

Jambi Computing



Watch us make iT easy for you...

Inside this issue:

That's so... last year.

2007 was definitely a big year for technology, but was anything actually worth the hype?

Page 1

OpenOffice Online

You already didn't have to buy it... now you don't even have to install it!

Page 2



Repair shop or time to go shopping?

With hardware costs constantly dropping, how do you know if you should fix your current computer or just buy a new one?

Page 2

Wireless Security



Wireless routers are popping up everywhere. Here are some things you can do to make sure your own wireless network is protected.

Page 2

Cable vs. DSL

The scales are constantly tipping one way or the other, but what's the current state of Cable vs. DSL?

Page 3

Find out more about Jambi Computing.

About Jambi Computing

Page 3



That's so... last year.

2007 was definitely a big year for technology, but was anything actually worth the hype?

Unless you live under a relatively thick rock, you probably have heard something about Apple's fancy iPhone and the new operating system from Microsoft, Windows Vista. Now that the new gadget scent is starting to fade, what do we have left?

iPhone phone home...

Apple truly has the gift of style. From their computers to their music players, Apple hardware just looks nice. The iPhone is no exception. It's got a sleek design that perfectly frames a high quality touch screen display. It's got features that other phone manufacturers are frantically trying to compete with or copy. It's also got a catch.



It's got features that other phone manufacturers are frantically trying to compete with or copy. It's also got a catch.

Apple has a 5-year exclusive agreement with AT&T, which means unless you sign a contract for AT&T wireless service, you don't get to play with this cool gadget. With complaints about AT&T's sub par broadband network added to the hassle and expense of switching wireless carriers, I guess I'll just keep my BlackBerry for now.

Bottom line: If you must have this uber-cool device, get one! If you can wait, Apple will surely deliver a similar offering to a wider audience in a few years... or so we hope.

Vista - A flop or just horrible?

OK, some might say Vista is pretty. Other than that and outside of Microsoft headquarters, you might have trouble finding anyone with anything nice to say about it. Is this operating system doomed?

Windows XP, who's color scheme looks like something out of a Super Mario Brothers game, underwent some 50 gazillion updates and has, as of recent years, become a fairly stable and usable operating system. Vista could potentially find itself in this position more quickly than XP did, but there are some things that could stand in the way.

Vista is too slow on a new computer that would run XP like lightning. Though this is expected with a new operating system, the performance on most older and even some newer computers is just unacceptable to most users. If Microsoft does something about that, and solves some of the many compatibility issues, I'll give it a second look.

Bottom line: Better keep Super Mario XP.



OpenOffice Online

You already didn't have to buy it... now you don't even have to install it!

Gaël Duval, the founder of the Mandriva (previously Mandrake) Linux distribution started another distribution called Ulteo. Ulteo has taken a special interest in OpenOffice.org's word processor. What does this mean to you? There is another choice for online document creation!

If you don't want to pay for Microsoft Office Live or the Google Docs application isn't cutting it for you, OpenOffice online can be accessed through ulteo.com. The application is actually running on a server instead of your computer which means that you can work on the same documents regardless of your physical location as long as you can get on the Internet.

For many years, tech trends have predicted a possible shift to a more Web-centered computing experience. This requires less from the client (home computer) and places more demand on the server for application processing. There are many benefits to working this way, but Web-based applications come without their own set of problems. No Internet connection could mean not working on documents! Without a word processor installed on your local computer, there is no way to work on your documents. If you depend on a service like OpenOffice's new online word processor, you'll need a reliable broadband internet solution.

All in all, this is a wonderful idea that certainly deserves exploration! This program is currently in "beta", which basically means it is still being developed and tested. Usually, at the beta stage of testing, programs are very usable but can still contain many bugs, so don't expect perfection just yet. In time, you can expect to find many Web-based applications that could replace their desktop counterparts, but don't throw away your hard drive this year.

Repair shop or time to go shopping?

With hardware costs constantly dropping, how do you know if you should fix your current computer or just buy a new one?

