

# Computer Observer

June 2008

Preferred Copy (FREE)

## Store files Online iDrive

by Adam J. Richter M.S.

I am constantly looking for new ways to backup files. iDrive is leading the way with a simple to use interface and reliable backup software.

With iDrive you can backup files to the internet from your computer automatically. Here is how you get started.

- 1) Go to [www.idrive.com](http://www.idrive.com)
- 2) Click 'Sign Up Now' under iDrive Basic (free)
- 3) Download the iDrive software
- 4) Setup the days/times you want the software to backup your files
- 5) Pick the files/folders you want to backup
- 6) YOUR DONE

iDrive is very easy to setup, just keep in mind that your limited to 2GB of backups with the free version. This is enough for those majorly important files but probably not enough to backup your entire computer.

The professional version gives you unlimited storage for about \$5/month or \$50/year.

Give the free version a try. I've been experimenting with it for a few days and so far I'm pretty impressed. With iDrive you get the benefit of being able to access your files from anywhere, the safety of encryption, and it even allows synchronization so it will backup every time you update a file.



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

## Ann's Tips for June 2008

by Ann Dodderidge

Are you having trouble keeping track of the photographs on the computer?

Do you keep them in folders with dates?

Try making a folder for the whole year and then breaking it down to the months in the year and putting your pictures into these folders. Add meaningful labels to your pictures such as vacation 2008, or trip to Maine. Here is a possible way to make this easier.

Open the picture file folder and select View>Thumbnails.

Now select all the pictures by clicking the first picture once, hold down the shift key and clicking the last picture once. Right-click the first photo and select Rename from the drop-down menu. Windows XP will highlight the filename for the first photo, enabling you to rename it. Type in the new name, for example, Trip to Maine\_1.jpg and hit Enter.

Windows will apply the name you typed above to all of the pictures you selected.

Picasa is also very helpful at helping you organize and rename your pictures. Picasa has a batch file rename feature that will greatly speed up your organization.

Picasa is free so you may want to download it and give it a try.

<http://picasa.google.com/>

Keeping your pictures organized is very important. With proper organization you will ensure that you do not loose or accidentally delete irreplaceable pictures.

## We Fix Computers

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## Are You A Computer Pro?

If you know a lot about computers send me an e-mail and I'll include your article in the next Computer Observer.

Articles are proofread and edited upon final publication.

Send to Adam  
[adam@computerpros.cc](mailto:adam@computerpros.cc)

## Craigslist

By Adam J. Richter M.S.

If you buy or sell things on the internet you need to stop by [craigslist.org](http://craigslist.org). At first glance it looks like an amateur website, but its content and functionality greatly outweigh its appearance.

The first thing you will want to do once you go to [craigslist.org](http://craigslist.org) is to select your area. Craigslist is broken up into small areas of the United States. As of this writing it is broken up about 300 ways. Our market is 'sarasota-bradenton' <http://sarasota.craigslist.org>

After selecting your market you are free to browse listings in your area. You can look at items people have listed for sale and you can post items for sale. The great thing about craigslist is that it's free. You don't have to pay commissions like EBay and you don't even have to register an account. Although I recommend creating a free craigslist account if you are going to post something for sale.

Another benefit of using craigslist is that you are dealing with sellers in your area. You can call and email them directly. You can even go look at the product before you buy it.

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### Your Child's Secret Life Online by Adam J. Richter M.S.

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"A lot of children accidentally...increase their chances of being stalked by a predator." Pg.30

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# Tech Support Tips

by Adam J. Richter M.S.

## Upgrade to AVG 8.0

AVG 8.0 free edition is now available. If you haven't upgraded already you should. AVG 8.0 offers a lot of new security features to protect you while surfing the web. If you currently have AVG 7.5 you do not need to uninstall it. Downloading and installing AVG 8.0 will automatically upgrade your old AVG.

You can download the new AVG by going to the following website.

<http://free.grisoft.com>

or Temporarily we've put a link on the [www.computerpros.cc](http://www.computerpros.cc) homepage. The link is on the right hand side and is labeled 'DOWNLOAD AVG 8'

## Quick Printer Fixes

Printing problems happen pretty often. If your printer has stopped printing check the following before calling a professional.

- 1) Does the printer still have power? Is the printer on?
- 2) Are all of the connections good, unplug and replug the connections.
- 3) Restart the computer.
- 4) Check the print queue by going to 'Control Panel' and then double click the 'Printer.' If there are jobs in the print queue click them and cancel them.
- 5) Try reinstalling the printer from the original CD.
- 6) Try reinstalling the printer with new drivers from the manufacturer's website.
- 7) Has your printer had a jam lately? Sometimes if the printer has had a hardware malfunction it will not let you print and will not give you a message.
- 8) Are there any strange messages on your computer or printer screen?

## Find/Replace

Not all programs have the replace feature, but if they do it can save you hours of time.

Every program has a find feature that allows you to search a page of text or a webpage for a specific word. To access the find feature you can press the Ctrl+F key. Typically a find box will appear. You can type in the word you are looking for and search the page.

Another way of accessing the 'Find' feature is by going to Edit>Find.

Searching for specific words is especially useful if you are researching online. Sometimes your basic Google search will land you on a massive page of information. Using the find feature, described above, you can search within that page.

If you are making or editing a document then you may benefit from the 'Replace' feature.

The 'Replace' feature will search through entire page of text for a word or combination of words and will replace it with whatever you desire.

You can use the replace feature to remove words, to change sentences, to change the case of words, to change numbers and more.

## Find Cheap Gas

You can find anything on the internet, including cheap gas.

gasbuddy.com and a lot of other website keep track of the gas prices at gas stations throughout the city. Go to your search engine and type cheap gas to find one of these webpages.

## Accidents in Your Area

If you want to look up accidents in our area the Florida Highway Patrol keeps a real-time accident report on their website.

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/traffic/>



# The Venice Area Computer Users Group

The Next Meeting is Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008 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 high quality demonstrations on the latest software and hardware available.

A one year membership is \$35.00 and includes a one year subscription to Computer Observer and admittance to each General Meeting and Class.

Invite a guest to the next meeting for just \$2.00. 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



8392 S. Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, FL 34238

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