

# Essentials

the CSS newsletter. February 2006, v. 7, no. 1

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## New HP Color Printer HP Photosmart 8750

Come use the HP Photosmart 8750 printer in the consulting office, 1253 SC. Here's what HP says about this printer, which CSS purchased for people who need color output larger than what the color LaserJet can manage.



- uses 9-ink printing: cyan, magenta, yellow, light cyan, light magenta, blue, light grey, dark grey and black
- multi-sized paper trays to support printing in sizes from 4" x 6" up to 9" x 13", including 8.5" x 24" panorama
- color management tools for realistic color and true black-and-white photos with neutral grays, with or without borders
- memory card slots supporting CompactFlash, MultiMedia Card, Secure Digital, SmartMedia, Memory Stick and XD-Picture Card
- USB port for connecting to PictBridge-enabled digital cameras
- 4800-optimized dpi

There is no charge to use this printer, but you must provide the paper for

printing. You must come to 1253 SC to use this printer as it is connected to local computer there.

## Email: Message Delivery Failure

### Backscatter

Since early January you may have noticed more messages in your inbox that have been returned to you as undeliverable. However, you didn't send them in the first place. This is backscatter, mail you did not send being returned as undeliverable. Do not be concerned. Your account was not compromised. Your email address was forged as the sender of a message you didn't write.

Getting such mail may mean that the message that was rejected (by someone else) contained a virus – that is why it was rejected – and returned to the supposed sender listed on the message (you) who didn't send the message. Is the address To: someone you know? Is the subject line something you have written? If either of these answers is "no," you are likely seeing backscatter.

The best thing to do with such messages is to delete them. You did not write the original message, so you need do nothing when such a false message is returned to you. Because the message includes a valid but forged return address (yours), our mail system will accept the email. There is no automatic way to remove messages of this sort.

See this [page](#) for additional information.

## PADS Circuit Software

**M**entor Graphics donated a campus license to their entire portfolio of software. PADS and Expedition are now included as part of that donation. PADS is a Windows-base EDA (electronic design automation) package that we have installed to replaced the Eagle software for schematic capture. During our evaluation of Mentor Graphics EDA software we also looked at and have installed Expedition.

### PADS

PADS is a simple and easy-to-use program to do schematic capture, board layout, and trace routing. The PADS environment has tutorials and detailed instructions available. The schematic capture section has a symbol library of the electronic parts to be used such as diodes, resistors, and ICs. You can submit the resulting file to Spice to check the validity of the

design logic. PADS board layout lets you design the board shape and place the circuit components on the board. PADS includes a template parts library with which to do the board lay out. The board routing engine is then used to route the physical connections to implement the circuit design.

### Expedition

Expedition, a more complex program designed for power users, includes some circuit analysis components. Expedition is a more capable package but it also has a steeper learning curve for getting started. Although we are committed to supporting PADS we have not yet made a decision on Expedition. If you have any opinions regarding the viability of Expedition we would appreciate your comments.

--Doug Eltoft

## Mentor SupportNet

**W**e got the following reminder from Mentor Graphics. If you use that program, you may find that a useful service.

“Remember that all users can register for SupportNet by filling out this simple [form](#). The SupportCenter Coordinators will process registration requests and send log-in information within 24 hours. If you would benefit from searching technical solutions, reviewing documentation, or downloading the latest software from SupportNet, please sign up.”

### Voice Mail

FYI—the University-supplied basic voice mail no longer carries a monthly charge, as it did when first instituted many years ago. See [pricing](#) for all phone services.

To active voice mail, dial \*85100, then dial 5-1000 and record a greeting and set a pass-code.

## USB Devices: Use Safely Remove

**B**efore you remove your thumb/flash USB drive from your Windows computers, use the Safely Remove icon in the system tray to safely unmount the drive before removing it from the USB port. If you remove the drive without unmounting it, you may not notice problems immediately. But over time you may find your Windows computer slowing incredibly such as when you open My Computer or Save a file. If that happens, reboot your computer.

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<http://css.engineering.uiowa.edu/news/essentials>

**CSS mission:** to provide a secure and productive computer environment that supports the ability of the College of Engineering to achieve its educational mission.

