



S V E C C

# SVECC Newsletter

**Sunland Village East Computer Club**

January 2012

Volume 9 Issue 1

## Online Safety: Why You Should Give Up Windows XP For Good

Inside this issue:	
Backups	2
Backups	3
Drive by	4
Check box	4
Drop XP cont'	5
Help Group	6
Exit Laughing	8

### Monthly Reminders:

- Run CC Cleaner
- Defrag your hard drive
- Manually Update Windows
- Update Malware Bytes
- Run your Anti-virus

Most geeks will tell you it's well past time to get rid of XP and upgrade to newer, safer operating systems. It can be tough to explain, so keep reading this list of real world reasons to let XP go.

Maybe you're not sure why you should upgrade to a newer operating system. Maybe you've tried to explain it to friends but can't quite explain why they should. Read our reasoning below or join the conversation with your own experiences—whether you're a Windows user or not, it's time to put XP out to pasture.

Happy 10th Birthday, XP: You're (Probably) The Least Secure OS

It's a scary world out there, and for-profit cybercriminal thugs are filling P2P networks and the internet with more malicious software by the day. Even something as simple as receiving email can bring infections into your computer, and there's a huge library of malware and viruses mostly focused at taking down XP and stealing your information. Because XP is so old (10 years as of August 2011) malicious developers have had more time to create software targeting it, and while Microsoft has been able to patch some of the many security problems with the aging operating system, the fact remains that they simply

can't get them all. And as far as we can tell, all platforms, including distros of Linux, OS X, and newer versions of Windows, like Vista and Windows 7 (and now Windows 8!) are all more secure by many factors. Let's briefly talk about why XP has become so insecure.

The nature of software is timely—it fits into the needs of the time it's created, and XP was created for a simpler world of tech. The screenshot above is how Microsoft.com looked when XP was first released—formatted to fit on a screen only 640 pixels wide, it showcases Internet Explorer 6, a browser reviled for being non compliant and behind the times, as new product.

Smartphones were more or less unheard of, laptops were a luxury, and tablet computers like the iPad still seemed like a science fiction fantasy. XP was created for the needs of a simpler consumer, and performed admirably with changing needs, as more and more home users started getting computers. However, at a certain point, only so many band-aids and fixes are going to keep things going—to properly address the reality of today's security needs, the problems need to be addressed from the ground up.

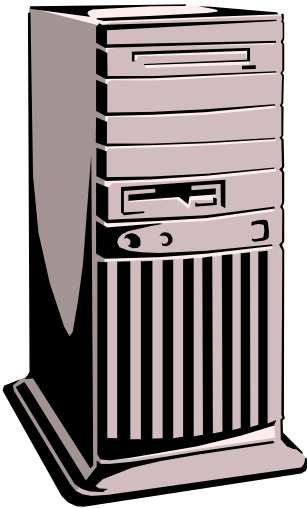
Here's a metaphor. You

might be able to drive a car that was built years and years ago, and even keep it in good working condition if you were a clever mechanic. But that car was made in a time when fewer people drove the roads and had less safety features to keep drivers and families safe on more crowded roads. Newer cars also benefit from years of engineering knowledge built on top of the mistakes of those older cars, and have safety features and more fuel efficient engines for a world with rising gasoline prices. XP fits into the computing world in much the same way—it doesn't properly address the problems of today and can pose a definite danger to the user, while giving an illusion of security.

It's Becoming Less Secure: Support and Security Patches Are Ending  
Even with the landscape of malware looking pretty bleak for XP (the data above released 2011 from 2010 statistics) the future of the aging operating system is looking worse and worse. Windows XP System Pack 2 was discontinued and extended support stopped as of July 2010, with XP System Pack 3 extended support ending as of April 2014. Mainstream support for XP ended years ago in April 2009,

*(Continued page 5)*





# Understanding Backups

## Full Backups

This is just what it sounds like. This is a complete backup of all the data that a user selects when configuring a backup job. The copied files are usually placed into a single file archive and compressed to help save space. Every time another full backup is made, all the files in the source are once again copied an archive. The problem is that often there are only a few new or changed files, and continuously making full backups will end up copying a lot of extra files that don't really need to be backed up again. This ends up using a lot of extra storage and wastes time. You can of course delete older backups to free up space, but the time is still lost. The extra wear on hard disks or the amount of bandwidth that is used to make frequent full backups must be

considered too. It is a much better idea to make a full backup once in a while, and then figure out a way to only copy the new or changed files on a more frequent basis. Several different methods, described below, have been created to implement this very thing.



## **Benefits and Disadvantages of Full Backups**

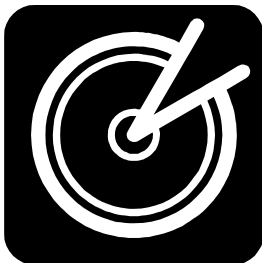
- Faster restore of all files -- When a full restore is necessary full backups are quick because you are only dealing with one archive file.
- Full backups are large and time consuming to make -- They are not well suited for regular

backups such as those performed hourly or daily.

