



THE BUG REPORT

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JULY 6th

Copying Music from Vinyl Disks to CDs (Using *Nero 9*)

At a SIG meeting several months ago, Harold Pffifner made a presentation on how to transfer music from a record or tape to a CD, cleaning up the clicks and pops in the process.

possibility that it will be on sale at Fry's.

As another option, a thirty-day demo of the full program can be downloaded free via the internet.

This was well received. Fortunately for us, he has agreed to share it with the entire membership.

Don't miss this presentation!

Using the latest version of *Nero, version 9*, he will repeat the program at the general meeting in July.

More and more, folks are wanting to restore that wonderful old music to a source that will enable them to listen on their new devices.

Here is a chance to see the latest version of *Nero* in action while there is still a

If you don't think you need to know this procedure, chances are someone you know will be interested.



Reflect on your present blessings, of which every man has many, not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.

- Charles Dickens
English novelist



Greater South Bay PC Users Group

*A member of
Association of Personal Computer User Groups*



MEMBERSHIP

Membership is available for twelve months from the date of joining. Membership rates:

Individual	\$36.00
Student	\$18.00
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Newsletter Subscription	\$18.00

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THE BUG REPORT

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All submissions to the GS-BUG Report must be unformatted on PC disk or e-mail (no hardcopy). Limit formatting to bold or italicizing. We reserve the right to edit as necessary for space consideration. Art work submitted must be in a common graphics format (.jpg, .tif, etc.)

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GENERAL MEETING

General meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of the month at the Salvation Army Facility, 4223 Emerald Street (at the corner of Emerald and Earl Streets), Torrance.

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President's Thoughts

By U. A. Garred Sexton

As you well know computers are just like children, both a pleasure and a frustration. I replaced my stolen computer with a Hewlett-Packard laptop that had the *Vista* 64-bit operating system on it so I could increase my RAM memory to 8 gigabytes. It came with some of the usual software on it that I did not want, so I spent some time removing the unnecessary items. As I started installing the programs that I wanted, the concern that I had about the 64-bit operating system became apparent.

First, I loaded *System Suite 9*, an antivirus program, and after several failed attempts I called their Customer Support for help. They had me download another copy of *SS9* and gave me a new code number to use. Not only did that not work, I could not remove the original installation of the program and the system locked up. Customer Service at *SS9* gave me another install program. This removed all the parts of *System Suite 9* and after another try at installing the program, I quit trying.

My next challenge was trying to install the Microsoft 2009 version of *Streets and Trips*. The box for the program said that *Streets and Trips* would work with *Vista*. Because of the very small print I failed to notice that it said 32 and omitted 64. (Be sure to take your magnifying glass when you buy programs for a 64-bit machine.) After several attempts to load *Streets and Trips* I noticed on the top flap, in very small print, "Win32 English."

Next, I tried to upload the desktop software for my Palm Treo 700P smart phone. It seemed to load all right, but the laptop started acting funny and the program wouldn't work. I decided to ignore it.

Lastly, I loaded *Nero 9*, an audio/video editing program, which took much longer than I expected. *Nero* worked for a time but as I continued using various features, I found I could not use the wireless; the audio would not work and finally the special keys on the laptop stopped working.

I was not to be defeated, so I restored the system using a restore point which did not help much. Next I tried replacing the drivers for the wireless and the audio—no luck. I called HP Tech Support and they had me flash the BIOS and reinstall the drivers for the special keys and for the keyboard. Now things are back in working order.

The major lesson that I learned is that I should go to <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/compatibility/> before I attempt to install any new program on the *Vista* 64-bit machine in order to check the compatibility factor. I checked out *Nero 9* new CD that I purchased with the above URL and found that it was on the compatible list; however, it would not load after several frustrating attempts. I called the Nero Customer Service and was told to download the trial version of *Nero 9* using the serial number from my purchased product. I did that and now *Nero 9* works well. I can even play solitaire with no hiccups.

Internet Talk

By Frank Chao
Member, GS-BUG

This is the 117th “Internet Talk” article for *The Bug Report*, a publication of the Greater South Bay PC Users Group (GS-BUG). Liz and I hope that you are having as much fun with your computer and its Internet connection as we are. Here are a few really cool things that you can do with your computer to make it more useful for you:

RIPPING AUDIO WITH AUDACITY

On May 18th, Dennis McCormick and Bill Brownlee of the Tucson Computer Society demonstrated how to use free, open-source *Audacity* software to convert the audio tracks of 33 1/3 vinyl records to music tracks on CD-R disks. Liz’s video of this presentation is available at http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=D63F18FCC9C6E9AF

Dennis McCormick’s notes are located at http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/2009-05-18/2009-05-18a.pdf with additional how-to information at http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/2009-05-18/2009-05-18b.pdf

TRY WINDOWS 7 RC FOR FREE!

