

The F1 key

Ralph Kirk
President
Ralph009@centurytel.net

Abby Harden
Vice President
rhardin@mo-net.com

Cecil Hunley
Secretary
machun@mo-net.com

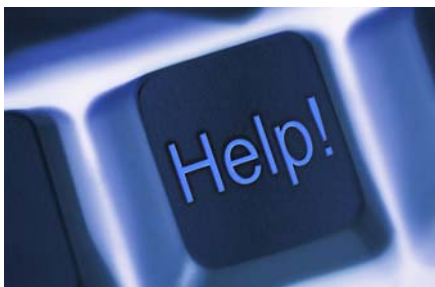
Willa McGrew
Treasurer
wmcgrew@sofnet.com

Kim Przybyl
The F1 Key Editor
pryzm@centurytel.net

Chuck Luney
Webmaster
cluney@centurytel.net

Board Members

Ron Clark – clarkr@mo-net.com
Mike Fox – msmfox@centurytel.net
Peg Chilcott – chilcott@mo-net.com



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Club Business.....	2
CenturyTel Website Compass.....	3
How Stuff Work.com.....	4
Classifieds & More.....	7
Tips & Tricks.....	8

E-Mail Scam – Social Security Administration Warns of E-mail Scam

(Centurytel's Website Compass)

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has received reports of an e-mail message being circulated with the subject "Cost-of-Living for 2007 update" and purporting to be from the SSA. The message provides information about the 3.3 percent benefit increase for 2007 and tells the e-mail recipients to update their personal information or their account will be suspended indefinitely. They are then directed to a phony site designed to look like the official Social Security website.

Once at the bogus website, individuals are asked to register for a password and to confirm their identity by providing personal information such as their Social Security number, bank account information and credit card information.

Patrick O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General of Social Security, reminds the public to always take precautions when giving out personal information. "You should never provide your Social Security number or other personal information over the Internet or by telephone unless you are extremely confident of the source to whom you are providing the information," O'Carroll said.

You can report receipt of the aforementioned fraudulent e-mail message or other suspicious activity to Social Security's Office of Inspector General by calling the OIG Hotline at 1-800-269-0271. A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available at OIG's website at www.socialsecurity.gov/oig.

Identity Theft

(Centurytel's Website Compass)

Q. I've heard that identity theft through the Internet and computers has increased greatly over the past few years. I've heard that I can get free credit reports to find out if my personal information has been stolen. Is this true?

A. Yes, the number of identity thefts as a result of computer viruses, spyware and hackers has greatly increased recently. You are legally entitled to order one free credit report annually from each of the three credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion).

You can get to all three credit reporting agencies for your free credit report by going to just one site: <http://AnnualCreditReport.com>. This site not only provides information on how to view your credit report online, but also how to request the report by phone or by mail.

WINDOWS UPDATES AND PATCHES

An easy way to check for security patches and updates for Windows is to open Internet Explorer, click on **Tools** in the menu bar and select **Windows Update** from the resulting menu.

You will be presented with a list of recommended updates and patches from which to download.

Tentative Meeting Topics

Subject to change

May	28	TBD
June	25	TBD
July	23	TBD

F1 KEY ADVERTISING RATES

Classified ads (25 words or less) – free to members

Flyer insert (advertiser supplies ad)	\$ 30.00
Full page (7.5" x 10")	\$ 20.00
Half page (3.5" x 10")	\$ 15.00
Quarter page (3.5" x 5")	\$ 7.50
Sixth of a page (3.5" x 3")	\$ 5.00
Business card	\$ 3.00
Ad on cover – add \$ 5.00	

Prices shown are for one ad, one month.

Ads must be submitted to the editor (pryzm@centurytel.net) by the 7th of the month.

If you have any questions, e-mail: f1club@mo-net.com



FRUSTRATED?

IT'S TIME TO JOIN THE F1 CLUB!

DON'T FORGET!

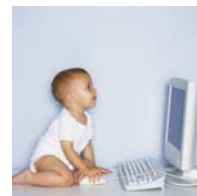


When lightning is in the area, unplug your power cord **AND** your phone line from your computer. Lightning will hit a computer modem before it damages anything else in your house. If rain is in the forecast, **UNPLUG** before you leave your home or office.

