



SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

Volume 21 Number 8

Serving the Roanoke Valley

September 2005

How well do you Google?

Are you Googling the best you can? Perhaps not. If you don't know all the ins and outs of www.google.com, you might want to take the tutorial at www.googleguide.com. You will be surprised what you will learn.

For example, you can force Google to include a term by preceding the term with a "+" sign. Want to learn about Star Wars Episode One? "I" is a stop word and is not included in a search unless you precede it with a + sign. Use Star Wars +I, not Star Wars I.

To leave a term out of the search, precede each term you do *not* want to appear in any result with a "-" sign.

The site has a chart that explains basic searching, which also works with all search engines.

Now, you can also Froogle. Froogle, new from Google, makes it easy to find stores that sell the item you want to find.

To use Froogle, click the Froogle top link on Google or go directly to the [Froogle home page](#). Type in the name of the item you want and click on "Froogle Search." You'll also see product reviews and store ratings to help you make better purchasing decisions.

Example: It took 0.07 seconds to find 51 places where SAS shoes could be bought. Some 45,000 sites were found for Compact Flash card in 0.60 seconds.

PREZ' NOTES

by Earl Abbott, president@rvpcc.org

I hope each member is well, and happy, and enjoying personal computing. Our two public relations officers work hard to get programs; our editor works hard to get a newsletter out on time. This month, they have been working on getting a presentation on how to use eBay.

If that the program does not happen, then we can have Plan B, which is to have some "Show-and-Tells."



Bill Scott can give a short presentation on USB drives. I can give a short presentation on trans-

former principles using a soldering gun, and demonstrate Lenz's Law using a science class demo.

I encourage others to bring Show and Tells. I hope to see you at the meeting.

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Help your newsletter

You are invited to share favorite websites, reviews of software or just general computer experiences. Send your article or notes to editor@rvpcc.org.



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To:

Computer questions & answers, resources

**(Meets 2nd Saturday
of Month)**

Next Meeting

Sat., Sept. 10

Place: Arnold R. Burton
Technology Center, Room
105, 1760 Roanoke
Boulevard, Salem, Va.
24153

Time: 9:15 a.m. - noon

*This newsletter is
published by the RVPCC.*

Book sale ongoing

The American Association of University Women, Roanoke Valley Branch, has thousands of books for sale Sept. 9-12.

All types of books are offered, including technical manuals.

Sale times are Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Monday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The sale is at Tanglewood Mall, upstairs across from Belk and the elevator.

Q: I installed AAA Roadwise Review without problems, but was not able to run it because of the message STARTUPEXE - Bad Image. Later the explanation "Generic Host Process for WIN32 Services encountered a problem and needed to close" appeared. What can I do? Thanks. --Beth

A: It sounds like spyware. Beth needs to download from www.download.com Ad-Aware 1.06, Spyware Blaster 3.4 and Spybot Search & Destroy 1.4. Run all three letting them delete all know objects they fine. Also, she needs to pull down all the Microsoft Security updates. Plus delete all temp files and Temporary Internet Files. That's a start. Some spyware is tuff to get out. —Tim Johnson

Q: Is there a limit to the amount of information I can put in an e-mail message?

A: You want to keep e-mail under 1 meg so it flows through e-mail locations efficiently.

Q: What are some good sites for buying software?

A: Homer Duff recommends the following that he has used:
<http://aspengraphics.safeshopper.com>.

Another resource is www.softwareoutlet.com.

Q: Is it OK to buy the student version of MS products? It's cheaper.

A: Read the package details carefully. Learn if the the product is upgradeable. Also, make certain the product is licensed and supported.

Got a question? Send it to editor@rvpcc.org

**Meeting space provided
by Roanoke County
Schools**

Web hosting provided by:

<http://www.icn.net/>

