

Technically Speaking

Dude, You Have to Take a Picture of Me Doing This!

By Allen Lode

Cameras that use film are losing popularity almost at the rate of VCRs. Digital cameras are more convenient for accurate shots, ease of sharing and economical printing. To make sure that you do not get caught using the technology of the past, this article will give you some tips to find the right digital camera for your needs.

Pixels Digital cameras use the term megapixels to represent the quality of the images the camera will produce. A 2.0 megapixel camera will have lower quality images than a 5.0 megapixel camera in an 8x10" photo, but will not have a noticeable difference in a 4x6" picture

On the Web!



Fun Links

www.gameinformer.com

- A game magazine site providing information about upcoming games, reviews and more. You can also find information on future video games.

www.mxtabs.net

- For the guitar players out there, this is a good site for finding guitar tabs of any band you could possibly want.

www.mtv.com

- MTV's website for music news and videos.

www.iam8bit.net

- An art website that takes ideas from old videogames and converts them into awesome artwork.

www.reference.com

- An online dictionary, thesaurus and encyclopedia.

sent via email. Generally, 4 megapixels and above are adequate for everyday pictures.

Zoom The zoom feature of digital cameras is listed in terms of both optical and digital. Focus on the number listed for the optical zoom. The digital zoom most often comes out blurry or unfocused. For clearer zoomed pictures choose the camera with the highest optical zoom rather than the highest total zoom (optical + digital).

Memory Additional memory for digital cameras commonly comes in the form of small cards or flash sticks. Unless you have other digital devices (MP3 player, PDA, etc.) that use a particular type of memory, buy the memory based on the camera, not the other way around.

Printing The one drawback to digital cameras is the lack of a

hard copy of the photo. You can get photo printers that print for minimal cost, but you would need to print many photos to get the full value. Also, Walgreens and Wal-Mart both allow you to upload your digital pictures and print them at the store for less than 20¢ per 4x6 print. Using digital pictures, you only pay for the pictures and quantity you want.

Other The dimensions of the camera, size of the display screen, software, various other capabilities and name brand may all be factors worth considering. However, be sure to get the camera that will fit your needs. An 8+ megapixel camera is for professionals, not the casual picture of a friend wearing someone else's underwear on his head. Happy shopping! 🐾

Bloggerific

By Becky Rainford

Blogs have been in the news spotlight lately, especially with the recent stories from survivors of hurricane Katrina. Blogs have enabled anyone to become, what the media has coined, a citizen journalist. Blogs are basically a website that you can update everyday with your thoughts, what happened with that guy last night or link to the hottest new website you found.

Many websites offer easy to use blogging software for free to allow you to be the ultimate blogger. Another great feature most sites offer is the ability to subscribe to other people's blogs and receive emails when their site is updated. Most also offer a small amount of image storage so

you can post pictures on your site without using an outside service. Some popular blog providers include www.xanga.com, www.blogger.com and www.livejournal.com.

When blogging in your online journal, remember most blogs are public and anyone can read what you type, even your mom or employer. Be cautious about including phone numbers, addresses or even your last name. By using your last name and your attendance at Northwest, a scam artist can get one step closer to identity theft by finding your address and phone number. Just remember, if you wouldn't want someone to see something you write then do not type it. 🐾

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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

www.iam8bit.net

Do you like videogames and art? If so, the "iam8bit" website will be perfect for you. This site features art inspired by the vast array of videogames created over the years. The picture shown here is an artist's interpretation of the classic Nintendo game Excite-bike. You will find many other artistic interpretations of older games such as Pac-Man, Galaxy and much more. The site can be found at www.iam8bit.net.



Computer Lingo



Terms you should know

JPEG - The term stands for "Joint Photographic Experts Group." A JPEG is a compressed image file format. JPEG images are the most common images found on the Web. JPEG images, unlike GIF images, are not limited to a certain amount of color. Therefore, the JPEG format is best for photographic images.

Computer Tips



- If you are in the middle of a paper and you need to save your changes, just hit **Ctrl + S**.
- If you have multiple windows open on your computer, you can switch between them by pressing **Alt + Tab**.

P2P File Sharing

Created by Satan to Steal Money From College Kids

By Daman Kapoor

So who likes listening to music? Well, everyone does! But, how many of those who listen to music also have illegal music on their computer? A lot of people. Not all music available on the Internet is legal for downloading regardless of popular opinion otherwise. Most songs available online free of charge are illegal and in violation of copyright law. Believe it or not, people downloading these songs are guilty of copyright infringement and some college students have been fined up to \$150,000 per song by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). Yes, peer to peer (P2P) file sharing is created by Satan to steal money from college kids. Kazaa, LimeWire, Morpheus, Gnutella, iMesh, WinMX, and G2 are among some popular peer to peer file sharing programs used to download music or other media files. As if these programs were not causing enough

nuisance, a Java based program called ourTunes has been developed which enables people to browse and download from other people's iTunes music shares within their local network and without their consent. Even though the developers argue it's not a file sharing program, ourTunes is extremely guilty of encouraging copyright infringement.

All copyrighted music, videos and other electronic data available through these programs or other websites on the Internet are illegal and in violation of copyright law. These programs cause problems with the Northwest network and are prohibited from use on campus. iTunes (not ourTunes), the new Napster, WalMart.com and Real Music Store are examples of services that offer legal downloadable music for a small fee. So let's kill Satan and stay away from copyright infringement by downloading music through legal means. 🐾

Firewall Protection

How and Why They Are in Use on the Northwest Network

By Erin Jewell

Many have complained since returning to Northwest this year about not being able to access favorite gaming sites online. This all too familiar message pops up on screen: Unable to connect to server. One of four things caused this: 1) You are behind a firewall. 2) You are not connected to the Internet. 3) The games server is down. 4) You have a stale page in your cache. More than likely this inconvenience is caused by a firewall, which has been put in place by Northwest's Information Systems to protect the Northwest network from harmful viruses, spyware and other outside threats such as hackers.

