

CompuQuickTips



The For the Rest of Us
O'neal
Solution

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Surf For FREE...

It's a Gold Mine out there!

This entire issue
is devoted to
ways you can
make the Internet
work for YOU!

Everything has
(of course)
been tested personally
by Mrs. Wizard.

So if you're looking
for FREEBIES
and ways
to make \$\$
while you surf,
This is YOUR issue!

OnLine Service Providers
gleaning \$ from
subscribers each month;
this issue isn't for you.
Fax machine manufacturers
requiring a dedicated phone line
and expensive equipment;
this isn't for you either!

Waltzing around on the Internet can be a pretty time consuming affair these days. There is so much out there, it's easy to get lost. Most dialup online services offer "unlimited access" for between \$15 and \$20 a month. America Online seems to be the most expensive at \$22 a month. It is also one of the most ad-intensive online services. From the moment you sign on until you finally sign off, someone is going to be trying to sell you something. There are even banner solicitations when you read your e-mail! Hmm...what is wrong with this picture?

What is wrong is that you could be doing the same thing for *FREE!* There are plenty of Internet Service Providers available who are actually offering their services in *exchange* for looking at a small banner ad area that stays on your screen while you are online. They all offer *free* e-mail addresses with each account and a host of other services you are used to seeing on your *Pay* service. The major online services would love for you to believe that the reasons you are paying them is their reliability and stability, not to mention their unique content. Let's get real here. How many times have you been knocked offline for no apparent reason in the last week? How many busy signals do you get? Isn't it interesting how some days seem to be more sluggish than others? And some days you can't get on at all! And how about that customer service and technical support? Why pay for rude treatment and ignorant, condescending, arrogant technical support and customer service when you can get the same thing for *FREE!*

If you don't want to give up your AOL, you can still save over half of what you are paying now for unlimited access by installing one of the free services and letting them be your main connection. Then, you can change your AOL billing to BYOA (bring your own access) for only \$9.95 a month. The trick is to change your connection to ISP in your settings. When you have AOL set up like this, it will expect you to be connected to some other service and (assuming you are connected) will automatically open the service to you when you sign on.

It doesn't hurt to have at least one backup Internet Service Provider. Since the ones listed in this article are absolutely *FREE*, you simply have no excuse. Try using one or two for a few days; then try to justify your main Internet Service Provider charging your credit card each month. Get down and dirty when you evaluate a new online service. Make a note of the connection speed each time by moving your mouse pointer to the two little computers at the bottom far right of your taskbar and double clicking on them. How does it compare to the service you are paying for?

Don't let anyone tell you that you can't have more than one Internet Service Provider installed on your computer at one time. Granted, you can only *use* one at a time, but most of them get along fairly well with each other, and just sit there until you need them. Mrs. Wizard has no problems with the 5 free Internet Service Providers she has installed (not to mention the various other major online service providers she supports). When it comes to "acid testing" and comparing reliability, she is the queen!

The key to choosing an Internet Service Provider is to always remember *you* are the boss. If you have to do ten Hail Marys under a full moon or spend an inordinate amount of time with tech support to get the thing installed and working properly, don't bother with it. Be brutally honest with yourself when checking out a new service. There are too many good ones out there to choose from for you to waste even a moment of your time with software that doesn't work. The bad and overpriced providers will eventually get the hint when they realize no one is subscribing

Surf For FREE...

Continued from page 1

any more. You can continue paying for poor service and no content, or you can strike out on your own and begin to discover what is *really* out there!

The "catch" is usually going to be some sort of viewbar, with links to sponsor advertisements. Actually, these can be pretty convenient. Most are links to very well established Internet stores and services, and the viewbars usually have many other conveniences that can make your surfing much more enjoyable. There is a lot to be said for this approach to Internet access.

Uninstalling an online service is usually a pretty straightforward operation. Click *Start*, then *Programs*, and look for an *uninstall* option in the online service's program folder. If there isn't one, check the *Control*

Panel Add/Remove Programs list by clicking *Start, Settings, Control Panel, Add/Remove Programs*. If you see it listed, click once to select it, then click the *Add/Remove* button below to let Windows remove it for you.

Here are a few web addresses to help you begin your FREE Internet surfing journey. The only two Mrs. Wizard doesn't have on her computer yet are *FreeWorld*, and *BlueLight*. They are being used successfully by friends though, with rave reviews for each. Heavens! Mrs. Wizard can't put *everything* on poor old Pixie. Lord knows, she tries!



