

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Holiday's everyone!

I hope you and yours are enjoying the season and maybe some new tech gadgets will be found under the tree. But if your plans are for seeing more of the world then just your computer, Len Lindenmeyer will present traveling using the Internet, to make your arrangements. Many people use the Internet to customize trips and gather information on places they want to visit. Len will discuss this process.

Games...

To answer the burning question - "Yes Virginia, there will be a short demonstration of games (in keeping with our tradition) at the December meeting."

January meeting

As more and more people use broadband Internet access and want to share documents around their home, home networking is always an interesting topic. At our January meeting Michael Young will demonstrate home networking using wireless access.

Have a Safe and Happy Holidays!

Michael Young



Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Emoticons (Smilies)

by
Fran Damratowski

As I said in previous issues of **The Printer**, because there are thousands of abbreviations used, only selected abbreviations and symbols will be presented here. For those who haven't seen earlier issues, an emoticon is a way of expressing emotions when sending e-mail - an emotional icon (look at them sideways). If I missed an important or favorite abbreviation, acronym, or emoticon between A and T, email me at fdamratowski@comcast.net. I will include it in the final list. We will continue with the letter:

T

T: Tera
TAD: Telephone Answering Device
TAO: Track-At-Once
TAR: Tape Archive
TAXI: Transparent Asynchronous Transceiver Interface
TB: TeraByte 1,099,511,627,776 bytes
TBH: To Be Honest
TBU: Tape Backup Unit
TC: Transmission Control
TCAV: Trend Chip Away Virus
TCO: Total Cost of Ownership
TCP/IP: Transmission Control Protocol/
Internet Protocol

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Top 5 19-inch LCD Monitors

While the 19-inch LCD monitors are still significantly more expensive than 17-inch models, they aren't as technologically advanced. They are increasing in popularity. The 19-inch diagonal measurement, gives them roughly the same display space as a 21-inch CRT monitor. Here are the selections for the best 19-inch LCD monitor based upon research and experience.

Editor: The only real way to select the right monitor, is to see it in person. Use the manufacturer's specs as a guide.

1) [Samsung SyncMaster 193p](#)

While one of the most expensive monitors on the list, it has some of the best specifications and features. Most notable of these features, is the ability to pivot from a horizontal to vertical display by rotating the display 90 degrees. It also features a small bezel and great cable management through the base. The 20ms response time makes it good for video and gaming. It has one of the best viewing angles available in the segment as well. The Samsung supports DVI or analog connections.

2) [Dell UltraSharp 1905FP](#)

While Dell is one of the biggest names in computers, they also make some very strong monitors. The 1905FP is the successor to the very popular 1901FP 19-inch LCD. Dell's LCD monitors have always had some of the best contrast ratios on the market and the 1905FP supports an 800:1 maximum contrast ratio. It supports both DVI and analog connections and also houses a 4 port USB 2.0 hub on the side of the panel. The screen can be rotated like the Samsung 193p to provide a vertical display.

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Portable Media Storage Devices

Part 2: DVDs and CDs

by
Fran Damratowski

The operating system needed to transfer data from the storage device to the computer, will be identified, as well as the software included with the storage device. The type of media will refer to the type of disk, flash memory card supported and whether or not an adapter is needed to read the card. The cases in which the DVD and CD writers allow disk spanning, as well as the type of media that can be played back on the storage device, are also included. DVD and CD devices can sometimes be used as external writers for DVDs, CDs, and flash memory. An LCD just displays data; a color LCD will display images. Dimensions are given in inches and weight in ounces with, and in some cases, without the battery. Price information consists of either the manufacturers suggested retail price (MSRP) or an on line quick search price range. Some items such as card adapters are options at additional cost. See the websites and print media or on line reviews for additional information.