The production version of *Win-*

dows 7 will be available in stores and pre-loaded onto new computers in either late October or early November. But don’t wait until then to try it out. You can get a head start on the learning process by downloading *Windows 7 RC* for free at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/download.aspx>

This download will be available until the end of July. If you install *Windows 7 RC*, it will be functional until July 1, 2010.

However, it will start nagging you on March 1, 2010. According to Microsoft:

“Watch the calendar. The RC will expire on June 1, 2010. Starting on March 1, 2010, your PC will begin shutting down every two hours. *Windows* will notify you two weeks before the bi-hourly shutdowns start. To avoid interruption, you’ll need to install a non-expired version of *Windows* before March 1, 2010. You’ll also need to install the programs and data that you want to use.”

Most of you will want the 32-bit version, even if your computer has a 64-bit processor. As part of the download process, you will get a product key. Be sure to save this information; you will need it during the installation of *Windows 7 RC*.

The file that you download is called [7100.0.090421-1700_x86fre_client_en-us_retail_ultimate-grc1culfrer_en_dvd.iso](#)

After downloading this file, burn it to a DVD with your DVD creation software. Then you have to install it somewhere. That somewhere can be either a real computer or a “Virtual Machine” software application running inside a real computer.

INSTALLING WINDOWS 7 RC INSIDE MICROSOFT “VIRTUAL PC 2007”

If you wish to install *Windows 7 RC* as a guest operating system inside Microsoft’s “Virtual PC 2007” please see the instructions at <http://www.shivaranjan.com/2009/05/14/how-to-install-windows-7-in-windows-vista-or-windows-xp-using-virtual-pc-2007/>

Some of our friends at the Tucson Computer Society had computers that were able to run “Virtual PC 2007” and they are now happily experimenting with *Windows 7 RC* running as a “guest” inside Microsoft “Virtual PC 2007.” Liz and I were not as fortunate. Our computer hardware and the versions of *Windows* that we are running are from a few years back so

“Virtual PC 2007” would not install in our computers.

INSTALLING *Windows 7 RC* INSIDE SUN’S “VIRTUALBOX”

Liz and I were able to install *Windows 7 RC* as a guest operating system running inside Sun’s “VirtualBox” which is happily running as a software application inside our 4-year-old *Vista Home Premium* computer. Luckily for us, Sun’s “VirtualBox” virtual machine software has much less stringent hardware requirements than Microsoft’s “Virtual PC 2007” virtual machine software. Unless you are still using a computer with a 80486 (or lower) processor, you can install “VirtualBox” and *Windows 7 RC* into your computer also.

Start by making sure that your computer exceeds the minimum specifications at http://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/End-user_documentation/ Then, download a copy of “VirtualBox” and install it into your *Windows XP*, *Windows Vista*, or Macintosh computer.

The rest of our detailed instructions for installing “VirtualBox” is at http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/2009-06-03/2009-06-03.htm

INSTALLING “UBUNTU LINUX” INSIDE SUN “VIRTUALBOX”

We did not make up instructions for installing *Windows 7 RC* as a guest inside Sun “VirtualBox.”

But it is similar to installing “Ubuntu Linux” as a guest operating system inside “VirtualBox.”

The step-by-step pictorial instructions for installing “Ubuntu Linux” into “VirtualBox” start at the half way point at the following Web page:

http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/2009-06-03/2009-06-03.htm.

These instructions are also available as an Adobe PDF file at http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/2009-06-03/2009-06-03.pdf and the section for installing “Ubuntu Linux” starts at the bottom of Page 22 of this PDF document.

