



One Call PC Solutions



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Bits and Bytes...

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In this issue: Free WiFi and Paperless tomorrow...

WiFi all over the world...

Laptops are becoming increasingly common as desktop replacements, leading to an explosion of places that you can find wireless internet access on the road. By now it is no secret that most every hotel offers in-room internet access of some sort, and it would be just about unbelievable to imagine a coffee house or tea shop that didn't offer some sort of digital goodness with your double mocha latte. The big trick is to know where you can consistently find your broadband home away from home and what you'll have to pay for it. It seems that some companies are a little more sensible than others when it comes to their offerings, some want to charge you a (sometimes excessive) fee for access while others see fit to give it away just to keep you on premise. For obvious reasons, I prefer the latter. The companies that include completely free access include: Wienerschnitzel, Schlotzsky's, No Frills Grill, Atlanta Bread Company, as well as a lot of small locally owned restaurants and coffee houses. McDonald's, Starbucks, and Barnes and Noble's offer their access free to AT&T DSL and Uverse subscribers, otherwise expect to pay \$3 every 2 hours. Next time you head out for lunch, check the front door for any indication that they may offer WiFi, you'll be surprised where you may find it.

Paperless for less...

In today's digital world, paper is quickly becoming outdated technology. Yes, trees are breathing a sigh of relief and your printer is starting to get nervous. Be afraid humble printer, your days are numbered. The big problem in trying to prevent all of the digital data from invading your filing cabinets used to be cost. The decent scanners of yesterday were costly and the program required to convert paper to digital, Adobe Acrobat, demands prices near the thousand dollar mark. Technology has evolved, as it has a habit of doing. Today's scanners are far faster and far cheaper than their archaic lineage. You can easily find a dozen models of the common printer/copier/scanner hybrid machine for less than \$100. These machines are inexpensive and take up less space in a cramped office by combining multiple devices while not skimping on features. Adobe Acrobat is no longer king of the PDF jungle either. Now days there are several freeware and open source applications that allow scanning and converting to Acrobat's popular PDF format for free. Among the best and easiest to use of these is PDFCreator available from www.filehippo.com. Once installed it appears on your computer as an additional printer, anything printed with this new sudo-printer will be saved as a PDF file that can be opened with Adobe Acrobat Reader or any other program designed to read PDFs. Just be sure to backup all of those digital docs!

Final Bit...

Never let a computer know you're in a hurry. ~Author Unknown

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