Key

CF = Compact Flash
MD=MicroDrive
MMC=MultiMedia Card
RS-MMC=Reduced Size-MultiMedia Card
MS=Memory Stick
SD=SecureDigital
SM=SmartMedia
xD=Extreme Digital

DVD

Addonics MFR DVD+/-R/RW www.addonics.com and **RoadStor Pro** www.micro-solutions.com are essentially the same device except for firmware, software, and color. USB 2/1.1, Win 98SE, 2000, ME, XP, Mac. Software: Cyberlink Power DVD/

CD Authoring (both), Nero Express and Sonic My DVD (Addonics), CD Editing (RoadStor). Cards supported: CF I/II, MD, MMC, MS, SD, SM, xD (adapter needed), MS Pro and MS Pro Duo (Addonics), Lexar cards not supported (Addonics). Disk spanning. Buffer. Plays back: flash memory, DVD, CD, MPEG II, MP3, TV with S-Video and composite, projectors, remote. Power: AC, Li-Ion, car. Dimensions and weight: 8.1 X 5.4 X 1.4 inches, 20 oz., 6.7 X 5.4 X 1.4 inches, 26 oz. Warrantee: 1yr. MSRP: \$320 (Addonics), \$349 (RoadStor).

JOBO Image Maestro PRO www.jobodigital.com. USB 2/1.1, Win 98, 98SE, 2000, XP, Mac. Burning software. Cards supported: CF I/II, MD, MMC, MS/Pro, SD, SM, xD (adapter needed). Plays back: TV with S-Video and RCA. Power: AC, Li-Ion. Dimensions and weight: 8.2 X 5.4 X 1.4 inches, 23.6 oz., 6.7 X 5.4 X 1.4 inches, 19.4 oz. MSRP: \$375.

CD

Addonics MFR and RoadStor essentially the same as the DVD storage devices above MSRP: \$235 (Addonics), \$265 (RoadStor)

Alera Digital Photo Copy Cruiser and Alera Digital Photo Copy Cruiser Plus

www.aleratec.com. USB 2/1.1, Computer. Software: Ulead Explorer, Nero Express. Cards supported: CF I/II, MMC, MS, SD, SM MD (Cruiser Plus), MS/Pro (Cruiser Plus). Disk spanning. Plays back: DVD, CD, JPEG, MP3, and TV. Power: AC, Li-Ion. Dimensions and weight: 7.2 X 6.2 X 1.3 inches, 13.4 oz. (Cruiser), 16 oz. (Plus). MSRP: \$250 (Cruiser).

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T - cont'd

TCSEC: Trusted Computer Systems Evaluation Criteria
TDD: Telecommunications Device for the Deaf
TE: Terminal Equipment
TED: Tiny EDitor
TELCO: TELEphone Central Office
TeleVAS: TELEphony Value Added Service
TELNET: TELEphone NETwork
TEMP: TEMPorary
TEN: TransEuropean Network
TFDD: Text File Device Driver
TFM: Tagged Font Metric
TFT: Thin Film Transistor
THOMAS: The House of Representatives Open Multimedia Access System
TI: Texas Instruments
TIL: Tech Information Library
TIP: Terminal Interface Processor; Text Input Processor
TIP TOP: Tape InPut Tape OouPut
TiVo: Has no meaning. Company name.
TK/TK: TracK to TracK
TLA: Three Letters Acronym
TLB: Instruction-Translation/Lookaside Buffers
TLN: Trunk Line Network
TLU: Table Look Up
TLX: TeLeX
TMA: Transparent Media Adapter
TMPFS: TeMPorary File System
TN-LCD: Twisted Nematic Liquid Crystal Display
TNFS: Trusted Network File System
TOC: Table Of Contents
TOD: Time Of Day
TODC: Time-Of-Day Clock
: - & tongue tied
TOPS: Timesharing OPerating System
TOS: Terms Of Service; Time Of Service
TP: Transaction Processing
TPE: Twisted Pair Ethernet
tpi: Tracks Per Inch
tpm: Transactions Per Minute
TPW: Turbo Pascal for Windows

TRN: Token Ring Network
TS: Top Secret
TS/SI: Top Secret/Sensitive Information
TSR: Terminate and Stay Resident
TTL: Through The Lens viewing
TTY: TeleTYpewriter

<http://www.acronyms.ch/>
http://www.steves-digicams.com/digi_dictionary.html
Toshiba Glossary
Add ins

*Don't miss the next exciting and
breathtaking installment of*
**Abbreviations, Acronyms, and
Emoticons (Smilies)**

Best Shareware Files of 2004

**Here are this year's winners, as
judged by the Shareware
Industry Association**

[WinZip v9.0](http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,4172,00.asp) [http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,4172,00.asp] With stronger encryption and no size limit on the files you zip, the latest release of WinZip is worth the wait.

