootable

To prepare your USB drive, do the following: (Use a thumb drive that you don't mind deleting everything from)

1. Press **Winkey+R** to Open the Run dialogue.
2. Type **diskpart** and hit Enter (If you don't have diskpart, get it here. <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?FamilyID=0FD9788A-5D64-4F57-949F-EF62DE7AB1AE&displaylang=en>)
3. Run the **list disk** command.
4. Run **select disk 3** where the "3" is the corresponding number of your USB drive.
5. Run **clean**.
6. Run **create partition primary**.
7. Run **active** to make the partition active.
8. Run **format fs=fat32 quick** to format the drive

as Fat32.

9. Run **assign** to give the drive a letter.

3. Copy the Recovery Files to Your Thumb Drive.

To copy the files to your thumb drive. Locate the Windows 7 recovery ISO file. Open the file with a utility capable of browsing ISO images (7 zip works well.) Download 7zip and install it. Right click the ISO file and select 7-Zip > Open Archive. Extract the contents of the ISO to your previously-formatted USB drive.

4. Boot from Your Recovery Thumb Drive

Read on to learn how to boot from your recovery thumb drive.

Boot from a Disc/USB Drive and Use it to Repair Your PC

To boot from your disc/USB:

1. Shut down your PC.
2. Insert your bootable repair disc/USB drive.
3. Power on your PC.
4. When your BIOS is loading (if you have a

brand-name PC, this is usually when you can see the brand's logo), press the key that loads the boot options menu (this is usually displayed as an option on the screen and is typically the **ESC/F8** key.)

5. Arrow down to "CD-ROM Drive" / "DVD-ROM Drive" / "Removable Media" / "USB Media" and press **Enter**.

6. The recovery software will take some time to load:

7. Now select your default keyboard layout:

8. After the software detects your installation of Windows, click *Next*:

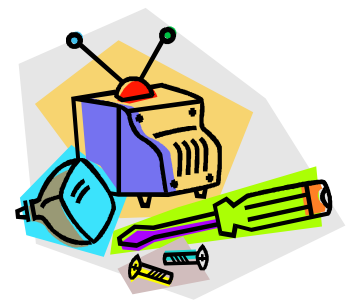
What Can You Do with a Repair Disc?

A repair disc cannot be used to reinstall Windows but can perform many repair tasks. Here is just a small list of what you can do with a repair disc:

- Startup Repair System
- Restore System Image
- Recovery Windows
- Memory Diagnostic Command Prompt



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How to Check Which Programs Are Phoning Home From Your PC



Anybody who uses the Internet has to be aware of the constant danger of being infected with malware that surreptitiously connects to the Internet. Various kinds of spyware and Trojan horses can phone home and reveal your personal information. Or an infection may turn your computer into a zombie that is part of a botnet without your knowledge.

One way of guarding against unwanted Internet activity is with a two-way firewall that monitors both incoming and outgoing traffic. However, many average PC users have a firewall that only checks incoming traffic.

There are also a variety of programs for analyzing network activity but most of these require a knowledge of networking that average PC users do not have. Fortunately, there are some simple ways that any-

body can use and this tip will discuss one of these.

It doesn't require anything to be downloaded and installed and the information it provides is easy to interpret. It doesn't replace more advanced methods but it makes useful information available to users of all levels of expertise.

Using the command "netstat" to check Internet activity

All current versions of Windows come with a number of network tools that run from the command line. (How to use the command line is discussed at (<http://www.techsupportportal.com/content/perhaps-most-under-appreciated-tool-windows-command-line.htm>)

One of these tools is the command "netstat", which has a number of features for analyzing network

traffic. More experienced users can read about using "netstat" for detailed network analysis at (<http://commandwindows.com/netstat.htm>)

This tip shows a quick and easy way to use "netstat" to see what programs are connecting to the Internet: Open the command prompt.

For this tip, Windows Vista/7 will require administrator privileges Enter "netstat -b" (without quotes)

A list of the executable files that are making connections to the Internet will be displayed. You can also add a switch "n" to tell you which IP addresses are being contacted. Then step 2 becomes: Enter "netstat -bn" (without quotes)

One way of guarding against unwanted Internet activity is with a two-way firewall that monitors both incoming and outgoing traffic.



Can I speed up my computer?

Question

I've been thinking about using one of those programs that you see on TV that claim they can speed up my computer. Do they work?

Answer

The #1 complaint that we hear in the computer club is 'my computer is running too slow'.

If you have a computer that's 6 months old or older, the likelihood that it runs as fast as the day you got it is nearly zero (unless you never use it).

The reasons for this common performance degradation vary, but in general it's a combination of what you have installed and where you have been on the Internet.

