



**FRONT RANGE
PC USERS GROUP**

The Monthly Edition Of The
k-Byte
Newsletter



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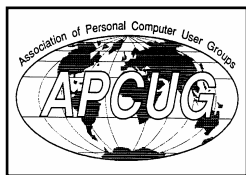
Users Helping Users

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Quote of the Month

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.

Benjamin Franklin [1759]

The Garage

by *Berry F. Phillips, Computer Club of Oklahoma City, <http://www.ccokc.org>, bfpdata@taccess.net*

IT was born in a garage! If you had driven by the garage located in a residential neighborhood, you would not have noticed there was anything strange about the garage since it looked like all the other garages attached to residences. However, if you were a neighbor you would be aware of certain unusual activity. You would have at times noticed the cars lining the street, and people going into the garage carrying various equipment usually in the evening. If a neighbor was blessed or cursed as the case may be, with an active imagination several fantasy explanations could come to mind. Perhaps it was a band practicing in the garage but there was no sound of music. Perhaps it was some kind of a terrorist group but no smoke or explosions or sounds of automatic rifles being fired. Perhaps they had a still operating in that garage however there were no police raiding the garage. Well, the garage could be used for all kinds of purposes but one thing is certain: it was not being used as a garage!

The garage was located in Menio Park, San Mateo County, California and was a maternity ward for the birthing in March 1975 of the Homebrew Computer Club. The 1999 made for television movie, "Pirates of the Silicon Valley (and the book on which it was based, "Fire In the Valley: The Making of the Personal Computer") describes the role the Homebrew Computer Club played in creating the first personal computer.

Hackers were attracted to the garage like steel to a magnet since in those days it was just another name for a computer enthusiast like nerd or geek. In the old days a hacker is one who "hacks" through a computer problem and who writes his own code to

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About *k-Byte*

Published monthly, *k-Byte* is the official newsletter of the Front Range Personal Computer Users Group (FRPCUG): our mailing address is PMB 152, 305 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521.

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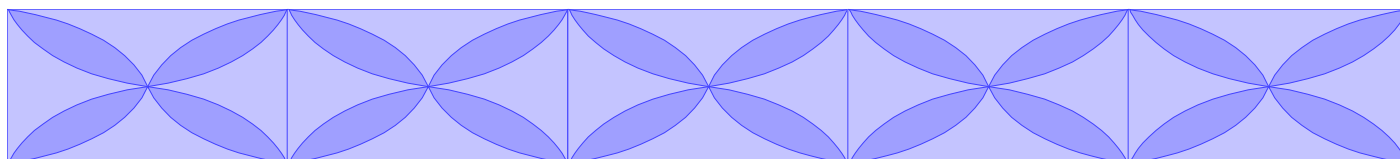
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About FRPCUG

FRPCUG is an independent nonprofit computer society, so incorporated with the State of Colorado and open to anyone interested in Windows, or UNIX/LINUX microcomputers. Its purpose is to provide an educational and scientific forum of mutual benefit for members of the micro-computer community. FRPCUG holds a monthly meeting and conducts various special interest groups (SIGs) and seminars. Members have voting privileges, subscription to *k-Byte* newsletter, and access to SIGs and selected seminars. Annual dues are \$25 for individual/family membership (\$20 for students) and \$50 for corporate/group membership.



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fix it. In modern times a hacker has unfortunately a negative connotation which should be correctly called a cracker, a combination of the word, criminal and hacker. The hackers wanted to "homebrew" their own machines using parts from the Altair computer kit, computer chips such as Intel 8080, or any other computer equipment. While the members of the Homebrew Computer Club were hobbyists, most of them had electronic engineering or programming backgrounds. I am reminded of Bill Gates' Open Letter to Hobbyists which lambasted the early hackers of the time for modifying and pirating commercial software programs. Several founders of microcomputer companies including Bob Marsh, Adam Osborne, Lee Filsenstein, and Apple founders, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniack were founding members of the Homebrew Computer Club. Thirty years later in 2005, a reunion celebration was held as part of the Vintage Computer Festival sponsored by the Computer Museum. Upon the completion of the activities in the exhibit hall, there was an autograph signing as well as vintage computer equipment for sale that took many a hacker back to those early days they "homebrewed" their computer.

