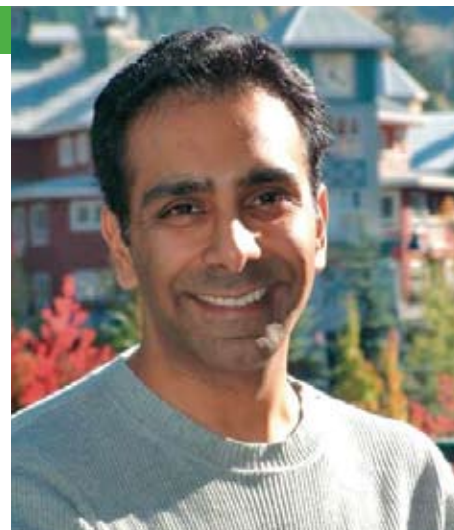


Akash Sablok



Quick and Easy Upgrades

will cover the purchase of a new computer in the Fall *Scrivener*.

Here are some relatively inexpensive components to quickly upgrade your system.

Hard Drive/Storage

Adding storage space to your computer allows you to save more files, scan more documents, and build your music library.

The Verbatim USB/Firewire 120GB HD gives you loads of space with true plug-and-play connectivity. It works with Mac OS X and Leopard's Time Machine and Windows 2000, XP, or Vista. No need for a power cord; it powers itself from the computer.

The best benefit? You can take your files home with you or store the \$99 unit in a safe place as a backup device.

www.verbatim.com



Automated OneTouch Backup

If you need even more storage, the Maxtor OneTouch III Turbo should be on your office-supplies order list.



With up to 1.5 Terabyte (1500 GB) capacity, you store years and years of hi-resolution scanned files or 400,000

photos, 1500 hours of DV video, or 24,990 hours of music.

Backup your entire hard drive with the push of a button or set it up to backup at preset times (my system backs up every night around 11).

System Rollback restores your system to the moment just before your system crashed.

Maxtor DriveLock Password protects the contents of your drive for an extra measure of security. This keeps your current data safe and up to date.

Suggested Retail Price \$449
www.maxtorsolutions.com

Air Mouse

I have used wired mice, wireless mice, trackball mice, even the latest laser mice, but I have not seen anything like the Logitech MX Air Mouse.



The unit actually works in the air, you hold it up and use it like any other mouse. "Look Ma, no desk!"

The Freespace motion sensing will also transform hand motions into commands on your computer. For example, if you are reading a Web page, you can "flick" the MX Air Mouse to the left and it will move back one page on a site.

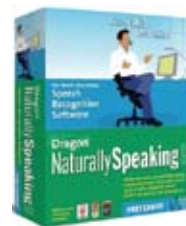
Windows XP or Vista, Max OS 10.3.9, or later

Suggested Retail Price \$169
www.logitech.com

Latest Voice-Recognition Software

Here's an innovative way to enter text into your computer: Dragon's Naturally Speaking 9 Preferred. This voice-to-text speech-recognition software is the industry gold standard. It never makes a spelling mistake and it actually gets smarter the more you use it.

Create letters and emails about three times faster than typing by hand.



Included are a set of onscreen tutorials and a Nuance-approved noise-cancelling microphone. Use your voice to dictate, edit, and control

applications such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Internet Explorer, and Corel WordPerfect.

Suggested Retail Price \$109
www.nuance.com

Voice/Memo Recorder

How about entering text into your computer without a keyboard or even a computer? The Olympus LS-10 Recorder offers 24 bit/ 96 kHz linear PCM recording. Translated: Better sound than a CD.



Record a conference, meeting, or even your own notes. Take the unit to your desk, connect the USB cord, and download and save the sound file in the WAV, MP3, or WMA format. Then have the computer convert the sound file to text.

Suggested Retail Price \$399
www.olympuscanada.com

Shred for Security

One way of protecting everyone's privacy is to shred extra documents.

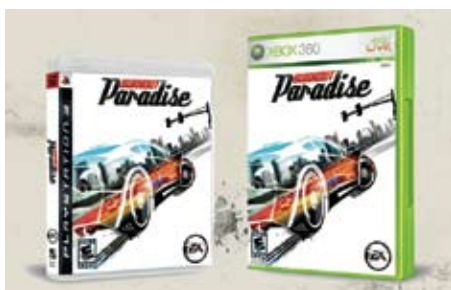
First, a quick history lesson. Paper, invented in 105 AD in China, is made of wood, cotton, or flax. Papyrus, what I thought was the original paper, was made from the sliced sections of the flower stem of the papyrus plant that were pressed together and dried.

Okay, enough Discovery Channel. The new Fellowes DB-99Ci shredder offers a jam-proof 17-sheet feeder that shreds paper into 5/32" x 1½" cross-cut particles.

SafeSense Technology stops the shredder immediately when hands are too close to the paper, but watch out for that scarf or tie!

I have to thank the designers at Fellowes for making a cool-looking shredder with designer lines and a black/grey finish. It has a 2-Year Product and Service Warranty plus Lifetime Cutter Warranty.

Suggested Retail Price \$349
www.fellowes.ca



Relax with Games

I am partial to racing games, but my friends who never play video games were hooked instantly.

EA (Electronic Arts) Burnout Paradise City for the Sony Playstation 3 and Microsoft XBox360 give you the opportunity to race almost every vehicle sold in Canada—and some not—on the track, street, and off-road.

For added excitement, you can smash other cars for points.

Suggested Retail Price \$59
www.ea.com

Hot Beverage Magic

With Breville's BKC600 K-Cup Brewer, you can brew your own coffee or tea or choose from more than 150 different flavour K-Cups. This is barista-quality!

Simply put up to 10 cups of water in the tank. The machine filters and heats the water automatically. Drop in your favourite K-Cup flavour or your own coffee or tea (using the included adapter), select the size of your cup, press "Brew," and enjoy. Total time: about 1 minute.

Suggested Retail Price \$299
www.breville.ca ▲



Akash Sablok practises as a Notary Public in Vancouver with his father Tarlok Sablok. Akash writes regular technology and automotive columns for several publications across Canada and appears as a guest technology reviewer on CityTV's *Breakfast Television*, G4TechTV's *The Lab With Leo*, and Channel M News.

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