

TECH TRENDS

Cool Stuff from iGoogle!

Special points of interest:

- Even more cool stuff from Google.
- Some things you may not know about Thanksgiving.
- Matt “lets the cat out of the bag!”



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Google, that go-to site for searches and maps, offers far more free products and services than you may realize.

You can start by using the *iGoogle* page as your web portal. It is full of news, weather, links, chat, and many other applets. Simply go to the Google homepage and click on the *iGoogle* link at top right of your screen. Click the *Add stuff* link to customize your page and choose your applets.

The standard Google links can be found at the top left of both the Classic Google homepage or the *iGoogle* version. But click on the little down arrow next to *more* and you will find additional links! One link is to Google **Books**, an interesting service that even lets you catch up on all the *Popular Science* magazines since the 1870s. It also has issues of *Life*, *Look*, dozens of other old titles, and previews of current magazines. Books still in print have page-limited previews (as do recent issues of magazines), but much of the old material is complete, including scans of the first edition of *The Wizard of Oz* and all the classics you've been meaning to read.

More cool stuff is found by clicking *even more* at the bottom of the *more* menu. There, you'll find links not only to Google's many online services—**Gmail**, **Docs**, **Translate**, **Calendar**, **Checkout**, **Books**, **Health**, and much more—but also free programs to download and install—among them, **Picasa3** for photo editing, **Chrome** for browsing the web, **SketchUp** for 3-D drawing & modeling, and **Earth** for exploring the globe (and now the skies).

The more esoteric and fun offerings are in the *Labs* link under *Explore and Innovate*. Most are products under development, and many are for Google's Android operating system, but there are plenty of useful tools for your computer, such as: (cont'd on p. 2)



The Three Sisters Thanksgiving Legend

When the pilgrims landed on the shores of America, they were ill-equipped to live off the land. Without the aid of the Wampanoag Indians, they might have perished. Part of their survival training was learning the secrets of the *Three Sisters*, a collective name for corn, beans and squash. The Indians planted these crops in one mound: the corn provided the ladder for the beans to grow, the beans returned nitrogen to the soil, and the squash plants provided the shade that held precious moisture in the ground.

The origin of the name *Three Sisters* Indian medicine woman with three dream, she saw each sister as a could help the other. In the morning, she told her daughters were all loved. The daughters and from then on the native people



Sisters is told in many different legends. One tells of an feuding daughters, who asked the Creator for help. In a different seed that she planted in one mound so each ing, she cooked an egg for each daughter, but fixed them that although they were as different as each egg, they began to celebrate their differences, the feuding stopped, ple planted the three crops together.

The first Thanksgiving in 1621 at Plymouth, Massachusetts, was both a thanksgiving for the harvest and a thank you to the Wampanoag Indians who had given of their knowledge to help the colonists. And the tradition lives on as we too give thanks for our many blessings and celebrate as so many others have done before us.



November's Useful Web Site— www.newsmap.jp

This month's recommended site is www.newsmap.jp. Want the world's news at a glance? Well, that's exactly what Google News gives you with **Newsmap**. Color-coded by category, location, language, size and length of time posted, this site is a must for any news junkie. The user-friendly format blends color and visual impact with the news of today's world. Create an account and you can even customize your screen!

November's Trivia Question—

Which department store was the first to hold a Thanksgiving Day parade?

(answer on page 4)



“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind.”

—Dr. Seuss

TECH TRENDS

... Cool Stuff from iGoogle!

Fast Flip is a quick way to find what the current print media has to say about topics for which you search. It quickly gives you snapshots of the front page of stories in newspapers and magazines; click the thumbnail to go to the story on that publication's site.

Google Squared is a service that creates a grid of facts about the topic for which you are searching. It could be an interesting application with a little more work. Search for a *digital SLR camera*, for instance, and you get names, models, descriptions, pictures, data, all in columnar format, gleaned from various places on the web. On the downside, the columns of data aren't always meaningful—be sure to double check what you find in this application (although

Google supplies good links to the source data and rates its confidence in that data).

Google Groups is yet one more social networking opportunity organized around various interest areas. With tens of thousands of categorized groups you can join, the majority have fewer than 10 members and no messages posted in the past month. You can almost hear the crickets chirping in the silence. But the group you're interested in might be active.