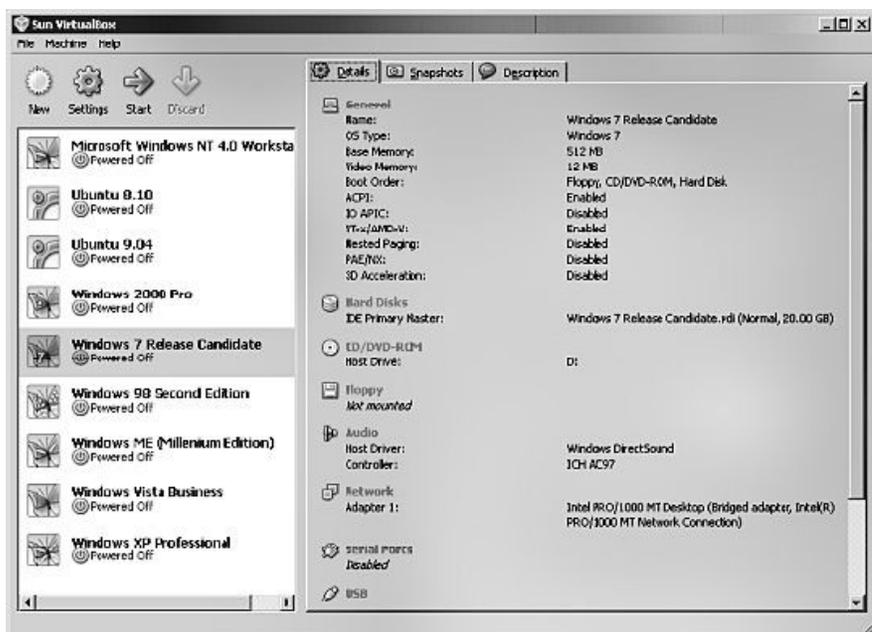
At this location in the document,

you would click on the “New” button of Sun’s “VirtualBox” and the “New Virtual Machine Wizard” would then guide you through the installation of “Ubuntu Linux.”

When you finish installing *Windows 7 RC* as a guest operating system, whenever you start Sun “VirtualBox,” you can double-click on the *Windows 7 RC* icon to boot it up as a “Virtual Machine:”

Note that we have 2 ‘distros’ of Ubuntu Linux and 6 versions of *Windows* installed as ‘guest’ operating systems in Sun “VirtualBox” our old *Windows Vista* computer.

After you double-click on the ‘*Windows 7 Release Candidate*’ icon, the ‘Information’ box that pops up states that you have to press the right Ctrl key to get the mouse and keyboard to work outside of the window of the guest Virtual Machine, if your



mouse and keyboard have been previously 'captured' by the guest Virtual Machine.

Click on the 'OK' button in the 'Information' box.

Windows 7 RC will boot up inside a Window that is called 'Windows 7 Release Candidate (Running) - Sun VirtualBox.'

Windows 7 RC will now run happily as if it is inside a real hardware computer. It does not know that the hardware that it 'sees' is virtually created by the Sun "VirtualBox" software application. It is almost like magic! Oracle/Sun is to be commended for offering this amazing software product for free.

FREE STORAGE ON THE WEB--PART 7

This is the seventh installment in our series about storing files for free on the Internet.

MORE ABOUT *ADrive*

ADrive at www.adrive.com continues to offer 50 Gigabytes of storage for free, which is dramatically more storage than we have been able to get anywhere else at no cost.

Ralph, a GSBUG member, obtained the following information from Christopher Potter of *ADrive*:

"From: support@adrive.com
[mailto:support@adrive.com]"

We are fiscally solvent and have no plans to shut down our operations. We are a small company,

well funded by private investors within the data storage and networking business. We aren't interested in unsustainable rapid growth, nor are we owned by venture capital firms that will shut us down if we can't show a big enough profit quickly enough.

We believe that even capturing a small part of this marketplace through dedicated customer service, flexible options for accessing files and listening and growing with our customers will build a long term sustainable business. This has worked for us so far.

On the issue of if we ever did shut down, our customer's data is of paramount importance to us. It's personal. We would never shut down without at least 6 months notice to all of our customers.

Best,

Christopher Potter
ADrive.com
510.717.1404

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009
4:13 PM

To: *ADrive* Support
<support@adrive.com>

Subject: feedback inquiry

User Email: <withheld>

Message:

I am a new user and have been impressed with the features. I am considering upgrading to one of

the paid services. Before I do however, my concern is the fiscal health and durability of your company. I wouldn't want to have my files backed up to your system and suddenly have them unavailable because you have gone out of business. What information can you share with me that would make me comfortable that you will be around for awhile? Thanks!"

Liz and I were impressed that the folks at *ADrive* responded to this feedback inquiry so we decided to use the Internet to find out more about the company.

We expect PR employees to have open social-networking Web pages at *Facebook* and/or *MySpace* and we were not disappointed:

After a few searches on "Christopher Potter" in Google, we discovered that Christopher Potter's Facebook page is located at <http://www.facebook.com/people/Christopher-Potter/645916253>

One of *ADrive*'s press releases at http://eon.businesswire.com/portal/site/eon/permalink/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20081126005150&newsLang=en lists an Amy Ly 877-306-7145 with an e-mail address at pr@adrive.com

A search of Facebook shows that she is a real person at <http://www.facebook.com/people/Amy-Ly/1060904324>.