<http://freeworld.excite.com/freeworld>
<http://www.bluelight.com/isp.html>
<http://www.netzero.net>
<http://www.freei.net>
<http://www.altavista.com>
<http://www.juno.com>
<http://www.worldspy.net>

You might be addicted to the Web if you double click your TV remote.

Rent a DVD...

If you own a DVD player, you already know how great the picture quality is. You probably also know that even the best rental places have a pretty sparse collection, and half the time what you want isn't in stock. Standing in line isn't any fun, and neither is scrambling at the last minute to get the thing returned on time to avoid late charges.

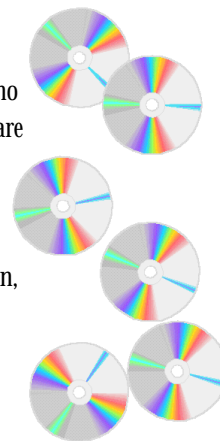
This service isn't free, but the convenience certainly makes it worth mentioning in this issue. If you can crawl to your mailbox, you can return your DVD rental!

The selection of DVD movies at NetFlix.com is certainly more extensive than you will find at any local rental emporium. The prices are about the same, with a twist. You order them online, they are mailed to you in convenient self-addressed envelopes (with the return postage already paid), and you get to keep them for a whole week! When you are finished, just pop the DVD back into the mailer, seal it, and drop it in your mailbox.

They also have a service called the *Marquee* program, where (for \$15 a month) you can keep 4 DVDs in your

possession for an unlimited time. There are no late fees. Just enjoy your movies. When you are finished, send it back and they will send you a replacement. It just doesn't get any better, except for one other thing. If you discover a movie you want for your permanent collection, you can purchase it at their sister website, SamGoody.com, and the cost of the rental is deducted from the cost of the purchase.

So, what are you waiting for?



<http://www.netflix.com>
<http://www.samgoody.com>

Let THEM Pay YOU

Internet Gold



Them are the advertisers that fill your browsers and just about every free inch of real estate on your favorite online services. You can't escape. The Internet has been found to be one of the most cost effective and lucrative places to advertise on the planet. Lots of people are shopping on the Internet, and there are lots of people who would love to have your business! They are even willing to pay you \$ to look at their advertisers' wares. Heck, some will even let you fill out a form with your personal preferences so the advertising you see will be specifically geared to your interests. The consumers are *Kings and Queens* in this new universe.

Remember when you could get a babysitter for fifty cents an hour? It doesn't sound like much now, does it? If you spend any time at all on the Internet though, it could add up rather quickly. AllAdvantage.com pays \$.50 an hour for doing nothing more than surfing the Internet, doing all the things you normally do. All you have to do in return is look at their little viewbar. You can put it at the bottom of your main screen, or at the top. When you don't feel like looking at it, turn it off. The bottom line is that when you receive that first check, that viewbar won't look too bad at all!

A recent benefit, just for joining AllAdvantage, is McAfee VirusScan software. They take \$.50 out of your account (surfing bucks) in exchange for the software. You can download it, and use it, and update it for FREE as long as you stick with them. That's one way to keep us happy!

Visit AllAdvantage.com and read all about it before you decide. If you do try it, put Mrs. Wizard's ID (FZX 029) in as your referral so she can get a few extra brownie points too

<http://www.alladvantage.com>

*Virtual reality
is its own
reward.*

Here are a couple more goodies from our roving reporter Martha (aka Suwannee@aol.com)

Hey Everyone! Happy 2000!!!

I found a site that if you sign up with them, (it's free) and use their search engine, they will pay you 3 cents for every search you do from their site. It may not sound like much, but all you have to do is click a category and then check something out in the category, you only have to stay there 10 seconds & you earned 3 cents. If look at all the sites they list at 3 cents for each one, a maximum of 30 sites per day, for 30 days equals \$27.00 per month just for doing something you are going to do anyway. Remember, all you have to do is click a site & stay on the site for 10 sec. then move on to next one. There are no gadgets, (advertising bars, etc.), to download on your computer, they're regular sites. If a friend signs on and gives them your ID number when they sign up, you get paid when they look up sites too. Give it a try, nothing to loose, it's free, they pay you!!! The address is below, check it out and see what you think!