SUPPORT FOR THE CLUB

Bring your neighbor, friend or fishin' buddy to our next meeting. The survival of our club depends on membership. Do what YOU can to help it grow.

Please keep your dues paid. It's through these monies we are able to publish a newsletter and give back to the community through donations and education.



FEELING LEFT BEHIND?

JOIN THE F1 COMPUTER CLUB!

Membership in the F1 Club entitles you to receive our newsletter and to come to our meetings, held on the 4th Tuesday of each month (except Dec.). As a member, you will also get a discount on any classes we offer.

Come to the next meeting, check it out, and if you decide you want to join, drop off your membership dues – good for one full year.

Individual membership - \$22
Family or business membership - \$28
OR

If you can't make it to a meeting, but you still want to join, send a scrap of paper with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address (if you have one) to:

Willa McGrew
HCR 1 Box 4078
Shell Knob, MO 65747-0535

Include your check made out to the F1 Computer Club.

ASK DR. WEBBIE

If there is an Internet question you'd like to see answered, you can e-mail your question to DrWebbie@WebsiteCompass.com.

To assist him in answering your question as specifically as possible, be sure to include the following: the name of the browser you are using (i.e. Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0, Firefox 1.0, etc.), the name of the e-mail software you are using (i.e. Microsoft Outlook Express 5.5, OS 10.3 Mail, etc.), and the version of your system software (i.e. Windows 98, Windows XP, etc.)

Q. My friend recently e-mailed me a Word document. Currently, I don't have Microsoft Word on my computer. How can I read it?

A. You have a couple of options. First you can download the Word 2003 Viewer from Microsoft. This will enable you to open, view and print documents that were created with Microsoft Word. If your friend created the document with a new version of Word—such as Microsoft Word 2007—you'll also need to install the Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel and PowerPoint 2007.

Microsoft Word 2003 Viewer can be downloaded at: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=95E24C87-8732-48D5-8689-AB826E7B8FDF&displaylang=en>

Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack can be downloaded at: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=941b3470-3ae9-4aee-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&DisplayLang=en>

Your second option is to install OpenOffice.org, an open source alternative to Microsoft Office that can open Microsoft Word documents.

OpenOffice.org can be downloaded at: <http://download.openoffice.org/> (Click on the "download openoffice.org" link.)

If you have a Google account, a third option is also available. Google Docs & Spreadsheets lets you open, view, edit, and save documents in the Word format. To use Google Docs & Spreadsheets, go to <http://docs.google.com> and log-in using your Google Account information.

(Note: Google Docs & Spreadsheets does not currently support Apple's Safari browser so Mac users will have to use Firefox.)

How Do I Get a Web Page to Refresh with Updated Information?

Q. Sometimes I go to a web page that I know updates their content frequently (with stock reports, weather, news, etc.) but I can't get it to refresh/reload with new information. Is there anything I can do?

Answer: Yes, there is a trick you can try when this happens to you. When typing the site's URL (web address), add a question mark (?) to the end. Your web browser will think it's a new web page and will "refresh" it for you, displaying the updated content. If you need to keep "refreshing" on subsequent visits to the same web page, simply add a different letter(s) behind the question mark each time (i.e. ?glp) and the page will be downloaded with the most current information.

Why does this trick work? Your browser only downloads information in front of a question mark. However, since the whole URL changes (by adding the question mark and possibly other letters behind the question mark), the browser provides a complete "refresh" of the web page.

Q. I have several online accounts that are password protected. Are these safe from identity theft?

A. In general, online accounts are safe as long as you take the necessary precautions. There are three major steps you can take to protect yourself. First, make sure you have online accounts only with reputable companies who have measures in place that safeguard your private information. Secondly, make sure you use hard-to-guess passwords and PIN numbers – and you change them often. Thirdly, it is vitally important that you use an anti-virus program on your computer and update this software very frequently. Without doing the third step, you are opening yourself up to the very real danger of having your identity stolen via computer malware or spyware.

DIAL-UP MODEM CONNECTION PROBLEMS?