A search of the free corporate

database of California corporations at <http://kepler.ss.ca.gov/corpdata/> shows that ADrive is a "Limited Liability Corporation" located at:
1321 67th Street
Emeryville, CA
at
<http://kepler.ss.ca.gov/corpdata/ShowLpIcAllList?QueryLpIcNumber=200719110215>

A reverse lookup on the street address at
<http://www.whitepages.com/reverse-lookup>

shows that
1321 67th St.
Emeryville, CA
houses a business called "Berkeley Communications."

A Google search on "Berkeley Communications" and "ADrive" yields a "Linkedin" resume of a Jeff Cassiana at
<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/jeff-cassianna/1/9ba/158>
in which he states that he was a "Senior System Administrator" for both "Berkeley Communications" and "ADrive" from June 2007 to October 2008.

There is a similar entry in Erik Raxter's "Linkedin" page at
<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/erik-raxter/12/254/595>

Similar to other analyses that we found on the Web, Liz and I concluded that ADrive and Berkeley Communications are co-located in the same brick-and-mortar location and employ a

lot of the same people. During this cyberspace detective work, we concluded that this company is for real with real people, and not a scam or a fly-by-night operation that was created by some unscrupulous hackers.

FREE BACKUP AT "IDrive"

This month, Liz and I obtained a free storage account at "IDrive" (pronounced "eye drive").

Their Web site is located at
<http://www.idrive.com>

"IDrive" is an Internet-enabled software application that you download and install onto the hard drive of your computer. You then configure this software to tell it which local files to back up and how often they are to be backed up to your account at IDrive's secure Web site.

"IDrive" works with both a dialup Internet connection or a broadband Internet connection. "IDrive" offers both free and non-free accounts. Their free account is called "IDrive Basic."

- The key features for a free account are:
- Total storage space = 2 Gigabytes
- Maximum single file size = 2 Gigabytes
- Maximum monthly bandwidth = not stated on "IDrive" Web site

The maximum monthly band-

width is the total amount of data that you (and others that you designate) upload to, and download from, your free account.

"IDrive" does not limit the types of files that you can store.

The state-of-the-art features of IDrive's free backup service are shown at
<http://www.idrive.com/online-backup-features.htm>.

Some of their most impressive features are:

They store up to 30 versions of each file that you tell them to back up; you can go back to a version of a file based on the time and date that it was backed up either automatically by them or manually by you.

You can access and download your backed up files either using their software or by logging into your account at their Web site.

Their optional 'Continuous Data Backup' feature backs up any of your chosen data files that have been changed every 10 minutes.

Their optional 'IDrive Explorer' offers you a virtual drive in 'Windows Explorer/My Computer' that looks and acts like a drive on your computer.

They have "IDrive" software for both *Windows* and *Macintosh* computers.

To sign up for your free account,

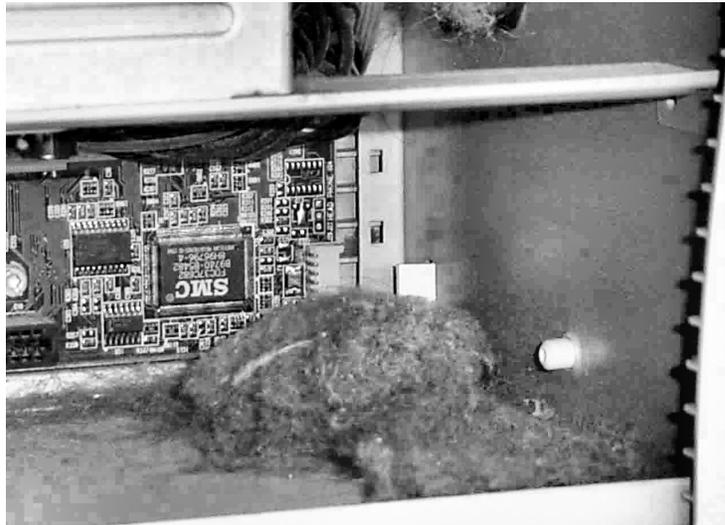
Article

Five Ways to Keep the Dust Bunnies Out of a PC

By **Bill Detwiler**
TechRepublic

Given this advice we all need to go dust bunny hunting.

If you keep your PCs on the floor or they operate in dirty environments, the dust bunnies can quickly take over.



idea to keep pets, particularly long-haired ones, away from the computer while it's running. Intake fans and cat hair just don't mix.

- **Don't regularly eat or drink directly over or right next to the PC.** I know almost everyone, including myself, violates this

Jody Gilbert, host of our 10 Thing blog, recently published a 10-point cleaning checklist for keeping equipment healthy. She reminds us that cleaning, although boring, is an essential part of regular system maintenance.

