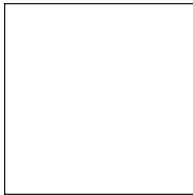


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**NOVEMBER 2005**



**Wireless Bar Code Scanners**

*Perhaps you understand the headache that accompanies manual inventory checks?*

Allow EBMS to provide the solution you need to increase inventory efficiency and accuracy: a wireless bar code scanner!

Plug the battery pack into the scanner. Allow a few seconds for the scanner to connect to the remote station with which it is associated. Then using the keypad, follow the simple and intuitive prompts given on the LED screen.

Inventory counts can be verified and adjustments made in a fraction of the time it takes with standard manual methods! For starters, the user can access inventory history from the scanner. The deluxe wireless scanner package, offered through EBMS, even includes the option to transfer inventory items between warehouses.

The wireless interface is capable of transmitting up to 100 feet. This allows the user the ability to record inventory transactions from various locations throughout the warehouse, without needing to be next to a PC.

The wireless bar code scanner not only assists with inventory, but includes many other functions. It allows the user to receive products within a purchase order, ship prod-

ucts within a sales order, apply parts to a job or work order, access tasks, do job costing, and more. The POS mode permits rapid transition to the sales counter scanner. Reports and labels can be printed easily from the scanner when the correct options are selected.

Not sure that the employee who checks inventory needs access to all the information in the scanner? EBMS allows locking of features with per employee permissions. The user is required to scan a bar code or enter an ID number to identify the activities assigned to that particular user within the employee record.

Witmer Associates, Inc. is a satisfied owner of the EBMS software and currently uses the wireless bar code scanner. James Witmer, Sales & Marketing Manager, is quoted to have said,

"The wireless bar code scanners have created several efficiencies in our company...The reduction in shipping mistakes is the most significant difference that resulted from implementing the scanners. When shipping products to customers all over the United States and Canada, mistakes become very costly: customer service calls from upset cus-

tomers; inventory quantity discrepancies; sending shipping labels and return postage; re-sending correct items; employee time to correct the mistake; not to mention the negative impression you've left with the customer. As long as we properly label and bar code our products, the scanners won't let us pick the wrong items for orders. If an incorrect item is chosen, the scanner will blink red and beep. When a correct item is picked, a yellow light will blink and a different beep will be heard. Now that we use the wireless bar code scanners, it's hard to imagine business without them."

Sounds efficient? It is efficient. Consider this option for your business.

For more information on wireless scanner packages, contact Esh Computer Center at (717) 442-1080.

~ Charity Landis, receptionist

**New Class Offerings -  
See Schedule on  
Page two for details.**

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## USB Pen Drives

### A Nice Replacement for the Floppy Disk

Many of the newer laptop and desktop computers no longer come with floppy drives. The old 1.44 megabyte floppy disk will soon become a thing of the past. There is something available now, however, that is more convenient, and holds more data, than dozens of floppy disks.

A 64 megabyte USB pen drive holds the equivalent of 44 floppy disks, but takes up less room, fits in your pocket, and is more reliable. Plug one of these devices into any USB port (no software is required on most models, if you are running Windows XP or 2000), and the operating system will create a drive letter for it. Pen drives are available in different capacities, up to four gigabytes, and are a convenient way to share files between computers. This versatility and convenience is not as costly as you'd expect. For about \$35, you can carry 256 megabytes of data in your pocket--or expand it to four gigabytes, for an additional \$300.

I have a few small utilities I like to run on my computers at home. I have the installation files for these utilities saved on a pen drive. All I had to do was go from computer to computer, plug in the pen drive, and install my utilities right off this little device. The other day, I had dozens of pictures I wanted to show to someone. I copied the pictures to my pen drive. When I plugged the drive into my friend's computer, a window came up asking what to do with the data on the new drive. I selected "View as a slide show," and we watched, as one by one, my pictures came up on the screen.

I also transfer documents from my laptop to my desktop. Whenever I make changes to these documents on the laptop, I make sure they are updated on the desktop as well, by overwriting the old files with the newer ones. Whatever applications you might find for a USB pen drive, their ease of use and portability can't be beat. Be sure to pick up one during your next visit to Esh Computer Center.

~ Bill Holmes, technician



## Processor Technologies

As time moves inexorably forward, the computer technology that was state-of-the-art five years ago seems almost quaint by today's standards. As we look at two specific advances in processor design, we will try to cut through the hype and look at the real advantages you can have by employing them.

### • 64-bit ~ What is it?

In much the same way as a four-lane highway can handle more traffic than a two-lane, 64-bit processors are able to process data faster than 32-bit processors.

