

Technically Speaking

Storage Solutions

Daman Kapoor

The various types of storage devices available today can overwhelm any normal human being. The memory capacity can range from a few megabytes to hundreds of gigabytes and the size can vary from your thumb to a book. This article will discuss a few storage devices to bring you out of this dilemma of portability, capacity and cost.

USB Flash Drives



If you need to carry data ranging from 128MB to 8GB, you can carry it around on a small USB flash drive. USB flash drives are compact and easy-to-use devices that slip into your pocket. They can hold documents, hundreds of digital photos or hours of MP3s.

These devices are USB 2.0 hi-speed drives. If you need more space, though, these devices get prohibitively expensive. They can range from a modest \$30 for a 512MB drive to \$100 for a 2GB unit.

CD/DVD Burners

A traditional CD-R (Recordable CD) can hold up to 800MB of information. CD media remains the most widely compatible, which is why dedicated CD burners continue to thrive. Basic CD writers average about \$40. However, DVD (Digital Versatile Disc) is a better storage medium. A single-layer DVD (DVD5) has a capacity of 4.38GB, while a single-sided, dual-layer DVD (DVD9) has a capacity of 8.54GB. A DVD5 will store 7 hours of music, has six times the

capacity of a CD-ROM and is the equivalent of 3,300 floppy disks. If that was not enough, researchers have developed HD-DVD discs that store 15GB on one layer or 30GB on dual layers. Meanwhile, Blu-ray discs hold a whopping 25GB on one layer or 50GB on dual layers.

External Hard Drives

You may want to dedicate a hard drive for backing up any important data you have, since you never know when your computer will crash. Purchase a drive with the capacity of about two or three times the size of the data you are backing up. A good rule of thumb is, buy more than you think you need. External hard drives are modestly priced averaging around 60 cents per 1GB.



On the Web!



Fun Links

www.webshots.com

- A cool website where you can download high quality pictures for your desktop or screen saver.

www.hangar1.com

- The website of the movie theater in Maryville. You can quickly see what movies are currently playing at the theater.

www.ebaumsworld.com

- A huge collection of movies, jokes, pictures and games of funny things found on the Internet.

www.howstuffworks.com/

- How does a spider work? If you want to know, this site can tell you.

Printed copies of Technically Speaking are available at the Front Desk

Password Perplexity

By Beyza Aydar

Using your Northwest accounts can be confusing. You have to use different password and username combinations for CatPAWS, eCompanion and web based email. Here are some tips about passwords and usernames for each Northwest account you have. This will make it a lot easier for you to remember the next time.

Your User ID for logging into CatPAWS is your 919 number and your PIN is a 6-digit number. Everybody who has logged into CatPAWS before, changed his/her PIN at first login. CatPAWS contains your personal information; thus, make sure that your PIN is not an easy numerical combination like 123456 or a number easily associated with you such as your social security number. Also, be careful about setting your security question.

Do not set an easy question that most people who know you can answer.

For eCompanion, your User ID is your s2 number and your password is your 919 number by default, if you have not changed it.

To log into web based email, you need to type the same username (s2 number) and password that you use to log into your laptop. Please keep in mind that every time you change your log-in password, you are also changing your email password and every time you are changing your email password, you are also changing your log-in password.

For your safety and privacy, do not forget to log off the above services and computer when you are done using these services and your account.



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Help Desk Hours

M-T	8 am—10 pm
Fri	8 am—5 pm
Sat	11 am—4:45 pm
Sun	1 pm—10 pm

Notebook Support Center Hours

M-F 8 am—4:30 pm

Library Lab Hours

M-T	7:30 am—11:45 pm
Fri	7:30 am—4:45 pm
Sat	11 am—4:45 pm
Sun	1 pm—11:45 pm

Mini Feed

What is the best way to make every college student around the world mad at you? Mess with their Facebook. College students around the world were outraged when Mark Zuckerberg CEO and co-founder of Facebook added Mini Feed to Facebook. The new feature allows users to see instantly whether friends have joined a group, posted a message on someone's wall or put up photos. Students Against Facebook News Feeds, a group protesting the new move, had more than 705,000 members with more than 14,000 wall posts on the group's Facebook home page.

A day after the new addition, Zuckerberg posted a letter on the Facebook homepage explaining the original intent of Mini Feed and ways to change the privacy settings on this new addition. The privacy settings allow students to block entire categories from feeds but still let friends observe changes by visiting their profile page.

Computer Tips



- To display the Save As dialog box, press F12
- To create a new subfolder in the open folder, press ALT-5
- To make letters bold, press Ctrl-B
- To decrease the font size, press Ctrl-Shift-<
- To turn the Japanese Input Method Editor (IME) on a 101 keyboard on or off, press ALT- ~

CATPages, What Next?

By Chris Grandfield

Just when we think we may have CatPAWS sort of figured out, Northwest has to go and add another Cat to the mix of services. CATPages is the updated INFO system that used to store all personal student, staff, faculty and organizational web pages. The new CATPages system makes it way easier to upload a web page than the old INFO system did.

If you want to create a web page, all you have to do is create the page and then upload your files to the correct directory and it is on the web. Then you tell your friends, family and whoever else that may want to access your web page the URL and you are done.


After you have created your student web page, perform the following steps to upload the page to the CATPages system. First thing you need to do is open My Computer and in the address bar type: [\\catpages\root](http://catpages\root). Once you have reached this level, go to the folder that matches the last two numbers of your s2 number. Next go to the folder that matches

your s2 number. In other words, if your s2 number was s213456 then the path you would type would be: [\\catpages\root\S213456](http://catpages\root\S213456). Save your web page files in this folder and your web page will now be on the Internet.