Please, use my ID number when you sign up it's **12372**. Thanks!

I love free money!

<http://www.titansearch.com>

Till Next time!

~Suwannee~

Check this out...

There's a company called RadioFreeCash.com that is paying you to listen to the radio on your computer... and not only do they pay you, but they also pay you for the referrals who you bring to their community. This could mean serious cash for you, especially if you get in early.

You've probably all heard of other companies that pay you to surf the net and all the money people are making because they got in early. Radiofreecash.com is even better, because all you have to do is listen to the radio, which frees you up to do other stuff, like surf the net, write your term paper, pay the bills, email friends - whatever! They realize your time is valuable, and they know paying you for it is the best way to get you to listen - they are effectively starting a revolution in radio, and you should get in early - I did, and you can too!

Just go to their website and sign up! Oh, and please use this link with my referral number so I get credit for having referred you...

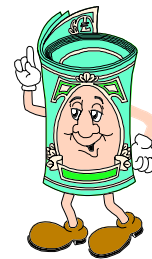
<http://www.radiofreecash.com/home.asp?ref=Suwannee>

Faxing for FREE...

Isn't faxing fun? There's the fax machine. Make sure you keep it turned on if you want to receive those all important fax messages. If you are really serious about making sure you won't miss a thing, you might even have a dedicated phone line.

Or you can use efax.com and never miss a fax again. There is no fancy equipment to buy, nothing to break, and no separate phone lines to maintain. And it's FREE! All you need is access to the Internet and an e-mail address. You don't even have to have your computer turned on. Your special fax number is available 24 hours a day. When a fax is received, it is immediately sent to you via e-mail, so the next time you do an e-mail check, it will be there for you as an attached file. Print it, view it, or forward it on to someone. It's up to you.

Sending faxes is just as easy. If you can put it in a Microsoft Word or Works document, you can send it for *FREE* anywhere in the country by attaching the actual file. If you have a printed document that isn't on your computer as a valid file, a scanner can be used to take a "picture" of it to put into a document. It's a little tricky, but definitely an option. Just go to Fax4Free.com and sign up. You can receive faxes through Fax4Free, but Mrs. Wizard prefers the effortless way Efax does them. Give both services a try and make the decision yourself.



Fax is
stranger than
fiction.

<http://www.fax4free.com>
<http://www.efax.com>

FREE Storage...

The safest backup is having a copy of your special files in an entirely different location. Personal files are the ones you can't replace when the unthinkable happens. You can replace software, even your computer, but once a document is gone, it's gone. E-mail programs have special files that contain personal information too. Microsoft Outlook's personal files have a .pst extension. Save these files and you will be just fine. Outlook Express has an entire folder in the Windows directory under *Application Data/Microsoft*. AOL has the all important *Organize* directory where all your personal information and settings are stored. Once it is gone, you literally have to begin from scratch.

There are several places you can go on the Internet to sign up for free cyber storage space. Each is great in its own right. Some are easier to use than others. Sign up for all of them and decide for yourself.

There may be times when you would like to share files with friends but they are too big to fit on a floppy. This is a terrific way to share. Just store a copy of your special favorites on one of these sites and let your friends download them at their convenience. Here is a list of the storage sites Mrs. Wizard is using currently. They are all a great way to share files with friends, as well as provide a perfect place to park critical personal files.



<http://www.filesanywhere.com> (50 Mb)
<http://www.freedrive.com> (50 Mb)
<http://www.freediskspace.com> (300 Mb)
<http://www.driveway.com> (30 Mb)



Mrs. Wizard

*Back up
my hard drive?
How do I put
it in reverse?*

Lost your Title Bar?...When your window title bar is out of reach and you can't get to the X to close it out, you could be in a bind. The title bar is one of the most useful parts of a window. Placing the tip of your mouse pointer in the middle of the colored area and holding down the left button will let you move the window anywhere you want. Double clicking on it can make the window fill the screen, or not fill the screen. Right clicking on it will give you even more choices. Unfortunately it can sometimes get shoved all the way to the top of the screen, making it impossible to get to it. If you can't see it, you can't use it. The next time you lose it, try this. Press the *ALT* key, then the *SPACEBAR*. Then press and release the *M* key. Use the arrow keys on your keyboard to move the window back to where you can get at it with your mouse.

