

# Technically SPEAKING

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## Skype

by Chris Grandfield

You are thinking what in the world is Skype? Skype is a Voice over IP software that can be used to talk to people anywhere in the world. Skype has many features and services that are free to use, which include calling other people using Skype. Calling people via Skype is similar to using the audio feature of an instant messaging program, but Skype's audio quality is similar to that of a standard telephone.

*"SkypeOut currently costs \$14.95 for a full year of unlimited nationwide calls in the United States and Canada."*

Skype also has a video feature which can be used to hold a video conference. However, webcams are not allowed on Northwest's network so you

must be off campus to use this feature. Skype features one to one or group chats with up to nine people. Calls can also be forwarded to other people who have Skype.

Skype offers additional features for a low fee. One feature is SkypeOut, which allows you to make a phone call from your computer to any other telephone land line or cell phone. SkypeOut currently costs \$14.95 for a full year of unlimited nationwide calls in the United States and Canada.

Another feature is what is called SkypeIn, which assigns you a phone number for your computer that anyone can call from any phone. Skype also

offers voicemail. Currently, Skype is offering a deal for a full year of SkypeIn and Skype voicemail for \$38.00.

A few things need to be taken into consideration if you would like to try Skype. You will need to have a microphone and speakers. Sometimes the sound coming out of the speakers can be picked up by the microphone causing an echoing effect. Therefore, place the microphone away from the speakers. However, if you cannot reposition the speakers or microphone, such as on a laptop, a headset is the ideal solution. Before purchasing any of Skype's additional features, try out the free basic services to see if you like Skype and its quality. You can learn more details about Skype at <http://www.skype.com>.

## Computing 2007

Campus computing will be experiencing a couple of changes in the new year.

The first is with the campus email. In order to free up space, messages in the Deleted Items folders older than 10 days will be automatically deleted every Thursday. Also, all email messages in student email accounts that are over 120 days old will be deleted the 3rd week of each new trimester.

The second change is with residence hall printing. All residence hall printers are now located on \\PERI.

Use the following steps to set up a residence hall printer on your computer:

- Right-click on My Network Places
- Click on Search for Computers
- Type PERI in the search field
- Double-click on PERI
- Double-click on the appropriate printer

If you are still using the residence hall printer you installed during a previous trimester, you will need to uninstall it and install the current printer by March 9.

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Sat	11 am-4:45 pm
Sun	1 pm-11:45 pm

**Questions?**  
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If you have watched the news at all over the past couple months, you have heard about the release of the newest gaming console from Sony. The newest version of the Playstation, called the PS3, is on the cutting edge of gaming technology. The PS3 was released at \$499 for the 20GB version and \$599 for the 40GB version making this not only a serious decision for most consumers but also the highest price for any console.

The PS3 allows players to connect to other players via the Internet. The PS3 also has a Blu-ray disc player that al-

lows users to play games as well as high-definition movies. The console allows you to upload photos, videos and music directly using the PS3's Internet connectivity. The best benefit to investing in a new PS3 is that it is compatible with not only PS2 games, but also PS1 games. This is good news to all you Madden fans!

The greatest improvement on the newest Playstation is the graphics. The new graphics make you feel like you are really in the game. If you go to [www.sony.com](http://www.sony.com), you can see screenshots of the newest and upcoming games. Some of the recently released games are GripShift, Blazing Angels and Full Auto 2: Battlelines. Other upcom-

ing games include Sonic the Hedgehog, Virtua Fighter 5 and MotorStorm.

With so many game consoles available, choosing the best gaming console can be difficult, but many fans of various consoles state that the decision depends on what games you want to play. So before you buy any gaming console, do your research.

The greatest benefit to the PS3 is the lack of an epidemic of players throwing their controllers through their TV screens, unlike another recently released console. For more information on the PS3 consoles, games and gaming news go to [www.sony.com](http://www.sony.com).

## Nintendo Wii is Here to Stay by Daman Kapoor

The Nintendo Wii was released in the last quarter of 2006 just in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let's take a look at the product and analyze whether it supports your gaming needs.

The Wii is priced at a modest \$250 compared to the high priced Sony PS3 and comes with Wii Sports (a compilation of games including tennis, golf, bowling, baseball and boxing), one Wii Remote and one Nunchuk controller.

The amazing thing about this gaming system that sets it apart from the others and revolutionizes the gaming industry is its motion-sensing technology that follows the gamers' actions and emulates them in the game. If you are playing the Wii sports boxing game, the remote sensor of the system will actually emulate the right-hand uppercut you just delivered standing in your dorm room.

Nintendo's titles are selling for \$50 and the console is also fully backwards-compatible with all GameCube discs and controllers. Moreover, the system's "Virtual Console" allows users to download a plethora of classic titles from

past Nintendo consoles, as well as games originally released for the Sega Genesis and NEC TurboGRAFX including Donkey Kong, Super Mario World and Super Mario 64.

