

June 27, 2009

What we covered at the WINSIG today.

Windows 7 – I put together a machine with a copy of Windows 7 Release Candidate (RC) and showed it off to the folks. I've only used it for about 2 weeks now but am pleased with its operation. I installed Office 2003 and some older software (2005 pre-Vista vintage) to see how it handled the stuff. I remember all the problems with XP and Vista not being 100% backward compatible on some items.

So far, all is working just fine. I showed some of the cosmetic changes and gadgets available to “personalize” the desktop. Win 7 is scheduled to be released on Oct 22.

World Clock is a must see - <http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock.swf>

Analytical minds will enjoy <http://www76.wolframalpha.com/> Type in a date and location, i.e. May 1, 1950 Berlin, Germany and press Enter. You get detailed information about that date and location. Type in a calculation, e.g. 7/8 of 25 gallons, or, the population of US and Canada; type in a formula, e.g. $d/dx \sin(x)^2$, just about anything, and you'll be amazed at the comprehensive answers.

I went over **Bing** in more detail (read the July issue of The Tug. Bing is Microsoft's entry into the search engine arena. It's now my search engine of choice.

DirSync Pro (Directory Synchronize Pro) is a small, but powerful utility for file and folder synchronization. DirSync Pro can be used to synchronize the content of one or many folders recursively.

Using DirSync Pro you can make incremental backups. In this way you'll spare lots of time because you don't have to copy all the files each time you want to update your backup; only new/modified/larger files would be copied.

Use DirSync Pro to easily synchronize files from your desktop PC to your USB-stick (PDA, Notebook, ...). Use this USB-stick (PDA, Notebook, ...) to synchronize files to another desktop PC.

Unlike many other synchronization software, DirSync Pro is Open Source; it is 100% free of charge, 100% free of commercial text, 100% free of advertisements and 100% free of spyware. You can use it as long as you like, without any limitations in time or functionality. You can freely distribute it according to GPL3.

DirSync Pro is programmed completely in platform independent Java™ so it can be run under nearly every modern operating system including Windows™, Linux™ and Macintosh™.

DirSync Pro has a user-friendly Interface which helps you configure many options to your needs. You can use DirSync Pro also through the command line which makes it very flexible for running in batches.

http://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=64303&package_id=61419&release_id=663149 Pick your OS at the link.

Pure Sudoku Free Edition is a popular way to play free sudoku puzzles on your PC. This free sudoku game is easy to use and is highly regarded by players, having scored an average of 4 stars out of 5 at the most popular download site on the internet.

However, there is an enhanced version of this game, containing many additional features to increase your enjoyment. If this appeals to you please have a look at The Deluxe Edition and consider purchasing it.

<http://www.veryfreesudoku.com/>

Eclipse Crossword is the fast, easy, free way to create crossword puzzles in minutes.

It's never been simpler—just give Eclipse Crossword a list of words and clues, and it does the rest. In seconds, you'll have a crossword puzzle with just the words you want. Eclipse Crossword has been downloaded more than two million times by people just like you.

<http://www.eclipsecrossword.com/>

Free Games - Large variety of free games to while away the hours.

<http://www.freegamepick.com/en/>

Lastly, we discussed, at length, RoboForm. It's a password manager that also automatically logs you on to a website that requires it. Great time saver and you only have to remember one password – the one that opens RoboForm.

<http://www.roboform.com/>