

Computer Observer

August 2007

Preferred Copy \$1.95 (FREE)

Ink You Can Afford

by Adam J. Richter M.S.

Inkjet printers have a way of running out of ink at the worst times. I have a printer that literally eats ink. Sometimes I wonder if there is a leak in the printer. I know there isn't a leak but it sure seems like it sometimes.

I've been doing a little searching to find really good prices for ink cartridges. I've had a lot of recommendations and I've even tried ordering ink from a lot of the recommended places. Some ship too slow, some of the prices are not really that good, and some vendors just make it so complicated to even find the ink I need.

After a lot of searching and I finally found a place worth ordering from. The ink I normally buy for around \$22.95 per cartridge from Staples is only \$4.25 brand new. I have ordered a few batches of ink from them and their service is great. The company is based out of California so the shipping is as fast as it can be considering its coming from the other coast.

I've put a link up on the Computer Pros webpage where you can get even better savings than usual from the company I found. Once you go to www.computerpros.cc click the link on the right side that says "SAVE NOW on Quality Inkjet..."

Is Verizon Digging up Your Yard

by Adam J. Richter M.S.

If it hasn't happened yet, it probably will soon. Verizon has been working hard to expand its new Fiber Optic technology. What this means to you is, faster internet, unlimited long distance phone, and direct digital TV.

Right now, Verizon is building the foundation for its network by digging up yards across the country to put in the neon orange fiber optic cable. A lot of Sarasota and Manatee county already has fiber optic services available and the area is spreading every day.

I was fortunate enough to be one of the original testers of fiber optic internet when it was originally introduced for testing in parts of Tampa, FL. It is undoubtedly the fastest internet I have ever used. The price is about the same as Cable internet, but the speed is about two to three times faster.

In addition to internet, Verizon is now offering phone and digital cable in some of the installed areas. If the Verizon Fiber optic service is not available in your area, it probably will be soon. For additional pricing or to see if it is available in your area go to www.verizon.com/fios.

Ann's Tips for August By Ann Dodderidge

Do you have only one email account? I think you need another one.

I am recommending Hotmail and/or Gmail. These are both free and will keep lots of information up on the Internet instead of on your hard drive. For instance, if you have a folder of pictures that are taking up lots of space on your hard drive, send them to one of your new emails and they will stay there until you need them. It treats your storage space like an Internet-connected hard drive. This would be a good place to store music, which takes up lots of room. When you are away from home, you can access these accounts anywhere in the U.S. and on any computer. I use my Outlook Express for personal mail at home, and these others for newsletters or other things I sign up for on the Internet.

We Fix Computers

Computer Pros is a full service computer repair and tutoring store located in South Sarasota. Computer Pros services the following areas: North Port, Rotunda, Englewood, Venice, Osprey, Nokomis, Sarasota, Myakka City, Bradenton, Palmetto, Ellenton and more.

Call today to get your computer question answered.
Sarasota/Venice (941) 918-0300
Manatee (941) 756-5300
<http://www.computerpros.cc>

GoToMyPC

GoToMyPC is a program that allows you to connect to your computer from anywhere (remote connection). You just install a small program on the computer you want to access remotely and can connect to it through the internet from any computer with an internet connection. This one isn't free but it works great.

This program is especially useful for people who need to access their work files.

<http://www.gotomypc.com>

Apple Computers, Should you get One? By Adam J. Richter M.S.

I've had a lot of people ask me about Apple (Macintosh) computers lately so I thought I should provide a summary about Apple computers for you. If you are thinking about buying an Apple computer for yourself or someone else, here are a couple of things you should consider:

Will you be using the Apple OSX (Operating System) for the first time? Converting from a Windows computer to a Macintosh computer can be somewhat complicated. They operate a lot different than Windows Computers and despite Apples known ease of use, there will still be a lot of learning necessary to do some of the simple things you may currently take for granted.

Do you have important hardware or software that you need to use? If you have preexisting hardware or software, you will want to check to make sure that it is compatible with Macintosh. Otherwise, you may need to repurchase programs or hardware that could add additional \$\$\$ to your purchase.

On average, Apple computers cost more than Windows computers because they are not as much competition from hardware manufacturers. Apple MacBook's start at \$1099, and Windows laptops start at around \$499+.

Apple computers are becoming more popular but they are far from the standard right now, in the near future we will see more Apple computers, but just be sure to consider the above facts before shopping.