For a bit of perspective on 64-bit technology, let's look at the personal computing scene ten years ago. Microsoft was then

releasing Windows 95, an operating system that promised to take advantage of Intel's new 32-bit processors. From a typical user's perspective, one very real benefit of Windows 95 over previous versions was that they could now use 256-letter filenames; a huge improvement over the old eight-letter names. Windows 95 was also much more intuitive to use than Windows 3.1. Even though it was a 32-bit operating system, it was also able to run 16-bit applications. Remember those lingering applications where you still had to use 8-letter filenames, even after you switched to Windows 95? Long file names were a feature that customers wanted, so it created a big incentive for software companies to re-write their software to take advantage of the new 32-bit architecture. Technically though, the real advantage of 32-bit processors was improved memory handling and capacity. Processors were now able to address up to four gigabytes of

memory; a seemingly huge amount at that time.

### • The advantages of 64-bit:

Today, 64-bit doesn't have the visible benefits that 32-bit had over 16-bit ten years ago, but the technical benefits are even more pronounced. Currently the 64-bit architecture can address up to 256 terabytes of memory, and future implementations will be able to address amounts in the order of exabytes (an exabyte is a billion gigabytes.)

Because of Windows x64's ability to run 32-bit applications at the same speed that they normally run, and its improved performance with 64-bit applications, there is really little to lose by making the switch. One thing to be aware of though, is that device drivers must be 64-bit. A 32-bit video or sound-card driver will not work with Windows x64.

For graphic design, technical and scientific computing, and for servers, the combination of a cleaner programming model and a larger memory address space adds up to a clear benefit. Sixty-four bits is the way to go. PC enthusiasts and gamers will probably not notice a big difference in speed immediately, but as applications are re-compiled and re-written to take advantage of it, the promise of ever more realistic games will slowly but surely be realized.

The one very clear benefit of 64-bit computing and Windows x64 is that it is not an all-or-nothing proposition. You can keep all of your existing applications and replace them only as the need arises, and there is no performance penalty for doing

so. In short, performance-wise you have nothing to lose and much to gain.

### • Dual-Core ~ What is it?

A dual-core processor is basically two processors on one CPU chip. For little more than the cost of a single processor, you can have almost twice the processing capacity. Dual-core expands on the concept of hyper-threading. Where hyper-threading gave the appearance of having two processors, with dual-core you actually have two processors, even though they are both on the same chip.

### • The advantages of Dual-core:

Dual-core allows the operating system to multi-task more efficiently, in effect using one processor for one application, say Photoshop, for example, and the other processor for other tasks, like your antivirus program. Now you won't be nearly as bothered by Norton if it runs a virus scan while you're working on the computer. Photoshop itself will also run faster with two processors, but if you're running only one application, to get the most benefit from the second processor, the application will need to be specifically written for that. As with 64-bit, performance-wise there is nothing to lose by switching to dual-core. Your existing applications will run just as fast as they always did, and applications written to take advantage of dual-core will run faster, and in some cases significantly faster.

~ Ben Glick, technician

## Winter~Spring Class Schedule

DESCRIPTION	TIME	INSTRUCTOR	PRICE	w. NEW PC PURCHASE
Computer Basics Level I starts December 1	6:30-9:00 pm 3 weeks	Jake Esh	\$99.00	FREE!
Computer Basics Level II starts January 19	6:30-9:00 pm 5 weeks	Jake Esh	\$195.00	\$150.00
Computer Basics Level I starts March 30	6:30-9:00 pm 3 weeks	Jake Esh	\$99.00	FREE!
Combo Level I & II	6:30-9:00 pm		\$249.00	\$150.00
Basic Graphics & Photo Editing starts March 7	6:30-9:00 pm 3 weeks	Farid Widjaya	\$150.00	\$150.00
Microsoft® Word Advanced starts February 28	1:30-4:30 pm 3 weeks	Farid Widjaya	\$195.00	\$195.00
Microsoft® Excel Advanced starts March 28	1:30-4:30 pm 3 weeks	Farid Widjaya	\$195.00	\$195.00
Microsoft® Powerpoint Adv. starts April 25	1:30-4:30 pm 3 weeks	Farid Widjaya	\$195.00	\$195.00
Combo Advanced Classes	1:30-4:30 pm		\$450.00	\$450.00

For more information regarding classes, subject and scheduling please call Karen Keller at Esh Computer Center. (717) 442-1080

### • Basic Graphics & Photo Editing

### • Microsoft® Word Advanced

### • Microsoft® Excel Advanced

### • Microsoft® Powerpoint Advanced

*Sign up for all 3 advanced classes and receive a \$135.00 discount!*

# TENT SALE DEC. 1 - 3

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