The Homebrew Computer Club's newsletter was one of the major forces that influenced the formation of the Silicon Valley created and edited by the members. The first issue was published in 1975 and continued in several designs ending after 21 issues in December 1977. There have been other Homebrew Computer Clubs that have emerged like the one in the Netherlands that started with a dozen members and operates today with 180 thousand members which is the largest association in the world. Their small newsletter grew into the magazine, "Computer Total."

Today, many of the original members of the Homebrew Computer Club meet today as the 6800 Club named after the Motorola (now Freescale) 6800 microprocessor. Who would have ever thought that a garage would be a maternity ward for the IT (Information Technology) Industry? I have decided to elevate the status of the lowly garage in my mind especially since I found out many of our largest corporations were also born in a garage! Why I am thinking now that a garage should not be for cars or junk but a shrine dedicated to American ingenuity and innovation!

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LCD Display Challengers

by Rick Mattingly, Front Range PC Users Group, <http://www.frpcug.org>, [rmatt\(at\)mesanetworks.net](mailto:rmatt@mesanetworks.net)

At this date LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) technology has killed the old CRT monitor. But technology never stands still. There are presently several new technologies which are positioned to ultimately do away with LCD.

The most likely challenger to LCD is a technology known as OLED (Organic Light-Emitting Diode). OLED displays utilize about 40 percent less power than LCD and are about twice as thin because they do not require backlighting. Especially great news for battery powered portable devices, from cellular phones to laptop computers. In fact, several new smaller devices, such as music players from Samsung, Reigncom and Kyocera, are already available with OLED displays. And, Sony is poised to release a small TV model with OLED display late in 2007.

As OLED technology expands and pricing drops we can expect to see LCD displays slowly disappear from the scene.



Exploring Windows Explorer, Part 1

by Jim Sanders, North Orange County Computer Club, <http://www.noccc.org>, editor(at)nocc.org.

Everyone using Windows XP uses Windows Explorer all the time. Some use it in what I consider the true form. Some use it under the title of My Computer. And all of us use it when we are using Internet Explorer, because Windows Explorer is an integral part of Internet Explorer. I continue to be surprised at how many people do not know that you can right click on the start button and go directly to Windows Explorer. I prefer that to the My Computer path because it brings up Windows Explorer with the left hand pane of the window displaying the tree structure of the files. It surprises me that many people who use the My Computer path don't know that they can bring up the tree pane by clicking on the folder button in the taskbar.

Something that is almost sad, is how many people live with the default settings of Windows Explorer. One of the first things that I do with a new installation of Windows XP, is to open Windows Explorer, go to the view menu and click on details. The next step is to open the tools menu, and click on folder options. When the folder options window opens, click on the view tab. Then click on display the full path in the title bar to place a checkmark in the box, click on show hidden files and folders to put the bullet on that line, click on a hide extensions for known file types to remove the checkmark. Personally, I think Microsoft did new users in particular, a major disservice by having the last item set to by default. The resulting confusion of having two or more files with the same name, and not differentiated by the file extension, causes a fair amount of distress in users that are not sure which file to choose. I like to see the protected operating system files but you may be more comfortable leaving them hidden. The last item is to check is show control panel in my computer. Then click on apply, wait for it to finish, then click on apply to all folders, and then click on OK and you're done.

As a result of the above actions the right hand windowpane will now have four columns, name, size, height, and date modified. The sort will be set to alphabetical by name, numbers and special characters first, then A to Z. If you want the sort to be Z to A, click on name at the top of the name column. If you want the sort to be by size, click on size at the top of the size column and Windows Explorer will sort the folder by file size, smallest file first. To reverse the order, and place the largest file at the top of the list, click on size again. The same procedure works with the type column and the date modified column. There is a faint divider bar between each of the columns located in the horizontal bar where the names of the columns are located. One of the easiest ones to find is one space to the right of the column heading Size. If you move the mouse cursor to that area you should see a double-headed arrow appear. If you then click and hold the left mouse button, you can adjust the width of the edge of the columns. The width of the name column is often too narrow to show the complete file name. Having the complete path displayed in the address bar, is often useful when you need to copy and paste that path into other applications.

