

TechnoLOGICALLY Speaking

Will Your Computer Tell Tales?



Are you thinking about buying a new computer? What do you do with your old one? Donate, sell it, or throw it away?

Before you do any of the above, you will want to purge it of all your personal information. If you are running Windows, this software keeps logs of every site you browse on the Internet, every document you work on and every user name and password you type.

No matter that you dumped your files in the Recycle Bin, plenty of utilities can retrieve them. The only way to be sure you've deleted all important information is to use hard-drive-cleaning software.

There are several programs that are available to clean up a sloppy computer at a moments notice. Which one you will choose to use will depend on exactly where your computer will end up.

If you are donating your computer to a charity or school that will need Windows intact, you can't just overwrite the hard-drive. You can Google to find these programs. One that is good is called Webroot Window Washer 6. The cost is about \$30.00 and you can go to www.webroot.com.

This utility will delete sensitive data from file caches, history lists and logs created by more than 400 different third party applications without touching your Windows installation.

Once you have used this program or another one that you have purchased, you will want to securely delete your non-windows files on your hard drive, especially any documents you created.

One of the most effective free file-deleters is Eraser 5.3. It works by overwriting files with other data multiple times to be sure your data can't be recovered. It is so simple. All you do is drag your files or folders that you want to delete into Eraser's window, and then click Task, Run.) Visit www.tolvonen.com/eraser to download Eraser 5.3. It 's free!

By using these programs, or any other program that you choose, you can feel safe that your information will not wind up in the wrong hands. Once you have completed these simple tasks, you are ready to dispose of your computer.



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Housing Cancellation Date

CANCELLED

If you are a graduating senior or you do not plan on staying in campus housing for the Spring 2007 semester, you must cancel your housing by 5 PM on December 15, 2006 or you will be charged a \$500 liquidation fee and forfeit your \$100 deposit.

Residents can cancel by visiting the Assignments office (Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm) located on the Main Floor of Scott Hall or by sending an e-mail to housing@email.uncc.edu. All cancellation notices must include your name, permanent home address, birth date, a reason for cancellation and the effective date of cancellation.

Please contact the Department of Housing and Residence Life at (704)687-2585 if you have any questions regarding the cancellation of housing.



Policy 10—Network Sharing

The purpose of this policy is to ensure secure and reliable network access and performance for the University community. This Policy is intended to:

- Provide a reliable University network and Internet connection to conduct the University's business;
- Provide only authorized access to institutional, research or personal data and information on the University network; and
- Protect computer system and network integrity at UNC Charlotte, and specifically, to protect University computing resources from:
 - Unauthorized access to University resources and/or information;
 - Unintended and/or unauthorized disclosure of University information; and
 - Denial of Service attacks.



Back Up Your Data

You have finished your term paper and you're ready to crash for a few hours before printing it and going to class. You wake up and your computer has crashed! What should you have done?

Backing up your documents is a task that most people don't take the time to do. Take the time now to check out backup utilities

Today's best backup utilities start at around \$50 and include wizards that walk you through the programs. Don't wait for a crash to wake you up to the need for backup. Find a back up program that will work for you and use it. Go to: find.pcworld.com.53768 to review five different programs.



Identity Theft, Will You Be Next?

Identity theft is a billion dollar industry and wreaks havoc on the individual. In some cases it can take years to restore your identity. In 2002 there were an estimated 10 million people in the US alone that were victims of identity theft, according to a survey conducted in September 2003, by the Federal Trade Commission.

In our modern age of technology, we are being targeted by worms, viruses, malware, adware, bots, terms in the past that were either never heard of or didn't mean what they mean today. As a result of this technology, our "identities" are at risk.

Identity theft happens in a multitude of ways: people steal records while on the job, computer gurus hack into different companies systems, your mail can be stolen, your wallet or purse may be stolen, your home burglarized, or your identity can be stolen by email (known as "Phishing")

In years past, when you made a purchase you would pay for it in person or you would mail a check. Now everyone uses the Internet to make a great majority of purchases as well as bill paying. The web is a treasure trove for criminals.

One thing for certain is "Identity Theft" is not going away and you must make sure that not only is your computer as safe as you can make it, you also have to be diligent about how you handle your day to day activities with regard to financial matters.

You need to protect your computer from thieves. There are numerous firewalls on the market. You need to have one that can block unknown programs from communicating with the Internet to keep keyloggers(*a diagnostic used in software development that captures the user's keystrokes*) from phoning home. ZoneAlarm is a firewall that can do this; go to www.zonelabs.com for free software. The built-in Windows XP firewall can't.

You should take the necessary precautions to protect your personal information, social security numbers, credit cards, etc from thieves.

Obtaining your credit report is highly recommended, as you will be able to tell if there are accounts opened that you don't know about. As of September 1, 2005, Congress made it possible for everyone to obtain a "free" credit report once a year. You should avail yourself of this free product as it very well could mean the difference between losing your identity or keeping it safe.

To obtain your "free" credit report from all three of the major credit reporting agencies, Experian, TransUnion and Equifax, you can go to www.annualcreditreport.com.

Purchasing a cross cut shredder and shredding documents, once they have outlived their usefulness, is one way to protect your identity.

What should you do if you find you are a victim of Identity Theft?

1. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports, and review your credit reports.
2. Close the accounts that you know, or believe, have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
3. File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.
4. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. (go to www.ftc.gov for more information)



The Miner Movie Channel, which is located on channel 15, broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with a great selection of Hollywood blockbusters, fun comedies, romantic stories, and every thing in between! The channel is operated by Housing Technology Services.

Please note that we run a 6-week rotation, and the schedule, including air-times and air-dates can be found on the HTS website (www.housing.uncc.edu/technology). You can also get film information, ratings, and other cool facts on the Miner Movies page.

Do you have an idea for a movie you would like to see on The Miner Movie Channel? Drop us an email at HTShelp@email.uncc.edu and we will see if we can track it down and get it on the air!

The full cable channel line up is also provided on-line at www.housing.uncc.edu/technology.

Our December/January Schedule...

The Ant Bully
 Barnyard
 Christmas with the Kranks
 Clerks II: The Passion of the Clerks
 Elf
 The Godfather
 Hackers
 Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
 Idlewild
 Jack Frost
 Little Athens
 Little Man
 Material Girls
 Miami Vice
 Scoop
 Spaceballs
 Strangers with Candy
 Superman Returns
 Surviving Christmas
 Talladega Nights
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Necessary Numbers

Cable TV

Basic Cable Services	7-3778; Press 2
Miner Movies Channel	7-3329

Internet Services

Residents Of Cypress and Squires	7-3778; Press 1
<i>"Road Runner": Residents of Holshouser, Moore, Sanford, Scott, Cedar, Hickory, Sycamore, Hawthorn, Oak, Elm, Maple, Pine, Hunt Village, Martin Village, Phase III, and Witherspoon</i>	7-3778; Press 2

Telephone Services

Problems with your phone service	7-8800
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Housing Technology Services

Housing Website, RSA Website, Residence Hall Computer Labs & Printers, Online Housing Application System	7-3329
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Door Access Cards

Building access or swipe card reader problems	7-2585
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