Advertising

Advertising in the Computer Observer is simple.

Market: Approximately 1000 confirmed addresses

Locations: All of Sarasota and Manatee County

1/3 page is \$220/month

1/6 page is \$120/month

Contact Adam for more information
(941) 918-0300 or adam@computerpros.cc



How To Fix Your Computer

Printers by Adam J. Richter M.S.

Types of Printers

There are only a couple of different types of printers.

Inkjet

- All-In-One (Copy, Scan, Fax, etc...) also known as AIO
- Photo

Inkjet printers use cartridges filled with ink. Older inkjet printers had two cartridges, one for the black and one combination cartridge with three primary colors in it. If one of the colors were to run out you had to replace the whole color cartridge. In more modern inkjet printers the cartridges are separated. They are less expensive per cartridge and if one color runs out you can simply replace that color instead of having to replace the combination cartridge (which would be more expensive \$\$\$).

Laser

- Black and White (AIO or just print)
- Color (AIO or just print)

Laser printers use cartridges filled with a fine ink powder called toner. These toner cartridges are usually a lot more expensive than the average ink cartridge but they also typically have a higher yield. The average toner cartridge can print around 2000 pages. The average ink cartridge can print approximately 200 pages.

TIP: If you're shopping for a new printer remember to buy the USB cable. New printers do not come with a cable. USB type A to B.

Troubleshooting Your Printer

If your printer is not working check the obvious first. Is the connection firm? Are the ink cartridges installed? Are there any error messages on your printers screen? Are any of the lights flashing on your printer? All of these things are indicators that your printer may have a jam or other problem.

If the above checks are alright you can try the following.

1. Print a test page from the printer, or perform a copy (Doesn't use the computer) to make sure the hardware in the printer is working.
2. Go to 'Control Panel' and 'Printers and Faxes' and make sure your printer isn't offline, also check to make sure that there aren't any error print jobs in the print queue. If you have other printers installed, make sure your printer is the default printer. It should have a black check mark in the top right corner. If it isn't you can right click it and click 'set as default.'
3. If all else fails, Uninstall and Reinstall your printer. Go to 'Control Panel' and double click 'Add/Remove Programs', then find the printer software and uninstall it. If you have a highspeed connection, go to the printer manufacturers' webpage and download the newest drivers. Reinstall the printer using the new drivers.
 - a. HP – www.hp.com
 - b. Lexmark – www.lexmark.com
 - c. Epson – www.epson.com
 - d. Brother – www.brother.com

If the printer is still having problems it may have broken hardware and need repair. Keep in mind that it is usually less expensive to purchase a new printer than it is to get an inkjet printer repaired.

Here are a few easy ways to save your ink.

- Change the print quality. The printer defaults to a normal quality which uses significantly more ink than the draft quality. Draft quality will be a lower quality printing and will be slightly lighter but it only uses half the ink. To print in draft quality, just print as you normally would. But when the Printer selection box comes up, click the 'Properties' button and look for the settings for print quality. Note: You can also increase the quality for photo printing for sharper photo printing.
- Highlight the text you want to print and after clicking print you will want to select the bubble next to 'Selection', this will only print the highlighted text.
- Print in grayscale, if you have a page with a lot of pictures you can print it in black and white to save your color ink. Just click the printer properties and look for grayscale.



The Venice Area Computer Users Group

The Next Meeting is Monday August 6th 2007 at 4:00 p.m. Venice Library
www.thevacug.com

The VACUG is a non-profit organization designed to help its users become more adept in using computers. This is accomplished through classes, Q&A sessions, and through the networking of members.

Presentation meetings are held the first Monday of each month. Family, guests, and the general public are welcome. Meetings feature industry leaders such as Adobe, Corel, Microsoft, Quicken, and local experts demonstrating the latest software and hardware on the market.

One year membership is \$35.00.

Invite a guest to the next meeting FREE. Non-members may join at the meeting or may print and bring an application from www.thevacug.com

Meeting Schedule

- 4:00-4:05 PM.....Sign-in
- 4:00-4:45 PM.....Forum
- 4:45-5:00 PM.....Break
- 5:00-6:00 PM.....Guest Lecture & Class
Computer Pros
- 6:00-6:15 PM.....Prizes and Raffles

Meeting Location

Venice Public Library (in the auditorium)
300 Nokomis Ave S
Venice, FL 34285



COMPUTERPros
8392 S. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34238

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