When you have a lot of files in a folder, there is a navigation shortcut in the name column that too few people seem to know about. When you first open a folder, the display will show any other folders (or what should really be called subdirectories) within that folder followed by files, starting with the letter A. If you need to get to a file that starts with a letter T, you might have to scroll through several hundred files to get there. There is a faster way. Click on the first file in the folder to highlight it, then type the first letter of the file that you wish to find. In this example the display would immediately jump to the first file that starts with the letter T. If you know what you are searching for, and can type quickly, you can follow the first letter with the second letter of the name and it will take you to that point instead.

I think initially setting all folders on a hard disk to the detail view is the best starting point and is best suited for the majority of folders. Windows XP allows you to customize the view of each and every folder and will remember what settings you assigned to a given folder. For instance, for folders that contain photos it is often more useful if the thumbnail view, or the film strip view, is chosen so that you can see what each picture actually is. The advantage of the thumbnail view is that you can find images quicker than in the filmstrip view.

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The advantage of the filmstrip view is that you get a line of thumbnails across the bottom of the pane and a larger view of whichever thumbnail is highlighted. There are also mouse click arrows that allow you to view the next or previous image. Don't forget that you can right click on any of the thumbnails and bring up a whole new menu of things that you can do with the image.

Everybody should learn how to do file housekeeping on their computer disk. Being able to move files from one folder to another, to copy files from one folder to another, to create new folders, and several other functions along those lines can help you keep your data organized. It should be noted that most of these functions can be accomplished in more than one fashion. For instance, if you wished to copy a file from folder A to folder B, you would first select the file by left clicking on it which will cause it to be highlighted. You could then open the edit menu by clicking on edit, then click on copy, then click on the destination folder, then click on paste in the edit menu, a copy of the file will appear in that folder. Alternately, you could use some of the keyboard shortcuts. You could highlight the file, press and hold down the Ctrl key and then tap the C. key. This will copy the file to the temporary holding bin called clipboard. You would then highlight the destination folder, press and hold down the control key, then tap the V key which will paste the file from the clipboard to the folder you highlighted. Another method is called drag and drop. In this method you move the mouse cursor over the file you wish to copy, left click and hold the mouse button, move the mouse to drag a ghost image of the file over the top of the destination folder and then release the left mouse button. There are many more features to cover but this is all the room I have for now. We will do more later.



Additional Backup Approach Comparisons

By Gene Barlow, User Group Relations, <http://www.ugr.com>, [gene\(at\)ugr.com](mailto:gene(at)ugr.com)

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Last month I highlighted four of the most common backup approaches used today and compared them to show you why the Perfect Backup Approach is the best way to do backups. You can read that article titled, Backup Approaches Compared on my web site at <http://www.ugr.com/nl0507b.html>. As soon as I sent this article out, I got messages from users asking why I had not included other backup approaches in my article. So, this month, I will add two additional backup approaches and try to explain where they fit in the comparison.

Internet Backup Approach

Let me start with a fairly new approach to backups that you may have heard about. Using this approach, you backup a few of your key data files to a storage location on the Internet. If something should happen to any of these data files, you can retrieve them from their Internet location. At first glance, this approach seems attractive and some have tried it. However, there are problems with this approach that you should be aware of.

First, it is by no means a full backup solution for your computer. You will only be able to backup a few of your data files using this approach and not your entire hard drive. So, if your hard drive should crash on you, your internet backup of a few data files will not help you to get your system back up and running. You will need to do a total rebuild of your hard drive including the operating system, all of your application programs, your setting files, and any of your data files that you did not store on the Internet. This rebuilding process could take you days or weeks to complete and you may never get your computer working again the way it was before.

