

WINSIG 3-26-11

At today's WINSIG we talked about software drivers. I demo'ed a free program named SLIM DRIVERS. It's available at [www.driverupdate.net](http://www.driverupdate.net)

There are two versions at the site. The big orange button to click is the free one. The big green button is the pay-for (\$30). Rose told us that she purchased a 3 machine license for \$30.00. So, if you intend to buy it, look for the specials at the site first.

SlimDrivers automatically scans your machine when you open the program. It will check your version of software drivers against its database. If it finds that you have outdated drivers, it will inform you of that and give you the option of downloading the update.

If you decide to get the update(s) it will tell you that it is turning off Windows Update but will enable it when it is done. It also gives you the opportunity to do a registry backup, just in case, I strongly recommend you take that option. In the event the update is incompatible with something else on your computer, you may have problems that could be avoided if you have the ability to restore the system to a pre-update time.

The other program we spent some time on was Paint.net. It is available at [www.paint.net](http://www.paint.net) and is just as powerful and full featured as PhotoShop, Corel Draw or any other high-end graphics application.

Paint.net (that's the name and location) gives the user the ability to touch-up, repair, crop, recolor, and restore any photo image. The program is free and is an open source application. Which means, programmers all over built bits and pieces of it to come up with this useful application. In addition to the basic program, there are dozens and dozens of plug-ins that enhance the program. You can add effects that set your image apart. Add text, speech bubbles, animation, remove unwanted portions, remove the entire background and much, much more.

We also touched on Windows 7 Libraries. Not being akamai on the subject, I deferred until next meeting. However, I did a Bing search and came up with this site,

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/windows-7-libraries-%E2%80%93-and-why-you-want-them/>

It gives a plain language explanation and illustration on how they can be useful to you and how to make your own libraries. There are other sites with similar information but this one was the easiest to follow. Check it out if you're using Win7 and want to know more about libraries.

See ya all next Saturday. Aloha, Jim