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*"The Wii is priced at a modest \$250 compared to the high priced Sony PS3 and comes with Wii Sports"*

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The Wii system supports wireless connectivity with the Nintendo DS. The connectivity allows the player to use functions like the Nintendo DS microphone and touch screen as inputs for Wii games. The Wii also has Web-surfing, photo-viewing and multiplayer Wi-fi gaming capabilities.

The Wii does have a couple of drawbacks. The graphics are not competitive with other new consoles, but you get what you pay for. Also, the game system does not have the capability to play music CDs or DVDs, which is rarely a reason to buy video game consoles.



**PERT SPOTLIGHT**  
**Daman Kapoor**

Daman is a sophomore who is originally from New Delhi, India. He is majoring in Interactive Digital Media - Computer Science Programming with a Database minor.

Daman likes to use the scarce leisure time he gets to workout at the Fitness Center, play racquetball, read, play pool, listen to music and watch movies. He likes to spend his vacations in California and loves the perfect weather and beautiful beaches it has to offer. Daman is a gadget freak and loves what technology has to offer. He is obsessed with music and enjoys remixing, singing and playing the Piano.

In the future, Daman wants to pursue his Masters degree at USC. His dream is to work with a big Hollywood studio.



# Computer Tips

## 4 Tips You Should Know

**1** Back up any important files that you need. If something happens to your computer, having important files saved can save you lots of time, energy and stress.

**2** Hold down the Alt key, then press the Tab key repeatedly to scroll through open windows.

**3** Not enough USB ports on your laptop? Get a USB hub for about \$15 so all your USB devices can be plugged in at the same time.

**4** CD-R discs can only be saved to once, while the files on a CD-RW can be resaved, added to or deleted.

## Fun Links

### Del.icio.us

Keep all your bookmarks in one place and see what others have saved.

### Craftster.org

Online crafting forum with over 84,000 members sharing their projects.

### Bungie.net

Bungie is the developer of Halo for Xbox. Enjoy weekly updates, Bungie store and Xbox live stats.

## YouTube

by Beyza Aydar

Three employees of PayPal established YouTube in February 2005 allowing users to upload, view and share video clips for free. Since then, millions of people have submitted their video clips to this website making YouTube one of the most popular websites. YouTube was named "Invention of the Year 2006" by Time magazine. In October 2006, Google, Inc. purchased YouTube for \$1.65 billion.

Most people are already familiar with this free video sharing website. The video sharing includes music videos, videoblogging, movies and TV clips. YouTube gave a new direction to entertainment by allowing anyone to make a video at home and broadcast it on the Internet.

You can easily broadcast yourself and your talents by submitting videos in several common file formats like .mpeg and .avi, which are automatically converted to Flash Video by YouTube in order to make them available for online viewing.



YouTube has ignited some controversy in the media. Some users upload copyrighted material to the website and share it with millions illegally, including music videos. In order to avoid copy infringement and possible lawsuits, You-

Tube takes down the videos, photos, music, etc. that are known to violate copyright laws when they are noticed. To file a copyright infringement report, send YouTube a written letter following the steps detailed at [www.youtube.com/t/dmca\\_policy](http://www.youtube.com/t/dmca_policy).

The site's Video Toolbox page also helps users make better videos. You can get useful tips from the professionals if you take a look at this link: [www.youtube.com/t/video\\_toolbox](http://www.youtube.com/t/video_toolbox).

Today, YouTube continues to be one of the most popular websites. If you have not seen it yet, go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and check out the funny videos.

## Selling Trash for Cash

by Erin Jewell

So the holidays are finished and you are sitting in your room not able to see the floor and thinking, "When did I get so much junk?" However, there is good news regarding your cramped room. Your room full of junk might just make you a few extra dollars!

eBay, an online auction service, offers many college students a light at the end of their ever diminishing tunnel. Since 1995, millions of Internet users throughout the world have utilized this revolutionary site to sell items or search for cheap prices. All that is required to participate in auctions is a username and password. From there, the opportunities are limitless.

Most college students have one thing in common: the desire to make each dollar go as far as possible. eBay helps make this a reality by auctioning off items such as textbooks and other

school supplies at very low costs. A brand new, unused textbook needed for psychology class or an atom molecule kit for chemistry can feasibly be purchased for 10% of the normal price. How can these prices be beat? Why are many students still not taking advantage of the low prices?

In addition to everyday items posted on eBay for sellers to snatch up, many unique items are auctioned off every day. People will do almost anything to make an extra dollar, which is made evident by a woman who sold the rights to her forehead to a casino to be used for publicity.

As part of your New Year's resolution, try to add clearing up your floor space so you can have extra spending cash for 2007!