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Calendar of Events

September General Forum Meeting

We will meet at the Fort Collins Senior Center on:

Day	Date	Time
Tuesday	September 4th	7:00 PM

Meeting Agenda:

Time	Topic
7:00 to 7:15	Announcements
7:15 to 8:00	Open Forum
8:00 to 8:15	Break
8:15 to 9:00	The World of Google

October General Forum Meeting

We will meet at the Fort Collins Senior Center on:

Day	Date	Time
Tuesday	October 2nd	7:00 PM

Meeting Agenda:

Time	Topic
7:00 to 7:15	Announcements
7:15 to 8:00	Open Forum
8:00 to 8:15	Break
8:15 to 9:00	Desktop Publishing— Choosing the Right Application

*See you at the meetings!
Get full membership benefits. If you are
not a current member, download an
application from
<http://www.frpcug.org/memberap.html>*

Future General Forum Meeting Notes

If you think of Google as only a search engine, you are missing out on a very long list of very useful and helpful features and software—all free.

Find out what you are missing by attending the September General Forum meeting.

The prices of desktop publishing software applications vary from free to very expensive. Is a word processor suitable for desktop publishing? Do I need the most expensive software? What are the choices? How do I choose?

Attend the October General Forum meeting for some answers.

Future SIG's, Seminars, and Other Meetings

New Technology SIG

The New Technology SIG provides advance support for all PC related operating system and telecommunication issues. The meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month at Bluebird Manufacturing Inc., 1421 Webster Avenue, in Fort Collins. For more information, contact Chuck McJilton at 970-493-2987.

Board Meeting

FRPCUG's executive board meets on Wednesday of the week following the General Forum meeting. All members are welcome and are encouraged to attend. These meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the Staff Board Room of the Fort Collins Senior Center.

Shop Talk

One-on-one assistance. Drop in to the Senior Center lobby on any Saturday (holidays excepted) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Directions to the Fort Collins Senior Center

The Fort Collins Senior Center is located at 1200 Raintree Drive. This site is situated at the northwest corner of the Shields and Raintree Drive intersection, on the north side of the Raintree Shopping Center. Check the marquee at the main entrance for directions to the specific meeting room. See map on page 12.

September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 FRPCUG General Forum Meeting 7:00 PM	5	6	7	8 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
9	10	11	12 FRPCUG Board Meeting 7:00 PM	13	14	15 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
16	17	18	19	20 New Technology SIG Meeting 7:00 PM	21	22 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
30						

October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 FRPCUG General Forum Meeting 7:00 PM	3	4	5	6 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
7	8	9	10 FRPCUG Board Meeting 7:00 PM	11	12	13 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
14	15	16	17	18 New Technology SIG Meeting 7:00 PM	19	20 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
28	29	30	31			

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That places the Internet Backup approach close to the File Backup approach in the comparisons, but with more restrictions on it than the File Backup approach. Transferring files to the Internet is a very slow process. Also, you will be limited to saving fewer files on the Internet than on an external hard drive. A minimal amount of Internet space may be provided for free, but additional space will cost you each month to use it. Files stored on the Internet will not be quickly and readily accessible like the files you store on an external hard drive. Finally, the Internet has too many security issues for my important files to be placed there.

In summary, I would put the Internet Backup approach at the bottom of my lists of valid backup approaches. It is a partial backup solution at best and the number and size of the files that can use this approach is limited. If you are still interested in this approach, Acronis True Image 10 Home has the ability to do backups to FTP (Internet) sites, but pick another approach and you will be better off.

Differential Backup Approach

Another backup approach I forgot to include was the Differential Image backup approach added to Acronis True Image 9.0 a couple of years ago. This approach is quite similar to the Incremental Image backup approach I recommend in the Perfect Backup Approach. So, let me explain what this approach is and how it is different from the Incremental Image backup approach.

