SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

PROFESSIONAL PODCASTING POINTERS

FROM
SHURE
LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE™

Get the Right Gear
If you only need one microphone, use one with a USB output. For recording multiple voices or instruments simultaneously, use XLR mics connected to a mixer.

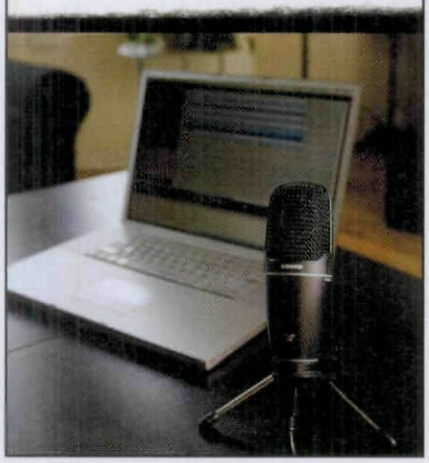
Find a Quiet Place
For professional-quality sound, record in a quiet location that does not produce an echo. Avoid reflective or hard surfaces such as windows or concrete walls. Avoid air conditioning units, and most of all, people!

Stop the Pop
Popping, or plosives, are explosive breaths that are heard after words that begin with a "p," "t," "d," or "b" sound. Windscreens and pop filters provide an acoustically transparent shield around your microphone.

Maintain a Consistent Sound Level
Movement will change recording levels. Record any instruments separately from vocals.

Use Effects
Digital audio effects can make both voices and instruments more pleasant to listen to. Effects processing, equalization and compression are most commonly included as unique controls within a single software package or digital mixing console.

Listen Carefully
Monitor the sound while you are recording or editing so you are aware of vocal issues early on.



GEEKTECH

How to Save $100 on Windows 7 Pro

INSTEAD OF COUGHING up $300 for Windows 7 Professional, try saving $100 by buying the Home Premium edition and faking its "Pro" features with some no-cost utilities.

Replace the most attractive features of Windows 7 Professional with these freeware utilities.

Encrypting File System
Windows 7 Pro encrypts and protects files effortlessly; with just a few clicks you can prevent anyone lacking an encryption key—except maybe a system administrator—from reading your files.

To do the same in another version of Win 7, try TrueCrypt (find.pcworld.com/61859). This excellent app conceals files using powerful encryption algorithms.

Backup and Restore Center
Windows 7 Pro's Backup and Restore Center copies files to internal, external, and network hard drives. You can back up via a schedule, and even incrementally, as Windows 7 can address only the files changed since your last backup. And its Shadow Copy feature saves earlier versions of files.

The same features also exist in many free utilities, including these.

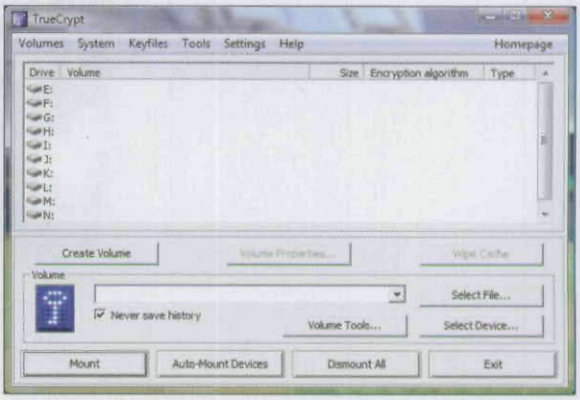
Use Clonezilla (find.pcworld.com/63718) to make full clones of your hard drive. For local, network, and remote backups, the easy-to-use CrashPlan (find.pcworld.com/63690) comes in both free and paid versions. And for incremental backups, try BackUp Maker (find.pcworld.com/63691).

For the space-conscious, SyncBackSE (find.pcworld.com/45090) can look through your backup folder and delete files you've trashed since your last backup.

Remote Desktop Host
Windows 7 Pro can control another PC remotely. It's perfect for telecommuters. The free UltraVNC (find.pcworld.com/60979) accomplishes the same task, offering several connection options and easy file transfers. It can also encrypt data passing between two PCs.

Windows XP Mode in Win 7 Pro's Virtual PC
Windows 7 Pro users don't need to own an existing copy of Windows XP to make use of Pro's XP Mode: They can download a working version of the legacy OS from Microsoft. Plug this into Windows 7's Virtual PC program, and you'll have a perfect version of the older operating system running right on your Windows 7 desktop.

You can mimic XP Mode with the open-source app VirtualBox (find.pcworld.com/63719). To use VirtualBox, you need a full, paid copy of Windows XP: Only Windows 7 Pro users get their virtual XP for free. However, you can install even-older Windows versions with VirtualBox—ideal for playing with older operating systems sans partitioning or reinstalling.



THE FREE TRUECRYPT utility can create encrypted volumes, protecting your data with the strongest algorithms available.

—David Murphy

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