



# SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

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August 2006

## Windows 98 support

Microsoft has stopped supporting Windows 98 and Windows Me. What can we as users do if we don't want to or can't upgrade to a newer OS or buy a new computer? We will have to continue to use 98/Me, but we'll have to be more careful since they won't be as safe as a newer OS.

Win 98 downloads and patches are still available at [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com), but nothing new will be added. Future threats or attacks by the bad guys will not be answered with new updates or patches.

The most significant problem a Win 98/Me user faces is with Internet Explorer. New security problems for IE appear frequently. One vulnerability exists now that Microsoft says cannot be fixed. An alternative is to switch to the Firefox browser available free at [www.mozilla.com/firefox/](http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/). IE can't be removed; just don't use it.

Zone Alarm is also ending its support of Windows 98 and Me. Kim Komando recommends replacing it with Outpost, available free from [www.agnitum.com](http://www.agnitum.com).

Free spyware programs like AdAware and SpyBot will (See Support on page 2)

### NEXT MEETING

Saturday, August 12, 2006

Arnold R. Burton Tech Center  
Room 105  
1760 Roanoke Boulevard  
Salem, Virginia 24153

9:15 a.m. until noon

Topic: To be announced

## Upgrade Win 98 to XP?

The bottom line is that upgrading to XP is not a good idea. You'll have a lot of money in a slow machine with old parts that are subject to failure. You'd be better off putting that money into a new PC. Even the low-cost new PCs will come with XP and will probably have more power than your old 98 machine.

You might be able to install Windows XP on your old computer, assuming your microprocessor meets Microsoft's recommended requirements for XP: Pentium 300 MHz processor, 128 MB of RAM, at least 1.5 GB free space available on the hard disk, a CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive, a video card and monitor with 800 X 600 resolution, a sound card, and speakers or headphones.

However Kim Komando has frequently said that 98 to XP software upgrades don't work well. She says to use a full install, not an upgrade. This means you will need to reformat your hard drive and reinstall all your files and programs. (See Upgrade? on page 2)

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### Help your newsletter

You are invited to share favorite websites, reviews of software or just general computer experiences. Send your article or notes to [editor@rvpcc.org](mailto:editor@rvpcc.org).

## Secretary's Report

Saturday, July 8, 2006

The July meeting of the RVPCC was opened by Azella Tingler, Treasurer at 9:15 a.m. She welcomed all members.

### OFFICERS REPORTS:

**Secretary**, Margaret Ann Hoag stated that the minutes of the last meeting were published in the newsletter. Jim Ruble moved that we accept the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and the motion passed. **Treasurer**, Azella Tingler reported that she had collected a few dues.

**Roanoke County Schools** - Homer Duff said that the Adult Classes have stopped during the summer. New classes will start the 2nd or 3rd. week of September. Homer again asked us to promote the Roanoke County School's Adult Classes. Public Relations, John Yeatts announced that they still need ideas for programs.

**Newsletter** - Sandy Johnson said that the newsletter was on the web this past Monday morning with the last line missing.

### DOOR PRIZES:

1. Phyllis Morris - Paper
2. Candy Springer - Paper Mouse Pad
3. Jack Morris - DVD'S
4. Connie Kirk - Paper Mouse Pad
5. Margaret Ann Hoag - Candy
6. Homer Duff - Floppies

### PROGRAM:

Homer Duff led the club in a "Hands On" lesson in Word and Word Pad.

Every one learned a lot and was well pleased with this kind of program.

Homer is an excellent teacher!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Margaret Ann Hoag  
Secretary

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Meeting space provided  
by Roanoke County  
Schools

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We Meet the 2nd  
Saturday of the Month

Next Meeting  
Sat., August 12

**Place:** Arnold R. Burton  
Technology Center, Room  
105, 1760 Roanoke  
Boulevard, Salem, Va. 24153

**Time:** 9:15 a.m. - noon

*This newsletter is  
published by the RVPCC.*

### Support (continued from page 1)

continue to run on the old Windows. Run both programs and be sure

to update them frequently. The free anti-virus program AVG will also continue to run on Win 98/Me. Be sure to update this program frequently also.

Several writers have recommended installing a HOSTS file. Go to <http://www.mvps.org/winhelp2002/hosts.htm> to read about this rather complicated subject.

Surf smart. Never open attachments in spam – better yet, delete spam without opening it.

Since there is a chance that the bad guys will develop new attacks on your old system, don't do anything confidential on it. And don't do on-line banking or stock trading on it.

### Upgrade? (continued from pg 1)

So, if your old Win 98 machine runs, and it does what you want, continue to use it, with care. But go new if you want XP.

What if you want Microsoft's soon-to-released Vista? The recommendations are even higher: a 1 GHz 32-bit or 64-bit processor, 1 GB RAM, a graphics card with 128 MB of video RAM, a 50 GB hard drive with 15 GB free space, and a DVD-ROM drive.

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