## Differential Backups

After creating a full backup archive this backup method helps to reduce the size of subsequent backups by doing a "differential" comparison of the original files and the last full backup. All new and modified files are copied to a archive along side the full backup. The important thing to understand is that differential backups are cumulative. Each differential backup backs up everything that is different since the last full backup even if those files are already included in a previous differential. Since Differentials back up only new or changed files, they are a faster backup method than creating a full backup each time. Differential backups are well suited for daily or less frequent backup

**Faster restore of all files -- When a full restore is necessary full backups are quick because you are only dealing with one archive file.**



## Understanding Backups (continued)

strategies.

### Benefits and Disadvantages of Differential Backups

- Faster to restore than some other methods -- To do a full restore of all backup files, you only need the full backup and the last diff backup.
- Differential Backups are more demanding on storage than some of the other backup methods, because of data redundancy.
- Each subsequent differential grows significantly until it becomes necessary to create a new full backup. Then the process starts over.

### Incremental Backups

This backup method works similarly to differential backups, but with one important difference that deals with the high level of data redundancy in differentials. Each incremental contains only the files that were created or mod-

ified since the last full backup or last incremental. Incrementals, while not containing as much redundant data as differentials, are still cumulative since successive backups will still contain any files that were already backed but have been modified in some way. Incremental backups are a good solution for more frequent backups such as those performed on an hourly basis.

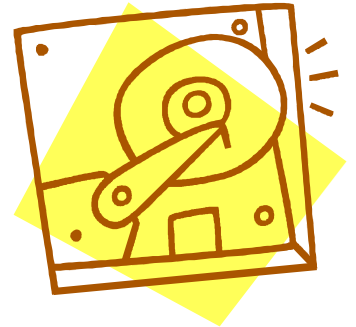


### Benefits and Disadvantages of Incremental Backups

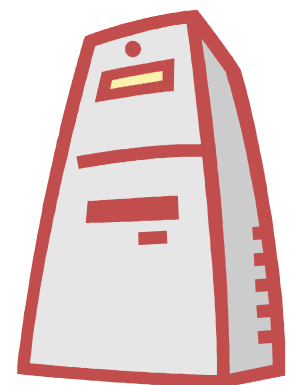
- Incremental backups can be completed more quickly than differential backups because there is less redundant data being

copied.

- Incremental backups are smaller than differential backups.
- The number of successive incrementals that can be made between full backups, while still remaining manageable, is much greater than with differentials.
- Incremental backups may take considerably longer to do complete restores than differential backups because all the individual archives must be merged together one by one with the full backup. It should be noted that a restore from an incremental backup may fail if one of the sequential backups were to be lost or damaged. Although in all the backups up to the damaged one should be recoverable.



**Differential Backups are more demanding on storage than some of the other backup methods, because of data redundancy.**



# Drive-by Download



**Drive-by download** means three things, each concerning the unintended download of computer software from the Internet: Downloads which a person authorized but without understanding the consequences (e.g. downloads which install an unknown or counterfeit executable program, ActiveX component, or Java applet). Any download that happens without a person's knowledge. Download of spyware, a computer virus or any kind of malware that happens without a person's knowledge.

Drive-by downloads may happen when visiting a website, viewing an e-mail message or by clicking on a deceptive pop-up window:<sup>[1]</sup> by clicking on the win-



es, the "supplier" may claim that the person "consented" to the download although actually unaware of having started an unwanted or malicious software download. Websites that exploit the Windows Metafile vulnerability (eliminated by a Windows update of 5 January 2006) may provide examples of drive-by downloads of this sort.

download in the mistaken belief that, for instance, an error report from the computer itself is being acknowledged, or that an innocuous advertisement pop-up is being dismissed. In such cas-

**A drive-by install (or installation)** is a similar event. It refers to installation rather than download (though sometimes the two terms are used interchangeably).

**Downloads which a person authorized but without understanding the consequences**

## Select files with check box



Suppose you want to select only certain files from a folder list in Windows Explorer. Maybe you want to delete certain files or copy a few files to another folder. You may know the old trick of holding down the *Ctrl* key and single-clicking each file to make a group selection but Windows Vista/7 has an easier way. It isn't enabled by default, however, and you have to turn the feature on by going to **Folder Op-**

**tions**. There are several ways to open **Folder Options** but here is one way to do it: Go to the *Start-Search* bar Enter "folder options" (without quotes). Actually, just "fol" works on my systems. Select "Folder Options" from the list In the dialog box that opens, select the *View* tab Scroll down the list of advanced options and place a

check by "Use Check boxes to select items". Click "Apply" and "OK" From now on, a check box will appear to the left of a file name whenever the mouse is hovered over it. Click the file to put a check in the box and select the file. The file will stay selected until you remove the check or close the Explorer window.

