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Microsoft releases free Antivirus & Antispyware

Microsoft™ has released a new FREE software program called MICROSOFT SECURITY ESSENTIALS. It is a free download available from Microsoft's Web site that will protect your PC from viruses, spyware, and other malicious software.

Yes, this means that Microsoft™ is giving away, for free, an antivirus program. I had to see if it was good or just too good to be true. The only

provision is that your computer must be running a legitimate genuine copy of Microsoft™ Windows.

Go to www.microsoft.com and search for Security Essentials. You should easily find the Dowload Now button that will install a copy of this new Antivirus and Antispyware program. (Also found at www.microsoft.com/security_essentials.) Download and follow the easy "next, next, finish" type of installation

screens and you are done.

Also make sure to uninstall any other Antivirus or Antispyware programs you have on your computer, such as AVG and MalwareBytes prior to installing the new Security Essentials.

So far it looks like a good program.

*Vern Brisbin
Software Emporium Inc.*

What does the internet say about you?

Want an interesting way to spend a little time on the internet? Think you're an anonymous entity? Try typing your own name into Google™ and you may be much more entertained than you think.

The internet is filled with public information, and as that continues to increase it becomes more important that individuals not only know what is out there, but maintain its accuracy.

A bit of caution; you may have been born with the name you have but often times so were other people. The name you see on a search engine may not be your own.

For most of us this is just an entertain-

ing way to spend some time. If you decide you don't want anything out there, the first step is ensuring you refrain from creating blogs, posts and user profiles. This includes joining the many networking sites out there - a near impossible task if you want to take advantage of the benefits of online networking.

Want to know when something new crops up? Set up a Google™ Alert for your name. Google™ Alerts are email updates of the latest relevant Google™ results based on your choice or topic. Do this by going to www.google.com/alerts.

*Cary Walter
Cary Walter Design*





Is Apple's latest creation destined for greatness?

After months of speculation, rumour, and hype Apple™ released the goods on their latest "creation" on January 27th, 2010. Meet the iPad.

The iPad is Apple's version of a Tablet PC. Tablet PCs are mobile computers that use a Touch Screen or Stylus to operate. Apple's new Mobile Computer is designed to be used with your fingers in much the same as the iPod Touch or iPhone.

While many speculated the new computing device would use Apple's successful OSX operating system, it ended up using a slightly tweaked version of the iPhone operating system. Right off the bat I'm thinking huge iPod touch right? Not so fast. Let's look at the hardware and specs of Apple's newest addition shall we?

First off the screen is a 9.7" Multi-touch LCD Display with 1024 x 768 Resolution. The Processor is an Apple designed and built 1Ghz ARM based CPU which should provide fast application response and power for

future applications. There is built in 802.11n Wifi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR Wireless and future models will be enabled with a 3G connection for usage with the existing 3G Cellular Networks. According to Apple, the iPad 3G models will ship unlocked and service will be available on a month to month basis not requiring the user to lock into a contract.

An example of the AT&T plan called for \$14.95 per month for 250MB Data per month and an unlimited plan for \$29.95 per month (US dollars.) The iPad uses the same charge/ interface connector as the iPod Nano, Touch and iPhone.

Battery life is a claimed 10 hours for browsing and 30 days in standby. As with the iPod Touch and iPhone the iPad has an accelerometer to sense the orientation of the device and will instantly change the screen to match.

Next, we have the Storage. Apple™ has announced 3 initial models with 16GB, 32GB, and 64GB of Memory. Prices are \$499, \$599, and \$699 US

respectively. The 3G enabled models will fetch about \$130 US more. Canadian prices have yet to be announced but we hope they will be somewhat in line with the current exchange rate (but don't count on it.)

The iPad is a scant .5" thick and weighs in at 1.5 lbs. This puts most current "Netbooks" to shame. Also included is a built in speaker, microphone and compass.