So, as the days grow shorter and colder, and you find yourself indoors with time on your hands, explore the Google offerings. Some of the many programs and services may be exactly what you need to make your life easier.



SAFE & HAPPY TRAVELS

Thanksgiving time through New Year's Day is one of the busiest travel periods on America's roads. As you head off to your gathering, please keep these suggestions in mind—

- **Go slow.** Listen to traffic reports and construction zones before you leave, so you can arrive on time without driving too fast.
- **Buckle up.** All passengers and dogs should be buckled up. Infants and toddlers should ride in a car seat. Kids less than 4'9" tall require a booster seat.
- **Leave a space.** Allow one car length for each 10 mph of your speed. On wet or slippery roads, allow more space.
- **Catch a ride with someone else.** If you don't like driving in the dark, ask a relative or friend to pick you up.
- On a long trip, **take frequent breaks.** Stop for coffee at rest stops so you stay alert. If you begin to feel drowsy or distracted, pull over. Rest or get someone else to drive for a time.
- **Control the distractions.** Don't let passengers talk to you or kids make a lot of noise on busy roadways.
- **Never drink and drive.**



Pet of the Month

Fred showed up on our doorstep (literally) one morning in May 2010 and has not left. At the time we didn't have any pet food to feed him, so we gave him what we had in the refrigerator: some chicken, pizza and crabcakes. After a few days we realized that *Fred* was not going to leave.

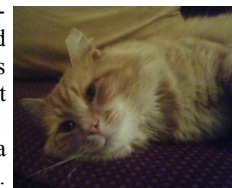
We tried to find *Fred* a loving home, but to no avail. He currently lives on our front porch and is the most lovable and affectionate stray cat that you could ever meet. He enjoys being held endlessly, rubbed and brushed. During the hot summer months, *Fred* enjoyed an occasional sponge bath with cool water and ice cubes and even enjoys getting his ears cleaned with Q-Tips!

After several months without *Fred* leaving, we decided it might be best to get him neutered. We got in touch with Save the Animals Foundation. For little to no cost, we had *Fred* neutered and he received all of his shots and even had ear tipping done (in case he was ever picked up by Animal Control, this identifies that the cat is spayed or neutered). We thought for sure *Fred* would run away after we brought him home from being traumatized, locked in a cage and put under the knife: however, he never left.

Fred likes to spend his mornings and afternoons napping or lying under trees and bushes watching birds and wildlife, but does not harm any of them.

—Carol Ann Iosca, Site Development

We would like all of you to send in a picture of your pet, too! Email your pic and pet info to: tech@advancedcomputerrepair.com. If your pet is displayed, let him or her know that a treat is on the way! And don't forget your address so we can send out your pet's present!



Client of the Month



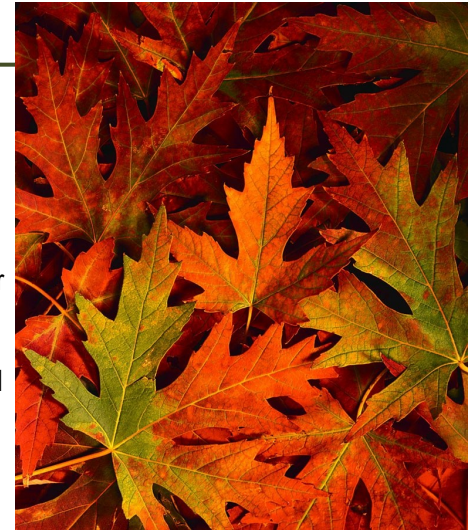
November's client of the month is **Dan Fitzpatrick** of **Spartan Air Purification** in West Berlin, NJ. Dan has been in the air cleaning business for

more than 30 years.

His company has two unique facets. On the industrial side, he helps companies keep the air clean for workers as they weld, sandblast, plasma cut, or do anything that makes the air unsafe

to breathe by using filtration equipment at the source of the pollution. The other portion of Dan's business is Duct Cleaning: getting those allergens and dust out of your ducts at work or at home.

Dan has been a customer of ours for many years. Thanks for your business and thanks for all of your work in keeping our air clean!