You will need to use some sort of software to create your web-page too. AOL press is pre-loaded on everyone's laptop and can be used to create a web page.



Now that you have uploaded the web page, you want to know how to navigate to it on the web. Using the example of your s2 number being s213456, open your web browser and type in your URL in the following format using the numbers from your s2 number: <http://catpages.nwmissouri.edu/s/56/s213456>.

If you have any questions about CATPages, ask your PERT. 

The New Show and Tell

By Meredith Manning


Many different websites and software programs are available to display your favorite photos. Several different ways to display photos of your favorite parties, road trips and football games are discussed below. The products range from a simple slideshow to an intricate photo movie.

Momento (www.momentodvd.com) is a great site. You can download the software free of charge and then easily upload your digital photos. After you have your photos uploaded, your options are endless. You can use the default settings and let the program do all the work for you. You can also customize each slide to your specifications. You can add captions, titles, slide transitions, templates and much more.

Slideroll (www.slideroll.com) is a slideshow software program that publishes online to websites like Xanga and MySpace. Hence, you can create and edit slide shows from anywhere you have a computer with Internet access. Slideshows are published online so

everyone can see them and post comments about them if you want. It is as easy as 1, 2, 3: upload your photos, save them and then publish them on the web.

Microsoft Photo Story 3 not only allows you to create and edit your own photo show, but also lets you create your own soundtrack to accompany the slideshow. You can email the slideshow to friends or you can watch your slideshow on your TV or on a Windows Mobile-based portable device. To download Microsoft Photo Story 3, go to www.microsoft.com and search for Photo Story 3.

Not all slideshows are free to download, so you have to read the overview of the software before you download any program to your computer. With all the options that are available, a program is out there that will fit your needs for your particular photo display. 

Play Nice- Sharing Printers and Files on the Northwest Network

By Becky Rainford

Sharing files and printers is a fantastic resource that we have available to every campus-owned computer. If you share your personal printer to yourself or friends, you and your friends can print documents from any Northwest computer on campus. You can also share folders and files over the network, which is especially useful for group projects.

To set up your computer to share a folder, first navigate to the folder you would like to share in My Computer. Right-click on the item you are sharing and select Sharing and Security... To share a printer, navigate to the printer by clicking on Start and then Printers and Faxes. Right-click on the printer you are sharing and select Sharing and Security... When the properties dialog box opens, select the sharing tab and then select the option that says Share this (Printer or Folder). Then give your object a name.

Next, you need to set up who can access your printer or folder. Select the Security tab. If there is a line in the list at the top that says 'Everyone', click on 'Everyone' and then click Remove to make sure only the people you select can access your stuff. Sharing a printer or folder to 'Everyone' is a policy vio-

lation. To give someone else permission to use your printer or folder, click Add... In the white box, type in the s2 number of the person you want to share with and select 'Check Names'. Repeat this process for whoever you want to be able to access your printer or folder. Click OK and then set the permissions for each person in the list. Select OK again and your printer or folder is shared!

To access something shared to you over the network from another computer, you must search for it on the network. Right-click on My Network Places on the desktop and select Search for Computers... Type in the name of the computer connected to the printer or folder you need. The name of your university laptop is NW then the five digit number on the sticker on the top of your laptop (ex. NW07507). Press Enter to search for the computer. Double-click on the computer name in the right side of the window. In the next window is the list of printers and folders that are shared on that computer. To install a printer, just double-click on the printer icon. To view the contents of a folder, just double-click on the folder. 🐾

Spybot - Search and Destroy

By Erin Jewell

Millions of computers like yours are infected with spyware. Spyware is a type of software intended to take partial control of a computer's operation without the consent of the user. This enables a third party to take advantage of the user in several different aspects. Pop-ups will start showing up every few minutes, allowing for the delivery of unsolicited information. In addition, theft of personal information could occur.

Spyware is usually downloaded and installed by the user and is often disguised as a file-sharing program. Some examples of well-known spyware programs are Kazaa, WeatherBug, Bearshare and Bonzi Buddy. Sometimes, spyware installs itself on a computer by manipulating security features designed to prevent un-

wanted installations. Self-installed spyware often appears as a pop-up looking like a Windows dialog box asking if the user would like to install new features. Regardless of the "yes" or "no" button pushed, the spyware immediately starts to download and install.

Many products have been released designed to either remove or block spyware. Such examples are AdAware, Spybot and Symantec. Microsoft has released a FREE download available for Windows XP, Windows 2000 and Windows 2003. If you are having problems with spyware, slow performance or possible security threats, you can get this new program by going to the following URL: <http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/sof/default.mspx>. 🐾

Sony delays PlayStation3

PS3 was expected to be on the market this November. In the U.S. and Japan, the PS3 will be on the market at the planned date-mid November 2006. However, Sony postponed the global launch date to March 2007 in Europe and Australia. Bad news is Sony reduced the number of consoles available at launch. Obtaining a PS3 will be as difficult as it was to obtain an Xbox 360 last year.



PERT SPOTLIGHT

Chris Grandfield
South Complex & Douglas

Chris is a senior from Lorimor, Iowa majoring in Management Information Systems with a minor in Computer Science. He grew up on the family farm. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with friends and family, skiing on the snow or water and just about any sport.

Chris was involved in the Bearcat Marching Band and the Ag Club his freshman and sophomore years. He is currently involved with the Association for Computing Machinery.

The past four summers, Chris has worked at Green Valley AEA 14 as a Technology Assistant, where he worked primarily with Macintosh computers and OS X. Therefore, he is knowledgeable with both Mac and PC.

Chris is located on the second floor of Douglas Hall, but is also the PERT for South Complex. Do not hesitate to contact Chris for any questions if he is your PERT.