[Paint Shop Pro v8.0](http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,2432,00.asp) [http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,2432,00.asp] Edit, convert, and view images with this popular graphics program.

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Retirement Planning

by
Len Lindenmeyer
Investment SIG

Whether you're close to retirement or years away, it is worthwhile to periodically check on just where you stand. Both T. Rowe Price and Fidelity offer a rich assortment of resources on their web sites for planning for retirement. The planning tools, along with some of the calculators, permit you to plan strategies under a variety of assumptions based on your risk tolerance, as well as your needs for income after you retire. The site for T. Rowe Price is www.troweprice.com, while that for Fidelity is www.fidelity.com. You can now use the Retirement Income Calculators to simulate various strategies, look at varying assumptions, and evaluate alternative portfolio mixes.

Using the calculator, you enter your age, expected length of retirement, amount of your retirement assets, monthly income desired, and the portfolio mix that you plan. The calculator will then determine your expected probability of success. You can click on tabs to see how different portfolio mixes might have done, as well as view the probability of success in graphical form. The calculator is very fast, so it is easy to run through a variety of scenarios including various lengths of retirement, different levels of retirement assets as a base, etc. It also gives an indication of the level of assets needed to draw down various assumed monthly income streams.

I found the calculator quite helpful in determining a base level of assets for retirement, as well as the effect of studying different portfolio mixes and how they fare against inflation over a period of 20 to 30 years. If you find this useful, you may want to bookmark the calculator so you can easily return to use it from time to time.

Both companies also have local offices, which allow you to sit down with a real person and discuss a strategy. Both companies also offer an extended assortment of mutual funds for investing with small or no fees. T. Rowe Price has an office in Baltimore, as well as one not far from the Mall in Owings Mills. Fidelity has an office in Towson, staffed with several financial analysts who can answer questions. The mutual funds of both of these companies are typically rated as 4-star or 5-star compared to the **Lipper** averages for all mutual funds.

Check it out.

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Best Shareware 2004 - Cont'd

[Blaze Media Pro v5.10.1](http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,7777,00.asp) [http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,7777,00.asp] Become an audio/video wizard with this multimedia player, converter, and recorder.

[Trillian Pro 2.01](http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23051,00.asp) [http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23051,00.asp] Conquer IM clutter by managing all your IM services with this one client.

[AskSam v5.1](http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,8121,00.asp) [http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,8121,00.asp] Convert Word documents and Web pages into searchable databases.

[The Bat v2.12](http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,22755,00.asp) [http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,22755,00.asp] Configure and customize your inbox with this stand-alone e-mail client.

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HP LaserJet 1160

Rating: 3 Stars out of 5

The **HP LaserJet 1160** (\$329 direct) is relatively expensive for a personal monochrome laser printer, and it's slower than some of its less-expensive competitors. But in typical HP fashion, its overall output quality is a notch better than the competition's.

At 10 X 13.8 X 14 inches (HWD), the **1160** is a touch smaller than most other personal monochrome lasers. The advantage in paper handling, however, goes to the competition. The **1160** offers a 250-sheet maximum input. If you want a bigger tray for more capacity or a second tray so you can keep two kinds of paper loaded, you're out of luck. The Brother HL-5140 and Samsung ML-2250, offer more robust paper handling in this class.

The **1160's** performance is neither impressively fast nor notably slow. Its total time on our business-applications suite (using QualityLogic's hardware and software to control and time the tests, www.qualitylogic.com) was 9 minutes 31 seconds. That's much better than the 13:10 for the more expensive HP LaserJet 1320, but it's slower than the Samsung ML-2250's 8:09 or the Brother HL-5140's 7:42.