Application wise, Apple™ stated the iPad will run virtually all the existing apps available at the Apple™ App Store making the device compatible with over 140,000 programs. Also announced was the iPads e-reader capability. The app is called iBooks and reading a book can be as easy as pulling it off your virtual "bookshelf" on the iPad. Books can be purchased at Apple's just announced online bookstore. Apple™ expects thousands of e-Books available in the next few months.

Another feature; iWork on the iPad. iWork is Apple's proprietary suite of software allowing users to perform word processing and spread sheeting among other things. There is the new app called Brushes for users to paint with as well as a calendar, and built in email. Throw in Google™ Maps and HD Video Playback including YouTube HD and Apple™ looks to have most of bases covered.

Availability is expected before the end of March and the 3G enabled units will be available by the end of April.

It looks like Apple™ has successfully bridged the gap between the iPhone and the Macbook with the iPad.

Users who want a comfortable device to surf the internet, check email, play games, and read books will enjoy Apple's newest creation.

*Paul Davey
Software Emporium Inc.*



Apple photo

The iPad is Apple's newest release and it's looking to be one of the best yet.



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Keyboard shortcuts speed things up

Windows key	Opens or closes the Start menu
Windows + D	Displays your desktop
Windows + E	Opens the Computer window
Windows + F	Opens the Search window
Ctrl + Windows + F	Searches for computers (if you're on a network)
Windows + L	Locks your computer or switches users
Windows + M	Minimizes all windows
Shift + Windows + M	Restores minimized windows
Windows + R	Opens the Run dialog box
Windows + T	Cycles through programs on the Taskbar
Ctrl + A	Selects everything in a window
Ctrl + C	Copies selected items
Ctrl + X	Cuts selected items
Ctrl + V	Pastes cut or copied items
Ctrl + Y	Redoes an action
Ctrl + Z	Undoes an action
F1	Displays Help
F2	Highlights label of selected item for editing
F3	Opens the Search window
Ctrl + F4	Closes the current document
Alt + F4	Closes the current item or program
F5	Refreshes a window
F10	Activates a program's menu bar
Shift + Windows + F10	Displays the shortcut menu for a selected item
Delete	Deletes selected items to the Recycle Bin
Shift + Delete	Deletes selected items permanently
Alt + Enter	Displays the properties of a selected item
Ctrl + Esc	Opens the Start menu
Alt + Esc	Cycles through items in order you opened them
Ctrl + Shift + Esc	Opens the Windows Task Manager
Windows + Pause	Displays the System Properties dialog box
Alt + Spacebar	Opens the shortcut menu for current window
Alt + Tab	Switches between open items
Ctrl + Alt + Tab	Displays open items (use the arrow keys to switch between them)
Ctrl + N	Opens a new window
F11	Maximizes/minimizes the current window
End	Displays the bottom of the current window
Home	Displays the top of the current window
Minus Sign (keypad)	Collapses the selected folder

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TECHNOLOGY TO
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Windows Vista and Windows 7 Easter Eggs

Easter Eggs are hidden programming that is secretly written into software that does neat and cool things, but were never documented or included in the written manual for the software.

Easter Eggs were much more popular years ago, but here is a new one. (And the best of the bunch in my opinion.)

God Mode

This Easter Egg is called "God Mode". It creates a very easy to use Control Panel for your windows.

This works with Windows Vista and Windows 7 only, not Windows XP.

Here's how to activate this new and totally superior Control Panel.

1. Right Click any open area of your desktop wallpaper
2. Create New Folder
3. Right Click and Rename folder to "GodMode.
{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}"
without the quotes

Once that is done, the folder's icon will change to resemble a control panel and will contain dozens of control options.

I'm not sure it's my idea of playing God, but it's a handy way to get to all kinds of controls.

Random Letters

Here is one more "Easter Egg" for Microsoft Word called Random Letters.

- Open Microsoft Word and type =rand (200, 99)
- Include the equals sign
- Press ENTER

It's a way of populating a text file with random words for testing purposes. Change the two numbers i.e. (100, 10) for different lengths of text. The first number is the number of paragraphs and the second is the number of sentences in the paragraph. Useless, but worth a try!

Vern Brisbin, Software Emporium Inc.



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Interesting topics?

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