The television commercials prey on those looking for instant gratification for a fairly complex problem.

Most of what you see advertised claim to be 'Registry Cleaners' because the Registry controls every aspect of how a Windows-based computer runs.

Think of the Windows Registry like the registry in a hotel; it's supposed to keep track of who's in which room, for how long, what their preferences might be, any wake-up calls requested, what charges have been accrued during the stay,

etc.

If things get mixed up in the hotel's registry, the hotel doesn't run very smoothly and the same goes for your computer.

And just like every hotel has its own unique set of guests and issues making their registry one-of-a-kind, your computer's Registry is unique to your combination of hardware and software.

The Windows Registry is a very complex system and to date, no automated process has ever proven to be 100% effective. The unfortunate actuality of Registry cleaners is that they often cause more damage to an already fragile situation (we see the results of this in our stores almost daily).

The worst thing that you can do to a computer that is already unstable or running really slow is to install additional software. Whenever you install any program into your computer, it must add more entries into your Registry in order for Windows to be able to run it (often adding fuel to the fire).

After this question came in, we decided to test a handful of the websites that claim they can speed up your computer over the Internet to evaluate what they actually are doing.

We started with one that you see on television

commercials around the clock that shows lots of what appear to be common folk proclaiming the merits of the system.

To really test the honesty of these sites, we decided to take a brand new machine that only had Windows installed and have it 'evaluated'.

When we went to the website, it offered to install a free scanner to tell us if we had any problems. Once installed, the scanner took less than 30 seconds to report to us an astonishing thing: I had 223 issues with our Registry!

Of course, we knew that this was erroneous, so we declined their offer to help (for \$40) and used their uninstaller to remove the program.

Just for good measure, we decided to manually inspect the Registry to see if they had in fact properly removed themselves, and found 4 sets of Registry keys that were not removed.

When a 'Registry Cleaner' can't even uninstall itself cleanly, we are quite certain they won't do a great job of addressing real issues.



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911 Call to help group

What it costs elsewhere

Geek Squad in home call \$149.00 per hour

Serving Online Seniors in home call \$85.00 per hour

On line help \$79.95 subscription + \$24.95 per month

a gratuity to your SVECC helper is recommended

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Brief problem description

Computer Help Group

Group Leader Joe Zagar

Joe Zagar	480-373-9373	all systems and programs
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Depending on the season we have a number of helpers to assist with problems or installations. Contact Joe Zagar for assistance, referral, or recommendation of local service provider.

In addition on most Tuesdays from October to March we offer a fix-it session from 1pm to 3pm at the Training Center. Sessions are open to all residents of SVE and are first come first serve. Charge is \$15.00.

Call ahead to see if your problem can be solved at a Tuesday session.

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <i>Computer Club</i>	5 <i>SLUG meeting 6-8 pm</i>	6	7	8	9
10	11 <i>Computer Club</i>	12 <i>Patch Tuesday</i>	13	14 <i>ASU Auction</i>	15	16
17	18 <i>Computer Club</i>	19 <i>SLUG meeting 6-8 pm</i>	20	21	22	23
24	25 <i>Computer Club Last meeting</i>	26	27	28	29	30

Do you frequently have the same folders open when using your PC?

i.e. your My Documents, My Music, Homework folders etc? If you do, it may be a little tedious to open these folders when you log off and on or restart your computer.

Here's a quick tip to restore these folders when you restart or log off and on.

Restore Opened Folders (Windows XP)

To restore open folders in Windows XP

1. Open Computer (**Winkey+E.**)
2. Click *Tools > Folder Options...*
3. Click the *View* tab, check *Restore previous folder windows at logon*, and click *OK*.

Restore Opened Folders (Windows Vista/7)

To restore open folders in Windows Vista/7

1. Open Computer (**Winkey+E.**)
2. Press the **ALT** key and click *Tools > Folder Options...*
3. Click the *View* tab, check *Restore previous folder windows at logon*, and click *OK*.

Now when you restart your computer or log off and on, the folders you had open previously will be opened for you.

SVECC

Check us out at
svecc.com

President
Delores Bruno

Sunland Village East Computer Club

Founded for the Residents of Sunland Village East

Mission: To help each other learn about Computers

Membership is open to all residents of SVE

Dues are \$20.00 per Year

Due October 1st



And then the fight started

I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first. "I'll have the rump steak, rare, please." He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?" "Nah, she can order for herself." And that's when the fight started.....

My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table. I asked her, "Do you know him?" "Yes", she sighed, "He's my old boyfriend.... I under-

stand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since." "My God!" I said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?" And then the fight started...

SVECC

Check us out at
svecc.com

People helping
People