The firewall should not be considered an inconvenience, but rather as a shield protecting Northwest computers and users from potential dangers found on the Internet. The firewall filters all incoming information and does not allow traffic through that has been determined to be a possible threat to the network.

Firewalls actually protect against a number of things. First of all, they prevent remote login and access to your computer from outside the campus. Another way firewalls are beneficial is by blocking some mail bombs, spam

and certain viruses from the entering the campus network. Probably the most advantageous reason for using firewall protection is that it restricts unauthorized access to computers on the internal network. (i.e. The firewall helps keep the hackers out of the network and off the servers to protect your private, confidential information.)

If you would like to play an Internet game or access a website that has been blocked by the firewall, you may fill out a Firewall Ports Resident Request Form to request that the appropriate ports on the firewall be opened. The form is available from your PERT or from the following address <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/COMPSEV/CLIENTCOMPUTING/ClientComputingSupport.htm> under Firewall Port Requests. In order for the request to be valid and considered, you must fill out the form CORRECTLY and completely. Return the form to your PERT or to the Client Computing Office on the first floor of the library. Port requests will be considered and granted or denied on an individual basis by the Northwest Information Systems Network Administrators. Happy gaming!! 🐾

Have You Tamed The Cat Lately?

By Chris Grandfield

Have any of you ever gotten frustrated with CatPAWS? Many of us have been upset and frustrated with CatPAWS. Therefore, let us take a walk with the Cat.


The first step you will need to do is log into the CatPAWS system. Most of you should have logged into CatPAWS at least once by now, but in case you haven't, your ID number will be your 919# and your PIN for the first login will be your birthday in the format MMDDYY or the last 6 digits of your 919#. If you are returning to CatPAWS, you will need to use the PIN you previously created. If you are unsure of your PIN or you have locked yourself out of CatPAWS, go to the Client Computing Office on the first floor of the library with your photo ID to have your PIN reset for you.

Now let us examine the different features of the Cat. CatPAWS is where you will register for classes, which is the primary feature of the Cat that is used by most students. However, the Cat offers many other services beyond

registering for classes. The Cat allows you to both check your bill and pay it online. Note, if you give your CatPAWS login information to your parents, they can go online and pay your bill for you.

Beyond keeping track of your enrollment in classes, the Cat also keeps track of your mid-term and final grades (i.e. your transcript). This is the only place that your grades will be distributed so you will need to know how to interact with the Cat. Note, if your parents have your CatPAWS login information, they can also see your entire transcript including any undesirable grades you have earned.

Another nice feature is your daily class schedule is visible on CatPAWS for the whole trimester. You can also update your personal information, such as address and phone number, via CatPAWS.

As you can see, many valuable services are offered through CatPAWS. Thank you for taking a walk with the Cat. 

Routers, Switches and Hubs Oh My! By Taft Burnes


In the Northwest Computer User's Guide under Network Stability, equipment that is prohibited from use on the Northwest network is listed. One of the equipment types not allowed is a network router and/or a cable/DSL router. This article will explain the difference between a router, switch and hub and why routers cannot be used to connect to the Northwest network.

Router - Computers send information over a network in what is called a packet. This information is sent over the network to another computer. A router receives the information and looks at what computer needs the information. The router then creates what is called a routing table, which includes the computer's address and the port number used to send information. After the routing table is created, routers use the table to decide where information should be sent. The router also issues

network or Internet addresses to connect multiple devices together.

Switch - A switch is a device that connects parts of a network together without issuing addresses. A switch is often referred to as an intelligent hub, because switches create a table similar to a routing table created by routers.

Hub - A hub receives information from the network and then forwards it on to all other computers or devices that are connected to the hub. A hub does not give out addresses nor does it create a routing table.

Northwest does not allow routers to be used on the network because they could cause portions of the network to become unavailable. Switches and hubs are allowed on the network and can be purchased at the Bearcat Bookstore. 

Facebook Ethics

Have you ever thought about Facebook posing a danger to you? People are giving out personal information like their cell phone numbers without thinking about the danger. Yes, the Internet has been used for stalking time and again and we need to be proactive in ensuring our personal safety. If you really want to share your cell phone number with someone, make sure it is visible only to them. You can enable this setting by going into Contact Info [edit]. If you want to tell people about the classes you are enrolled in, do not give out your section number. Do not post images that violate copyright or other laws. Use only images you have created and do not contain pictures of others.

PERT SPOTLIGHT

Chris Grandfield
Phillips Hall PERT

Chris is a Junior from Lorimor, Iowa majoring in Management Information Systems with a minor in Computer Science. He grew up on the family farm where they raise cattle, corn and soybeans. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with friends and family, skiing on snow or water and most sports. He was involved in the Bearcat Marching Band and the Ag Club his freshman and sophomore years. Chris is currently involved with the Association for Computing Machinery. The past three summers, Chris worked at Green Valley AEA 14 as a Technology assistant, where he worked primarily with Macintosh computers and OSX. He is located on the fourth floor of Phillips Hall. Feel free to seek him out for assistance with your questions.



Preview for Next Month...

Don't miss next month's edition to learn about different wireless technology.

Technically Speaking is a monthly PERT Newsletter for residents in Dieterich, Millikan, Franken, Phillips, Tower Suites, Douglas and South Complex.

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