

# Computer Observer

December 2007

Preferred Copy \$1.95 (FREE)

## Download Free Software

by Adam J. Richter M.S.

There are a lot of people that write reviews about all of the newest and coolest software. Instead of going into excruciating detail about some of the new software available, I decided to tell you the best places to download the newest software.

Download.com is the premier source of any new or old program you might want. You can go to [download.com](http://download.com) and search for they type of program you desire and download it with a single click.

Some of the great features of [download.com](http://download.com) are the reviews and ranking of software. Before you download, you can easily tell if the files have been downloaded by a lot of other internet users. The more often it is downloaded, the more likely it is to be good software.

Another website with a lot of free software downloads is [softpedia.com](http://softpedia.com). This site is very similar to [download.com](http://download.com) except it is organized slightly different.

If you like to experimenter with new software keep an eye on the Top 10 downloads.

One thing to watch out for when downloading free software is ad-supported software. Some software comes with spyware included. Companies include spyware so they can give away the software for free. You do not want any software that includes spyware.

Another thing to watch out for is whether the software is trialware or genuinely free. Some of the software on [download.com](http://download.com) and [softpedia.com](http://softpedia.com) is trialware. You will be able to use the software for certain number of days and then it will no longer work unless you purchase it.

Happy Downloading.

## Ann's Tips for December 2007

by Ann Dodderidge

People are always asking me about how to use different software programs and my answer is to take lessons on the Internet and also use the classes on Adams' website. That address is this newsletter but I will tell you one more time.

[www.computerpros.cc](http://www.computerpros.cc)

Once you are on the Computer Pros website go to the 'Articles' section and download as many files as you would like.

For the other classes here are some websites to take a look at:

[pendaflexonlineclasses](http://pendaflexonlineclasses.com), CNet classes, [znet.com](http://znet.com) classes.

If you have a specific need the best thing to do is go to google and type in free tutorial for \_\_\_\_\_ (your need -- i.e. Word or Access). I just tested this and I asked for "free classes on the Internet". It was 10 pages of classes and even included a number of language courses such as German, Italian and Japanese.

The Internet is truly amazing. There is a lot of great information available for free if you know how to search for it.

Don't be afraid to experiment. Try different searches and take a look at some of the websites you find. If you don't have luck with Google...try some of the following search engines.

[www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)

[www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com)

[www.dogpile.com](http://www.dogpile.com)

[www.search.com](http://www.search.com)

## 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>

## What Can Computer Pros Do For You...

Computer Pros will be Open Monday thru Saturday throughout the entire Holiday Season excluding Christmas Day. Take advantage of our extended hours to get your new computers hooked up, your new hardware installed, and your old computers fixed.

We will be open and ready to help you with anything you need. As always, if you have any questions on what hardware to buy give us a call, we are always here to help.

## You Can Still Buy A New Computer With Windows XP

By Adam J. Richter M.S.

Not ready to use Vista yet? You can still buy a new computer with Windows XP. Dell is offering a few models that can be ordered with Windows XP.

For those of you that have compatibility issues with Vista and software that only works on XP you may want to consider getting a Dell with Windows XP.

If you go to one of the big box stores, the computer will certainly come with Windows Vista; but if you give Dell a call to order your computer, you can get it with Windows XP Home or Professional. Sometimes there is a slight additional charge if you want Windows XP Professional, but if you need it, it's a small price to pay.

Here is the number to call if you are ready to buy a Dell 1-877-886-3355. Just make sure to avoid all of the upsells. Dell will try to sell you a lot of additional items including extended warranties. These types of things can add a substantial amount of money to the final price of your computer.

## Advertising

Would you like to reach over 1200 people in Sarasota and Manatee County? Start advertising in the Computer Observer today. Choose from either of the following two marketing ad sizes.

1/3 page is \$220/month (banner ad)  
1/6 page is \$120/month (seen to the right)

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



# The Future of Backup

by Adam J. Richter M.S.

The future of backup is the internet.

The internet is a powerful tool that connects millions of computers together. This connectivity is being leveraged to create remote backups in secure locations. Services are being created that allow backups to data warehouses. These secure storage facilities are backed up, secure, and reliable.

## MediaMax/Streamload

MediaMax, powered by Streamload, gives you a private and secure place to upload, store, access, and share your personal videos, photos, movies, music, and files.

MediaMax allows you to upload your files to your MediaMax account. Upload is unlimited, you can store as much data as you would like and you only pay for the amount that you download.

Some of the other benefits of MediaMax are the ability to send links to files using the MediaMax e-mail system. There is no limit to the size of file you can e-mail. You can e-mail your entire pictures folder if you want.

There are different download packages available depending on how frequently you need to download your data. There is a free package that allows you to store 25 GB, and you can download 100 MB.

## BeInSync

BeInSync enables you to seamlessly and securely access and use your latest data anytime, anywhere - at the office, from home or on the go. Using innovative Secure Peer-to-Peer Technology that automatically keeps your files and folders in sync and backed up across multiple computers (home PC, office PC, laptop), BeInSync ensures that wherever you go, your data will follow.

BeInSync extends data synchronization to allow you to securely share any amount of data with colleagues, partners, customers and friends. Simply invite one or more people to a shared folder. An email message will

be sent with a link to that shared folder which resides on your own computer. The invitees will be able to view it from any Web browser instantly and securely, or they may install BeInSync as well and keep the shared files in sync automatically on their computer. This way you can work simultaneously on this shared folder with the same ease as working on your local files.

You need two computers to use BeInSync Both computer need access to the internet, at some point, to be able to sync

\$59.95 USD per year  
\$99.95 USD per two years  
\$149.95 USD forever

As explained in prior notes backing up your computer is very important. Your files are saved on the hard drive of your computer. If that drive were to go bad all of your data could be lost.

A simple backup to CD, External Hard Drive, Thumb Drive, or Internet Backup source could give you the security you need to know that your important files are saved in the event of an emergency.

If you have additional questions about what backup would be best for you or if you'd like help setting up a backup contact Computer Pros.



MediaMax  
[www.mediamax.com](http://www.mediamax.com)



BeInSync  
[www.beinsync.com](http://www.beinsync.com)

IBackup  
[www.ibackup.com](http://www.ibackup.com)

Carbonite  
[www.carbonite.com](http://www.carbonite.com)



# The Venice Area Computer Users Group

The Next Meeting is Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007 at 4:00 p.m. Venice Library  
[www.thevacug.com](http://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](http://www.thevacug.com)

## Meeting Schedule

4:00-4:05 PM.....Sign-in  
 4:00-4:45 PM.....Forum – Computer Pros  
 4:45-5:00 PM.....Break  
 5:00-6:00 PM.....Guest Lecture  
 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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