The **1160's** strong point is output quality, although it has only a modest advantage there. The Brother printer matches it for photos, for example, and the Samsung printer matches it for graphics. Text is just short of excellent. Most fonts we tested it with were easily readable at 4 points, and all were readable at 6 points. At the smallest size, however, some fonts had a gray look, which can lead to eyestrain if you read enough in one sitting.

Graphics were just short of good, the major flaws being visible dithering patterns and a loss of line quality on some images. The big surprise was a good rating for photos, which makes the 1160 a much better choice than most monochrome lasers for printing newsletters and other documents that include photos. So if you're more concerned with speed or paper handling, look elsewhere. But if output quality is your key consideration, be sure to consider the **HP LaserJet 1160**.

Sub-ratings:

Text: 4.5 Stars out of 5 Stars

Graphics: 2.5 Stars out of 5 Stars

Photos: 3 Stars out of 5 Stars

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Best Shareware 2004 - Cont'd

[Inno Setup v4.2.7](http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23526,00.asp) [http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23526,00.asp] Install any Windows program easily with this full-featured installer.

[FeedDemon v1.10](http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23525,00.asp) [http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23525,00.asp] Have the news come to you with this full-featured RSS reader.

[Thumb Buddy v2.02](http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23560,00.asp) [http://pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,23560,00.asp] Whip your photo albums into shape with this thumbnail organizer.

Editor's note: *Some of these programs are free, some are trials & some you have to buy. Check them out.*

Part 2: DVDs and CDs - cont'd

Kanguru FC-RW and **Kanguru Slim FC-RW** www.kanguru.com. USB 2/1.1, Win 98/SE, 2000, ME, XP, Mac. Cards supported: CF I/II, MD, MMC, MS/Pro, SD, SM. Plays back (slim): DVD, TV, S-Video, composite. Power: AC. Dimensions and weight: 5 X 6 X 2 inches, 32 oz. Warrantee: 1yr. MSRP: \$180 (FC-RW) \$250 (slim).

NixVue Visor www.nixvue.com and **NixVue Visor Red** www.digital-gear.com. USB 2, Win 98, 2000, ME, XP, Mac, Linux. Cards supported: CF I/II, MD, MMC, M, SD, SM, xD (adapter), MS/Pro (Red).). Disk spanning. Buffer. Plays back: JPEG, TIFF, BMP, Raw, MP3, TV, color LCD (Red), remote (Red). Power: AC, Battery, car (Red). Dimensions and weight: 5.3 X 6.7 X 2 inches, 22 oz. MSRP: \$299 (Visor) \$380 (Red).

**Look for the next exciting installment on
DVD and CD Media Storage
in the December issue of
*The Printer***

19-inch LCD Monitors - Cont'd

Cont'd from Page 2

3) [Philips 190S5FB](#)

Philips is actually one of the largest manufacturers of LCD panels, but most of the panels are sold to other companies. The 190S5FP is one of the few 19-inch LCD panels that supports a sub-20ms response time. In fact, the 190S5FP has a 12ms rated response time. Add to this that the monitor also has a very reasonable price tag. This makes the Philips 190S5FB good for movies and gaming. The only real drawback to the 190S5FB model is that it only supports the analog connector.

4) [ViewSonic VP191b](#)

ViewSonic's VP191b 19-inch LCD has a very nice quality graphics display. While it doesn't have the highest response times or contrast ratios, it does very well with graphic images and text. The 25ms response time will limit its functionality for video and gaming, but its still a decent display. It

has a large number of connections with two analog inputs and a DVI connector making it great for use with multiple computers. It also features an easy to read on-screen menu for adjustments.

5) [Sony SDM-X93](#)

Sony's SDM-X93 is one of the few LCD monitors that comes with a fairly good set of integrated speakers. The speakers mounted into this 19" LCD panel do fairly well even at high volumes. Like the ViewSonic VP191b, the SDM-X93 also features two analog and one DVI connector allowing it to be used for multiple computers. While not as crisp in the display as the VP191b, the SDM-X93 does well in both graphics and text. The 25ms response time does limit its ability to be used for video and games.

Favorite Websites from the Board of Directors

<http://www.usps.com/zip4/citytownzip.htm> is the website to find those pesky little zip codes.