With the Incremental Image backup approach you use True Image to create a full backup image file of your entire hard drive at the beginning of each month. Then at the end of each week during the month, you create an incremental backup image file of just the changes that have occurred to your hard drive since the last time you backed it up (a week ago). At the beginning of the next month, you create a new full backup image file and follow it with incremental backup image files each week. For each month, the full backup image file combined with the 3-4 incremental backup images files make up what is called an image set. The image set can be used by True Image to put the hard drive back together as it was at the last backup or at any week during the month (or at any week in prior months). True Image also gives you the ability to retrieve individual files or folders from any of these backup points. This is the power and flexibility that you get with the recommended Incremental Image backup approach.

The Differential Image backup approach is very similar to the incremental approach. At the beginning of the month, you create a full backup image of your entire hard drive. Then at each following week, you create a differential backup image file that includes the contents of the last differential image file plus any changes that have occurred to your hard drive in the past week. The prior differential image file is left on your hard drive for you to delete after True Image creates a new differential image file. An image set using the differential approach includes just two files, the full backup image file and the latest differential image file. You will notice that the differential image file is a growing file that collects all of the changes to the hard drive after the full backup image is made at the beginning of the month. To make this differential backup image approach work best, you must delete the prior differential image file as soon as True Image creates the new differential image file for you.

How does the differential backup image approach compare to the incremental backup image approach? The advantage most cited for differential backup images is that the file space to store the one differential image is less than storing several incremental images. As a practical matter, the difference in size is relatively small and so this is not a big savings. Another advantage cited for differential image files is that they are faster to restore since the changes are already merged together into one image file. In reality, True Image can merge 3-4 incremental images in just a few seconds, so the time savings on the restore would be just a second or two. Not enough to worry about. The big disadvantage with the differential image approach is that you lose the flexibility to restore to a weekly backup point like you can do with incremental images. With differential images, you can either restore to the one differential image file time frame or back to the full image taken at the beginning of the month. This is a critical weakness of the differential image approach and is the main reason I recommend doing incremental images instead.

To overcome the flexibility limitation of the differential backup image approach, some users will not delete the old differential image files, but will let them collect on their external hard drive, much like you collect the

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incremental image files. With many differential image files to select from, you can pick the exact backup point to restore your files from like you can do with incremental image files. So, how does this modified differential backup image approach now compare to the incremental backup image approach? It costs you space on your backup hard drive. The first differential image file contains the changes for week 1. The second differential image file contains the changes for week 1 and 2. The third differential image file contains the changes for week 1 and 2 and 3. I think you get the picture. The result is that the space on your backup external hard drive is being wasted and hence you cannot save as many backup images as the incremental backup image approach. Although the differential backup approach is pretty good, the incremental backup approach is better in all cases.

Backup Approaches Compared

So, let's summarize the backup approaches listed in this article and in the prior article. I will list them along with a ranking from 1 to 10 of the effectiveness of the backup approach. That should show why the Perfect Backup Approach (Incremental backup images) is the best approach to select for your backup plan.

Partial Backup Approaches -

- a) Internet Backup Approach (effectiveness: 1) - A partial backup solution that is slow and costly.
- b) File Backup Approach (effectiveness: 2) - A partial backup solution that is a bit faster and less expensive.

Full Backup Approaches -

- a) Clone Backup Approach (effectiveness: 3) - A full backup solution that takes up one hard drive for each backup. Very inefficient hard drive space usage.
- b) Full Backup Image Approach (effectiveness: 6) - A full backup solution that can save a few backups on one backup drive.
- c) Differential Backup Image Approach (effectiveness: 8) - A full backup solution that is fairly efficient on backup hard drive space. Lacks restore flexibility.
- d) Incremental Backup Image Approach (effectiveness: 9) - A full backup solution that is very efficient on backup hard drive space. The Perfect Backup Approach.

Acronis True Image 10 Home

Acronis True Image 10 Home is the one backup utility on the market that can do all of the backup approaches mentioned in these two articles. That lets you use one product and try the various approaches to find the one that best fits your needs. For this and many other reasons, this backup utility has become the highest rated backup product on the market by PC Magazine, PC World, and many other industry experts. You can't go wrong with this outstanding product on your system.