Yet as critical as cleaning is, I encourage you to try the following tips that will help keep your systems dirt-free in the first place.

- **Don't keep the PC on the floor.** I know this is a tough sell with many users. Tower cases naturally lend themselves to be placed on the floor, users often hate to give up their valuable desk top real estate, and older case fans can be a little loud. But, moving the computer off the

floor is one of the best, and easiest, ways to keep the dust bunnies at bay.

- **Keep the area around the PC clean.** This can be tough in naturally dirty environments. (I know. I supported computers in coal-fired power plants.) Yet, most users should be able to regularly vacuum around their machines and keep the area generally free of dirt and debris. This includes the tangle of cords and cables that snake their way around most PCs.
- **Keep your pets away from the PC.** I'm not suggesting you kick Fido out of the house for the sake of a clean computer. But, it's a good

rule. But, it's worth repeating. If you **are** going to eat and drink near a computer, just make sure you're not directly over the keyboard or the computer's case. And, don't set that 64oz soda or nonfat, chai latte right next to the PC. This goes double for laptops.

- **Keep your sticky fingers off the PC.** This seems like common sense, but I've seen enough dirty keyboards and mice to know that too many people refuse to wash their hands before they sit down at the computer. Why? Were they suddenly inspired to finish that presentation while eating hot wings and couldn't take 5 minutes to use the sink—or at least a wet nap?

Article

Moving on to *Vista* – Part 14

by Neil Stahfest

Tacoma Area PC User Group, Washington

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One of the features that I liked about previous versions of *Windows* was the ‘Search’ feature.

Just click on the ‘Start’ button, Click on ‘Search’ and enter the file name that you want to find.

If you have multiple hard drives, you can specify which ones to search. It’s easy and simple.

Vista is different. *Vista* has a totally new search feature that is in some ways easier to use, fast and very sophisticated. It doesn’t just try to match file names. It looks inside files and reads and searches the contents of text files, your *Windows* ‘Contacts’ and ‘Calendar,’ as well as any Microsoft *Office* files (documents, spreadsheets and *PowerPoint* files).

To do this *Vista* automatically maintains an index file which contains all this information for the file linked to your personal user folder. To keep the index file from becoming too large and to speed up the search process, it does not maintain a list of files located in your *Windows* system folder, contents of application file folders or on a local computer network (information usually only useful to computer programmers).

When you start searching for a

file or word, it only has to check this index file to find what you want. The results are displayed almost as fast as you can type the search name.

To use the most basic features of *Vista*’s search engine, click on the ‘Start’ button. When the ‘Start Menu’ appears, a ‘Start Search’ box appears directly above the ‘Start Button.’ As you start to type a folder or file name, a list of folders and files appears above the box. As you type more letters, the list of names becomes more specific.

If you don’t see what you are looking for, at the bottom of the list is an option to search for the file name on the Internet (assuming that you have an Internet connection of course). When you do this, the Internet search uses your default Internet search engine whether it be Microsoft, Google, Yahoo, etc.

The ‘Search Results’ window does not show the name of every file match found. Using some form of artificial intelligence, *Vista* limits itself to the 20 most likely matches. It shows them under file group headings such as ‘Programs,’ ‘Files’ and ‘Communications.’

An interesting aspect of this feature is that you can point and

click on a program listed in the ‘Search Results’ window and actually run it. Document or spreadsheet files can also be accessed this way. Printing at the file name activates the default file program, such as Microsoft *Word*.

Using this feature of *Vista*’s search function moves it beyond just a way to locate files and folders. It becomes a way to quickly locate files and then take action to use them.

To prepare this column I simply went to my desktop, clicked on the ‘Start’ Button, entered ‘*Vista.rtf*’ in the ‘Search Box’ and then clicked on the file name to open it with my word processing program. How simple is that!

No need to open a series of folders to burrow down to my *Vista* column files.

In most cases, doing the above steps will locate the information you are looking for.

But suppose it doesn’t.

Windows will tell you that the information can’t be located and suggest that you use some of the advanced search features.

We’ll address advanced search features next.

The Bug Report

The Greater South Bay PC Users Group

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July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 General Meeting	7 SIG Meetings Digital Imaging Daytime Hardware	8 Board Meeting	9	10	11 Newsletter Deadline
12	14	15 SIG Meetings Digital Imaging	16	16 SIG Meeting <i>Windows XP</i>	17	18
19	20	21 SIG Meetings Digital Imaging	22	23 SIG Meeting Internet	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	