"It says, 'Wednesday is no good, how about Thursday?'"

Picasa3—Editing Your Photos

Picasa3—a free, downloadable Google program—is an excellent photo editor that in addition to editing & organizing your photos, has fine capabilities for cataloging your collection, face recognition, batch conversion, timelines, creating slide shows and photo CDs, and uploading to the web. On the downside, its interface is nonstandard and takes a little getting used to. It can only work on photos after it has cataloged them in its library function, and it attempts to find and catalog every graphic on your computer unless you limit it to your actual photo directories. You'll wind up with all the clip art, all the stuff in your browser caches, everything, unless you take control. Be especially sure to limit its cataloging before you start its amazing face detection process.



Vitamin D—A Mighty Fighter!

This vitamin protects the heart: it controls the release of stress hormones that lead to high blood pressure and inflammation. It can also decrease the risk of colon cancer by half. In addition, a study of post-menopausal women showed a 77 percent lower risk of all cancers among those who took a daily dose of 1,000 mg of D plus calcium! Truly a mighty fighter.



SPECIAL OFFER!

Free Network Tune-Up & Health Check!

For each new business client (with 5 or more computers) you refer to us, who takes advantage of our special **\$FREE Network Tune-Up & Health Check**, you receive a **\$50 Visa Gift Card** as a Thank You! Just fill in your name below and give to your business associate to redeem their **FREE Network Tune-up & Health Check**.

More details can be found at:

www.AdvancedComputerRepair.com/referral.htm

Name: _____

(offer expires 12/31/10)



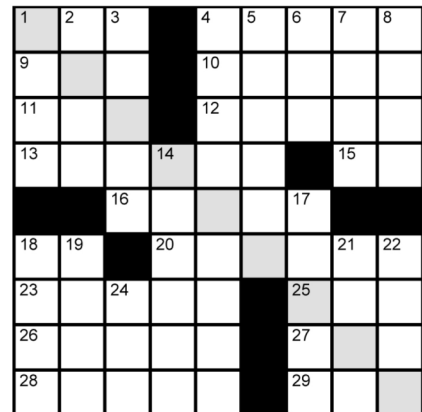
Thanksgiving Guest Crossword

Across

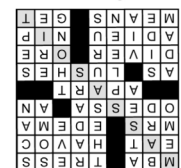
1. Wharton grad
4. Amount of hair
9. "Dig in!"
10. Devastation
11. "___ Doubtfire"
12. Swelling
13. Texas oil city
15. Indefinite article
16. Not together
18. "___ You Like It"
20. Boozers
23. Type of scallop
25. Neighbor of Wash.
26. "Farewell, mon ami"
27. Chill
28. Stands for
29. Acquire

Down

1. Exec's note
2. Poet
3. Bewildered
4. Synonym finder
5. Navigation aids
6. "The Three Faces of ___"
7. Body
8. Diagnostic test
14. Ire
17. Flip-flop
18. Sandler of "Big Daddy"
19. Pro or con
21. Cleveland's lake
22. Aug. follower
24. By way of



the shaded diagonal.



The title is a clue to the word in

Matt's Corner



It is amazing how quickly a month can pass. We had a great October and hope all of you did, too.

I'm going to let the cat out of the bag here, but we are on the verge of signing a lease to move into a new location! This certainly is a big move for us and is also very exciting. As we get closer, I will give you more details, but the plan is to make the move on January 1, 2011.

What are you thankful for this year? If I were to list things that I am thankful for, it would be all of the great customers and people that I work with. Not a joke, but totally true. Thanks to you

all! And I certainly don't want to forget my family. They put up with me working around the clock and I really appreciate their understanding. I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving.

As always, any input is welcome for future content on our newsletters. Please email to the address below.

—Matt



matt@AdvancedComputerRepair.com



Answer to the November
Trivia Question is :
Philadelphia
Gimbel's in 1920 in

Services We Offer:

- Spyware & Virus Removal
- Data Backup & Recovery
- Wireless Networking
- Server Installation & Configuration
- Web Site Design
- Internet Marketing
- General Repair & Troubleshooting
- Complete Turnkey Solutions for Business



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