<http://www.medicare.gov> is the website for Medicare information.

<http://www.lawlib.state.md.us/> is a great place to find out about Maryland laws.

<http://www.si.edu> is the official site for the Smithsonian Institute. You can check on exhibitions, memberships, or do your Christmas shopping at their gift shop.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/powertoys.asp> for fun and extra function for Windows XP.

<http://www.spymuseum.org/> is the official site of the International Spy Museum.

<http://anybirthday.com> if you've forgotten someone's birth date.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/> is the site for the National Weather Service in case you want to double check the weather after you've been to -

<http://www.weather.com/>.

<http://www.aacpl.net> is the website for the Anne Arundel County Public Library. You can renew your books, put books on hold, check on branch locations and much more. Shutting off your computer and reading a book once in a while is good.

<http://www.baltimoreravens.com/> is the official site of the Baltimore Ravens.

Just to be fair to the other half of the NFL fans in the group:

<http://www.redskins.com/> is the official site of the Washington Redskins.

<http://www.traderjoes.com/> is the site to check in case you misplaced your last Fearless Flyer from Trader Joe's. If you've never shopped at a Trader Joe's, I can only describe it as a cross between a health food store and a Whole Foods.

<http://www.symantec.com> is the Norton/Symantec site to check on new viruses, updates, and hoaxes. Symantec can perform a free, online virus scan on your computer.

<http://www.fda.gov/> is the official website of the Food and Drug Administration. You can check on new drug & device approvals, latest news on drug recalls (Vioxx, etc.) or current info on Flu Vaccine.

<http://www.komando.com/> is the web site for **The Kim Komando Show**, home of America's "Digital Goddess". An excellent source for computer help.

<http://www.ebay.com/> - I just can't get enough of buying *stuff*. I use eBay as a pricing tool for items I'm interested in either buying or selling. I just purchased a 100 year old Heisey punch bowl & cups for a friend of mine, but I've also gotten a replacement headlamp assembly for my wife's 2001 Volvo.

CRSIG Workshop Well Underway

by Mike Regimenti

I thought it was important for the group members, guests and contributors to see exactly what Jerry and his merry band have been doing over the last couple of months. They have transformed an empty end of the building in to a secure and well lighted workshop facility. They've built a 60+ foot long plywood partition, installed a steel door, painted the garish, orange walls, installed more receptacles than you can imagine, and installed over 30 fluorescent light fixtures. I urge everyone to drop by and see for themselves, but for now, I'll let Fran's progress photos tell the tale.



Karl - "Where is this stuff supposed to go!"

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CRSIG Workshop Well Underway - cont'd

by Jerry Moskowitz



Open spaces just begging to be filled.



Clutter abhors a vacuum.

Cont'd on Page 11



Our fearless leader.



Recent donations waiting in the wings.

**The Next Regular Meeting will be at
The Severn River Middle School**

**Wednesday,
December 8th, 2004**

**Meeting will be held in the large meeting
room.**

**It starts at 7:00 PM with club business
and a short discussion period.**

There will be a Presentation on

Trips & Travel Using the Internet

**Members and their friends are welcome to
come, ask questions and become enlightened.**

How to Find: Severn River Middle School

SRMS is close to the Arnold, MD campus of the Anne Arundel Community College. From Annapolis and parts south, take Rte 2 (Ritchie Highway) north about 3 miles from the intersection of Rt. 50, **turn right on College Parkway**. At the first light, turn left on Peninsula Farm Road. (Of course, if you are coming from points North, you would turn left on to College Parkway) about a half-mile down the road the large SRMS school building, set back off a large two level parking lot, will be visible on your right. Park here and go to the main entrance. Signs will be posted to direct you to the **Large Group Room** where we will be meeting.

How to find: The Internet SIG, A ChPCUG Special Interest Group**

Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM

The meetings are held at the SRMS in the Library.



**1783 Forest Drive #285
Annapolis, MD 21401**

FIRST CLASS

Note: *The date above your name on the mailing label is the expiration date of your membership. Contact the Membership Chairman (see page 2, column 2) to update.*