

# Computer Observer

January 2007

Preferred Customer Copy \$1.95 (FREE)

## Webmail Bangs with Benefits

by Adam J. Richter M.S.

There are two different ways you can get your e-mail.

One, through Outlook Express, Outlook, AOL, Earthlink, etc...If you check your e-mail using any of these programs then you are using an e-mail client. Using an e-mail client is just a fancy way of saying your e-mail is downloaded to your computer.

If your computer were to ever break, you would lose all of your old e-mail messages and contacts. Plus, you also have to be at your computer to check your e-mail.

Two, the best way to get e-mail is through the web. What I mean is, you can check your e-mail by going to the internet instead of your e-mail being downloaded to your computer. Hotmail, Yahoo, and Google all offer webmail. Even AOL, Comcast, Road Runner and Verizon offer webmail now.

If you check your e-mail through the web, you can get to it from any computer that is on the internet. You can check it from your friends' house, or even the library. If your computer goes bad, it doesn't matter...your e-mail will be saved on the mail servers, not your computer.

Webmail is the best way to get your email.

## Backup Blunders Avoided

by Adam J. Richter M.S.

Backing up your files has never been easier and more inexpensive.

Every file on your computer is saved on your hard drive. A hard drive is a single piece of hardware in your computer that can go bad any time.

Because of how often hard drives go bad, people are starting to backup their files more often.

Here are a few ways you can get started backing up your files:

\* Thumb drives or pen drives – these drives are small and inexpensive. They are great for backing up smaller files and documents that change a lot. They are easy to travel with and usually they connect to a USB port.

\* External Hard Drives – external hard drives have become very inexpensive. With an external hard drive you can save a lot of stuff and you can even automate the backups. Just be careful not to install the software that comes with the drive.

\* Web Based Backups – now that highspeed internet is more common, backing up to the internet has become an option. With services like MediaMax, you can backup your files to an internet server.

## The Internet Can Work for You

By Adam J. Richter M.S.

The internet is slammed full of useful websites that will save a lot of your time. Here's a few:

- You don't have to get a newspaper to get movie times, just go to [movies.yahoo.com](http://movies.yahoo.com)
- Need a business phone number? You don't need the yellow pages, just go to [www.superpages.com](http://www.superpages.com)
- Do you like reading the news? [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com) [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) [www.drudgereport.com](http://www.drudgereport.com)
- And...if you ever need to search for something, you absolutely must use [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

There are a lot of interesting websites on almost any subject...got a hobby? Try searching for it.

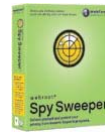
## AVG Update

As some of you might have noticed, AVG has updated to version 7.5

You still do not have to pay for AVG. If you haven't updated already, your old copy of AVG may be displaying a windows when you turn on your computer.

If you have updated to the professional version, no worries, it works great. If you haven't...go to [free.grisoft.com](http://free.grisoft.com) and download the new AVG 7.5 Free Edition.

## Featured Software



I clean spyware off of computers every day, and I've used a ton of different tools to try and remove the stuff. From the free programs like Ad-Aware and Spybot, to the paid for ones.

So far, I've only found one program that actually works. Webroot's Spy Sweeper. This program is around \$40 bucks, but it rips the spyware out of the computer and keeps your computer clean.

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

## Almost Free Computer Classes

There are non-profit computer users groups that meet once a month to teach and talk about computers. The classes range from the basics, to digital photography and more. Most group memberships are around \$30 a year and...The best part is that these groups are nationwide; there is one in almost every county. If you live in Sarasota, visit the Sarasota PC Users Group [www.spcug.org](http://www.spcug.org)...Bradenton, visit the Manatee PC Users Group [www.manateepcug.org](http://www.manateepcug.org)...Venice, the Venice Area Computer Users Group [www.thevacug.com](http://www.thevacug.com).

Right now, Computer Pros is actively volunteering in all of these groups:

- The Venice Area Computer Users Group – Computer Pros Leads the Tech Support Forum and General Meetings
- The Sarasota PC Users Group – Computer Pros Teaches the 'Discovering Your Computer Class'
- The Manatee PC Users Group – Computer Pros Teaches the 'Backup and Burning Class'

Computer Pros believes in giving back to its community through computer education. We make all notes available from the classes we teach available at [www.computerpros.cc/articles.php](http://www.computerpros.cc/articles.php). Feel free to download or print any of the information you are interested in. We hope to see you in one of our classes!

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