# Online Safety: Why You Should Give Up Windows XP For Good (continued from page 1)

with only critical security updates being offered in Extended support. *continued* these dry up, XP will continue to have layers of its security chipped away, with more and more holes found in its browsers and basic functions. This is a very big deal; in a short period of time, XP will be completely abandoned, and huge flaws discovered by malware developers will never be fixed.

Graphic Source: Windows 7 almost 5 Times More Secure Than XP

Microsoft has to protect the interests of their users (it is in their best interest), but supporting an OS as old as XP will only become more and more expensive over time, and distract from improving current products and creating the next line. So MS will unlikely be reversing their decision to terminate support for XP, nor can anyone expect neverending support for their newer operating systems. Can you continue to use XP? Sure, but with more malware than ever, it's never been more dangerous to surf on any version of Windows. XP will become, by far, the most vulnerable platform to connect to the internet to. Coincidentally, Windows 7, like most modern operating systems, has a long list of features meant to help tackle this problem of security—Windows 7 is far better prepared for the modern world of malware and viruses. If you're a die-hard Windows user, you'll be interested to see this list of features Windows 7 offers to help keep users safe.

Microsoft: End of Support Product Lifecycle

Microsoft: Support is Ending for Some Versions of Windows  
The World Is Leaving It Behind

When XP was released, USB 2.0 was not supported, RAM limits were capped at 4GB, and it would only support hard drives of about 137 GB, with some drives only recognized at 127 GB. At the time, this might have seemed pretty ridiculously large. Modern drives are almost always 500 GB or more to accommodate large libraries of movies and music; drives now are so large and cheap that they often cost as little as \$0.05 per GB. Five cents! XP era computers weren't expected to do quite so much of this, and the need has evolved, partly as a way to market PCs to a wider audience.

XP's 64-bit edition actually does support 64 bit processors, which many of us are transitioning to. But most users of XP are using the 32 bit version, and XP64 remains fairly rare even today. This 32 bit version can be installed on many 64 bit PCs, but will not take advantage of the newer technology. But as new video cards, hardware, and technologies are developed, XP will not be updated to take advantage of them. While many users won't see the geeky need to stay on the cutting edge, using only the newest and best, XP users will stay frozen in time: vulnerable to new attacks, unable to use new technology, bound to old computers and hardware.

Vista was released several years ago and was largely panned by geeks and casual

users alike. Despite the many problems the new operating system had, it was still a newer, more modern operating system than XP, and at this point, actually is a better, safer option for Windows users than XP is. Windows 7 is very widely adopted, and now Windows 8 had been released as a developer preview and will be released before too long.

Ten years is a ridiculously long period of time for an operating system. To further make the point of how old XP is, let's take a look at how the world looked in the summer of 2001, when XP was released. This was one of the PC games everyone was talking about in 2001. Here are the minimum system requirements for this game, Max Payne:

450 MHz CPU

96 MB RAM

16 MB video card

4X CD-ROM drive, DirectX 8.0

For those of you that don't play a lot of games, here's something more modern to compare to, the very recently released game Rage, and its minimum requirements:

Processor: Intel Core 2 Duo or Equivalent AMD

RAM: 2GB

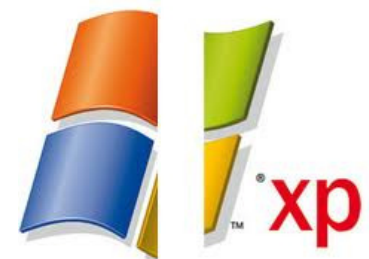
Hard Disk Space: 25GB

Video Card: GeForce 8800, Radeon HD 4200

ouTube, Gmail and even MySpace didn't exist when XP was released. They were all released after Windows XP.



**For those of you that don't play a lot of games, here's something more modern to compare to,**





## 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 Thursdays 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 Thursday session.

# January 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Computer Club SLUG 6pm	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Club Election Computer Club	10 Patch Tuesday	11	12 ASU Auction	13	14
15	16 Computer Club SLUG 6pm	17	18	19	20 Adobe Photo Class	21
22	23 Computer Club	24	25	26	27 Adobe Photo Class	28
29	30 Computer Club	31				

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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup>**

Sunland Village East Computer Club



## HEY - WHY DID NO ONE TELL ME THIS EARLIER!!!

I should have figured it out sooner.

It's the shampoo I use in the shower.

When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body.

Printed very clearly on the shampoo label it reads, "FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY."



I have gotten rid of the shampoo and I am going to start using Dawn dish detergent.

Its label reads, "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE."

Problem solved!

Geeze! It sure pays to read the label!

**SVECC**

Check us out at  
[svecc.com](http://svecc.com)

People helping  
People