- Check to see if your phone line is plugged into your modem. If you have an external modem, check to make sure it's turned on.
- Do you have call waiting on your phone line? This feature may be disconnecting you from your Internet access.
- If you have a second phone line designated for computer use and are having problems getting online, ensure this designated line is working properly by connecting an ordinary corded phone to it. Then try to make call your regular phone line and vice versa.
- Do you have a "hands free" telephone? How about an answering machine, fax machine or Caller ID unit in the house? Any of these could be causing your connection problems.

Does adding more RAM to your computer make it faster?

Up to a point, adding random access memory (RAM) will normally cause your computer to feel faster on certain types of operations. RAM is important because of an operating system component called the virtual memory manager (VMM).

When you run a program such as a word processor or an Internet browser, the microprocessor in your computer pulls the executable file off the hard disk and loads it into RAM. In the case of a big program like Microsoft Word or Excel, the EXE consumes about 5 megabytes.

The microprocessor also pulls in a number of shared dynamic link libraries (DLLs) – shared pieces of code used by multiple applications. The DLLs might total 20 or 30 megabytes.

Then the microprocessor loads in the data files you want to look at, which might total several megabytes if you are looking at several documents or browsing a page with a lot of graphics.

So a normal application needs between 10 and 30 megabytes of RAM space to run. On my machine, at any given time I might have the following applications running:

- A word processor
- A spreadsheet
- A DOS prompt
- An e-mail program
- A drawing program
- Three or four browser windows
- A fax program
- A Telnet session

Besides all of those applications, the operating system itself is taking up a good bit of space. Those programs together might need 100 to 150 megabytes of RAM, but my computer only has 64 megabytes of RAM installed.

The extra space is created by the VMM which looks at RAM and finds sections of RAM that are not currently needed. It puts these sections of RAM in a place called the swap file on the hard disk.

For example, even though I have my e-mail program open, I haven't looked at e-mail in the last 45 minutes. So the VMM moves all of the bytes making up the e-mail program's EXE, DLLs and data out to the hard disk. That is called swapping out the program.

The next time I click on the e-mail program, the VMM will swap in all of its bytes from the hard disk and probably swap something else out in the process. Because the hard disk is slow relative to RAM, the act of swapping things in and out causes a noticeable delay.

If you have a very small amount of RAM (say, 16

megabytes), then the VMM is always swapping things in and out to get anything done. In that case, your computer feels like it is crawling.

As you add more RAM, you get to a point where you only notice the swapping when you load a new program or change windows. If you were to put 256 megabytes of RAM in your computer, the VMM would have plenty of room and you would never see it swapping anything. That is as fast as things get. If you then added more RAM, it would have no effect.

Some applications (things like Photoshop, many compilers, most film editing and animation packages) need tons of RAM to do their job. If you run them on a machine with too little RAM, they swap constantly and run very slowly. You can get a huge speed boost by adding enough RAM to eliminate the swapping. Programs like these may run 10 to 50 times faster once they have enough RAM!

How can I burn MP3s from my computer onto CD-Rs?


MP3 music files are great when you are sitting at your computer or if you have one of the portable MP3 players. But if you want to play MP3 files in your car or on your home stereo, then what you need to do is move your MP3 files onto a CD.

To create a CD from MP3 files, you need to do three things:

1. Download the MP3 files you want onto your computer from places like mp3.com.
2. An MP3 file is a compressed version of a CD track. You therefore need to expand the MP3 file back into a full-size CD track. This process is known as decoding, and you need to have decoding software on your computer to do it. You can purchase a decoding package or download free or trial software from the Internet.
3. You then collect all of the CD tracks together in a directory and write them to a writable CD. Your CD-R drive normally comes with software for doing this. When you write out the audio tracks, you have to be sure to tell the software that you wish to create an **audio CD** rather than a CD-ROM.

Since MP3 files can be easily downloaded from the Internet, and your CD-R drive comes with software for writing audio tracks to a writeable CD, the main thing you need is the decoder. Two good places to look for a decoder include: Winamp and MP3 Software.