Another Get the Window Back Trick...Another way to retrieve an errant title bar when it slips out of sight on your screen is to right click on any empty area of your *Taskbar* (at the bottom of your main screen). Choose *Cascade Windows*, *Tile Windows Horizontally*, or *Tile Windows Vertically*. It doesn't matter which. Your window, including its title bar, will snap right into place.

Quick! Hide the Windows!...I'm not going to encourage playing games on the computer, especially during working hours. But there are times when you need to quickly minimize everything on the desktop, perhaps to get to something else. You also might want to be able to quickly return to the project you were working on after the interruption has passed. If you have a Windows key on your keyboard, you are in luck! Hold down the *Windows* key and press the *D* key once. You will instantly see a nice clean desktop. Don't worry though. Pressing *Windows+D* again will put you right back where you were, *before* you were so *rudely* interrupted. Hehehe.

Another "Hide the Window" trick...A quick way to close (and I mean *close*) any web browser window is to use the key combination *CTRL+W*. This also works with Windows Explorer and My Computer windows.

Cleaning off your Desktop...Any icon with a *shortcut* arrow on it can be deleted safely. Right click and choose *Delete* to quickly trash it and make your main computer screen nice and neat. There are several icons that you *must* leave alone. They are easy to spot. You will see no shortcut arrow on *My Computer*, *Network*

Neighborhood, *My Documents*, *Internet Explorer*, *The Microsoft Network*, or *My Briefcase*. There may be others not mentioned here. If you don't see a shortcut arrow on a desktop icon, consider it a system file. Removing these require special skills or software and can really mess things up if not removed properly. Learn to love them. They are here to stay.

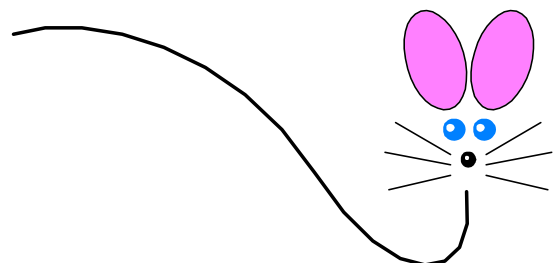
OOPS...Left clicking and dragging is a terrific way to move things around. What if you change your mind in the middle? As long as you don't let go of your left mouse button, you can quietly drag the boo boo back where it belongs. *Then* let go of the mouse and breathe a sigh of relief!

CTRL+Z...Another great boo boo fixer! While holding down the *CTRL* key, press the *Z* key once. It will undo the last thing you did. Whew!

Right Click and...do just about anything! It all depends on where you click with your right mouse button. Give it a try. The right mouse button gives you *choices*. The left mouse button makes things *happen*!

Web Virus Scanner...You know it isn't enough to simply have anti virus software installed on your computer. You have to update it constantly to make sure you are protected from the most current cooties. If keeping your cootie catching software updated is too difficult for you, try letting this service check your computer for you. Do it at least once a month. This is always up-to-date and doesn't cost a dime! They make *housecalls*!

<http://housecall.antivirus.com/>



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Editor's Desk

This newsletter is dedicated to taking the mystery out of computers in an entertaining, informative way. If you have any questions or comments, please, drop me a line, give me a call or e-mail me and let me know what you think and would like to see addressed in future issues. I really enjoy hearing from you and am happy to help all I can. You can subscribe to the electronic version of CompuQuickTips by sending a check for \$10 to The O'Neal Solution, 1565 Wood Farms Drive, Cordova, TN 38018. Enclose a short note with your subscription request, or simply write the word "subscription" in the memo section of your check. Don't forget to include the e-mail address you would like it delivered to. You will receive a 12-month full-color, information-packed subscription delivered straight to your e-mail each month as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file. You can download the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader for FREE at <http://www.adobe.com>.

You can purchase Mrs. Wizard's CD Essentials by sending a check for \$25 to the above address. It has 2 years of CompuQuickTips Newsletter, as well as CompuQuickTips (the book). Acrobat Reader is on the CD for you to install with one click of your mouse, as well as lots of other Mrs. Wizard's favorite graphic shareware. This is a terrific learning tool! Just pop in the CD and have fun!



Sincerely,

Cindy O'Neal
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In April...

More **FREE** stuff
 April Foolishness!



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