To order this excellent backup utility, go to www.usergroupstore.com and click on Acronis True Image 10.0 Home. You can purchase this product at our user group discount price of only \$29 as a download or \$33 on a CD. If you order the CD, you also get our Perfect Backup Approach tutorial and some technical papers on how to install and use the product. The order code to use when placing your order is UGNL0707.

I hope this information helps you to understand the various ways that you can backup your computer. Using Acronis True Image 10.0 Home edition and an external hard drive is the best way to go. If you have questions about this article or the use of your True Image software, please send a note to gene@ugr.com and I will try to assist you.

This is one of a series of monthly technical articles that I distribute to those that have subscribed to this newsletter. You can subscribe to this informative newsletter at www.ugr.com/NewsletterRegistration.html. Watch for them and learn more about your computer and its hard drive. If you do not want to receive these newsletters, simply reply and ask to have your name removed from the list and I will do so immediately. User

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Tip of the Month

by Mike Morris, Front Range PC Users Group,
<http://www.frpcug.org>.

Styles—Part 1—Introduction

One useful way to think of the Styles feature provided in many software applications is as a “box of goodies.” A Style is a collection of formatting commands (the “goodies”) combined into a Style (the “box”) and given a name. There are two very important reasons to learn and use Styles:

1. Styles can be applied to selected text with a single click of the mouse or the use of a custom keyboard shortcut. *This is a very powerful productivity enhancement.*
2. In word processor applications, Styles are used to implement the Table of Contents feature.

The Styles feature in consumer applications is normally associated with word processor applications. In fact, Microsoft Word, Corel Word Perfect and Open Office Writer all have this feature; although the keystroke/mouse click sequences are different for each application.

Other consumer “office” applications, such as Microsoft Excel, Open Office Impress (the presentations application similar in function to Microsoft PowerPoint), Open Office Calc (similar in function to Excel) and Open Office Draw have a Styles feature. Again, the functionality and the keystroke/mouse click sequences are different for each application. And, of course, the “industrial strength” graphic design applications, such as Adobe’s InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop; Corel Draw and QuarkXPress all have a Styles feature. There are probably other applications that have this feature; the list provided is not intended to be exhaustive. What is intended in providing this list is to demonstrate that the widespread use of the feature is proof of its effectiveness in improving productivity across the range of consumer and professional software applications.

Using the Styles feature will be demonstrated in next month’s Styles - Part 2 Tip of the Month. There is at least one caution that needs to be noted when using the Styles feature. That will be identified in the Styles - Part 3 Tip of the Month.



About Trading Post

Noncommercial Advertising

k-Byte runs classified ads in Trading Post for three consecutive issues. Trading Post ads up to 10 lines (or 70 words) long are free to FRPCUG members and only \$10 for non-members. To place an ad in Trading Post contact Rick Mattingly at 970-613-8968 or e-mail to [rmatt\(at\)mesanetworks.net](mailto:rmatt(at)mesanetworks.net).

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Full Page (8.5" x 11")*	\$50.00
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Quarter Page (4.25" x 5.5")*	\$20.00
Business Card (2" x 3.5")	\$10.00

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*Allow for 0.5 inch margins

SEND YOUR USED COMPUTER BACK TO WORK

Send it back to work helping people gain valuable employment skills.



There are not many jobs available in today’s business environment that do not require some level of computer knowledge. In many cases, basic computer skills are required just to apply for a job.

Low income individuals often do not have access to appropriate technology. The Educational Skills Institute is a registered 501 (C) non-profit organization that offers affordable computer job training.

Please consider donating your old Pentium III or IV level (or higher) computer, with a USB port and a functioning monitor. All data is removed from the hard drive of every computer.

Contributions are tax deductible

Educational Skills Institute is located at 123 N. College Ave., Suite 200, Fort Collins, CO 80524. 970-420-9023. esi@esicolo.org, www.esicolo.org.

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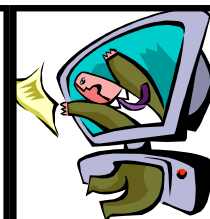
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