Classifieds & More



Mo-Net, Inc.
Your local
Internet service provider
Visit our offices at
301 N. Lincoln in Monett, MO

- E-mail account
- Personal Web page
- Local access
- Unlimited use
- One low monthly rate

Get connected:
417-235-8291

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 150
Monett, MO 65708

The Internet service provider that offers toll-free, local dial-up in the following communities in SW Missouri:

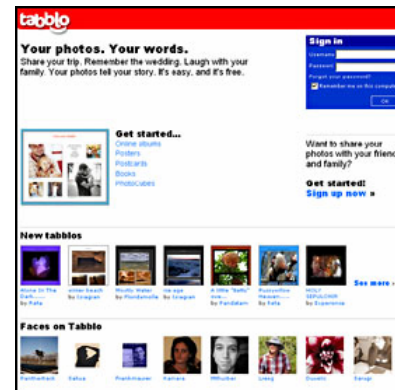
Aurora
Cassville
Exeter
Fairview
Golden
Jenkins
Mano
Monett
Pierce City
Purdy
Shell Knob
Slotts City
Stark City
Verona
Washburn
Wheaton

PC Magazine site of the week: Tabblo.com

If you own a digital camera, you probably already use an online photo service to upload and store your collection. But what have you done with your pics lately? Instead of letting them collect cyberdust, bring them to life with Tabblo.

The company, recently acquired by HP, provides an online photo service that lets you create and order printed versions of your photos in postcard, poster, and book form.

Tabblo launched on February 5, 2007. Ten days later, according to company reps, it received 7,000 orders for custom Valentine's Day cards. Today, over half a million users visit each month and 100,000-plus order digital photo products.



PC Magazine product review: Logitech Harmony 890 Advanced Universal Remote

If you're looking for a universal remote to tame all your unruly home-theater devices, Logitech's Harmony 890 is one killer option.

PROS

Programming software is easy to use. Configuring the remote takes about an hour, not days. Remote comes with charger and wireless extender. Has a Help button to fix occasional problems.

CONS

Fast-forward, play, and rewind buttons could be better placed. Wireless extender must be connected to your PC during programming. Codes occasionally do not get sent.

PRICE

\$211.00 – \$420.00



PC Magazine product review: Microsoft Natural Wireless Laser Mouse 6000



The main draw to the 6000 is its unconventional yet comfortable shape, as well as a few interesting features. Like many specialized mice these days, the 6000 is pricey; just be sure that you'll appreciate its features to justify the cost.

PROS

Shape and hand orientation more ergonomic; many software features; side-to-side scrolling; firm, grippable thumb area.

CONS

Pricey; requires AA batteries; side buttons a bit far from thumb; no clicky scroll wheel; slight wrist bend; lefties need not apply.

PRICE

\$60.00 – \$70.00

Tips, Tricks & How To's

Q. Do I have to type in **www.** before every web address?

A: No. Most modern browsers will enter the **www.** for you when it's needed. And for website addresses that include a subdomain (i.e., <http://mail.google.com>), you should never enter the **www.** Many browsers will even let you enter **.com** domain names without the domain suffix.

Q. What anti-spyware application should I use?

A. Check with your current Internet Service Provider. Many ISPs offer or can suggest products that are very effective when it comes to anti-virus software. Microsoft Corp. has included an anti-spyware application in its new Windows Vista operating system. However, we still suggest that you contact your ISP for recommendations on the most effective anti-virus protection for your situation.

Q. How can I change the default font in Outlook Express? It's boring.

A. Here's how to change the default font settings in Outlook Express 5:

1. With Outlook Express open, click on the **Tools** menu and then select **Options**.
2. Click on the **Compose** tab and then click the **Font Settings** button.
3. Adjust your font settings in the **Font** window and click the **OK** button once you're finished.
4. Click **OK** to close the **Options** window.



The F1 *key*

P.O. Box 535
Shell Knob, MO 65747-0535
www.f1computerclub.com

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, May 28, 2007, 7PM
Central Crossing Senior Center

The F1 *key*

is distributed at the following locations:

Shell Knob Branch Public Library
Central Crossing Senior Center
Shell Knob Chamber

The F1 Computer Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7PM.