Computers are getting cheap, but a good computer that will last for several years and hang in there with the technology of tomorrow can still be expensive. At what point does it become cheaper to buy a new computer rather than fix your current computer? The answer can save you some money in the long run!

It's all about the numbers. Did you spend 1500 dollars on a computer last year or just 500? If you are among the many people who surf the web, take some digital photos, e-mail or do other things that would be considered basic functions, you may have found a 500 dollar computer that fills all of your needs. On the other hand, if you play the latest games or work with complex programs, you probably had to shell out much more for a system that works for you.

Unfortunately, computers break sometimes. If you already have a monitor, and your 500 dollar computer needs 350 dollars or more to be fixed, an extra 150 dollars for something new with a warranty doesn't sound bad. That same 350 dollar fix might seem more attractive if your computer price was well over 1000 dollars.

The key is to always compare the cost of repair with the cost of replacement! If you decide that a repair is in order, consider an upgrade. Some extra memory added while replacing a less performance related part such as a power supply will provide you with some added performance that can make the repair seem worthwhile.

Wireless Security

Wireless routers are popping up everywhere. Here are some things you can do to make sure your own wireless network is protected.

If you have a wireless router in your house, you might want to think about security for a minute. Though hackers do not commonly target small residential wireless networks, you still wouldn't want to leave a door open for them. Here is a list of things that you can check to be sure your network is safe. If you don't understand something, you may need professional assistance, but at least you'll know what to ask for!

Username and Password

Most router manufacturers ship their products with a default username and password. For instance, if you have a Linksys router, the default is a blank username with the password "admin". If you haven't changed yours, someone could get access by simply trying a few default combinations.

SSID

Your wireless network has a name and it is called the SSID. The first thing you need to know to connect to a wireless network is the name. Let's look at Linksys again. A new Linksys router will usually be set to broadcast the SSID and it's called, you guess it... linksys. It's a good idea to change this SSID and stop the router from broadcasting its name.

Encryption

Unsecured wireless network? This means anyone is welcome to join and use your Internet connection. Always use encryption to protect your network. WEP is better than nothing, but WPA is the best!

MAC address filtering

Every network card in every computer has a MAC address. You can actually tell your router the MAC address of your computers and it will block everyone else that attempts to connect.

Cable vs. DSL

The scales are constantly tipping one way or the other, but what's the current state of Cable vs. DSL?

With DSL speeds meeting or exceeding the speed of some cable companies, it could be time to re-evaluate your broadband connection. Cable used to be king when it came to maximum speed. Although in some areas this is still true, DSL speeds are reaching 10mbit and giving cable a run for it's money.

DSL generally provides a more consistent connection because it is a single dedicated line. DSL users also enjoy the ability to talk on the phone and surf the Web on the same line, at the same time. For most packages, DSL continues to be the cheaper solution.

DSL has some drawbacks as well. It has more limited availability, especially in rural areas. DSL also requires a voice phone plan. With more and more people using their cell phone as their sole phone line, you might not need the extra phone line. This added expense could make DSL cost more than cable.

Cable can still be blazing fast. If you have a cable Internet connection, you probably share that connection with other people who live close to you. This is one reason why the speed of a cable connection can seem to fluctuate so much.

The cost of cable Internet is usually more than DSL, but there are some other factors. If you are already paying for cable television, you can probably bundle your services together to save some money.

After a fresh look at cable vs. DSL, it seems the answer is the same: It depends.

Weigh your options and be sure to shop around. Whether you decide on DSL or cable, you can get a fast reliable connection that will most certainly be much faster than dial-up!



About Jambi Computing

Jambi Computing provides first-class computer support to Upstate SC. Your Anderson / Greenville computer repair service experts are just a phone call away.

Busy? We understand. Just give us a call and we'll come to you! Pickup and delivery service is always available.

Jambi Computing
127 Redwood Dr
Belton SC 29627

jambicomputing.com

(864) 376-6525

Call Today! (864) 376-6525 or
visit us at jambicomputing.com