## A Look into the EES: What Tom & John Do

**T**he Engineering Electronics Shop will celebrate 30 years of being an entity in the college in 2007. There are changes coming to EES, and so this seemed a good time to find out what John Kostman and Tom Barnhart do and what sort of work goes on in this nearly 30-years-old institution.

John Kostman started working in the EES on January 3, 1990. "Sixteen years ago (Wow)." Tom Barnhart started in March 1996. Tom says that what is most fun about working in the EES is the diversity of things he does.

His responsibilities range from ordering and selling parts and managing the inventory to calibration, repair, and fabrication. John likes that he gets to work with the students and work on some fun projects. He added, "Some times you just have to smile when the students ask questions. There is so much they don't know but they want to learn."

### Typical Day?

Is there a typical day at the shop? Maybe in that every day brings a variety of things to do: sales at the front door and service/repair through the back door. John and Tom repair, or will try to repair most anything: computers, printers, test equipment. (They fixed the CSS shredder that wouldn't stay turned on.) The variety factor is the customers who buy parts, ask questions, or want the shop to build something.

Even though the shop sells a lot of stuff

(look at their catalog by clicking on the [EES Database Search link](#)), they don't sell computer video and sound cards, hard drives, memory, CD drives, and so on, because the prices change too fast.

### For Sale in the Shop

The shop does sell hubs, routers, switches, cables, toggle switches, special function ICs, transformers, potentiometers, and much more. Not all items are electronic; you can get batteries, cleaners, scissors, LaserJet and inkjet paper and cartridges, erasers, glue, labels, binder clips, post-it notes, pens, pencils, and tape. And the shop handles locker rental and adding cash to student printing accounts. They

keep extras of items used in course labs. You can special order items at the shop, and depending on the cost and salability, they might stock an extra one of those.

One up-coming project is to move the more than 12,000 small parts and supplies into new storage cabinets. The new cabinets are more compact and will use less space for more parts. The shop should feel less like a library when that move is completed. See the photos.



current shop supplies storage



future shop supplies storage

### Projects

Interesting projects? Yes, several, including making a small CNC mill for Dentistry to mill teeth and dental fixtures for research and class work.; and a DNA Sequencer used to develop plates stained with DNA to find out the genetic make up of a sample.

### Customers

Not surprisingly, their best customers are college departments and institutes. John offered, "We have saved students a lot of money in network and computers cables." But other frequent customers include Psychology, Physics, Biology, Physical Therapy, Center for Bioinformatics, Art, Music, and Ophthalmology. Clearly the EES is a resource for people in the College and for many people around campus.

Whether you need supplies, an item repaired or calibrated, or a circuit board made, go to the Engineering Electronics Shop, 2018 SC, 8:30am-noon and 12:30-4:30pm.

## Tips: Firefox and Not Having to Manage Spam Email

**M**y boss wanders around the building and stops in offices to help people who flag him down.. In recent wanders he has noticed that some people have not switched to using Firefox as their browser. Other people don't know about the Spam mailbox service. So he suggested that I remind people of services available. As long as my boss keeps suggesting, this column will include tips about things that he or I notice people are not using or do not know about.

### Firefox



Firefox is a browser that many of us in CSS use in preference to Mozilla. You might want to switch to using

Firefox because it loads more quickly than Mozilla because it is only a browser. (Mozilla includes a browser, email, and an HTML authoring program.) and it includes pop-up blocking. There are two main reasons that I prefer Firefox to Mozilla: the built-in search bar and extensions. The search bar at the upper right of the screen lets you enter search terms for any of several search engines and things you might not think of as search engines. Using the search bar means that you do not need to open another tab or window to the search engine site. For example, you want to find the title of a film that Ang Lee directed. Rather than open a new tab or a new browser window, select IMDb in the search bar and type "Ang Lee". The current window or tab switches to the requested information from the IMDb site. The newest version of Firefox that will be installed 2/19 allows users to add their own search engines. You can find other search engines both on the Firefox site (get to more by selecting **Add Engines...** at the bottom of the drop-down menu in the search bar), and from the [Mozilla development site](#),

Extensions are add-ons that make browsing more fun or useful. I like Colorful Tabs extension which colors each new browser tab I have open a different color. (Tabbed browsing lets you load Web pages in separate tabs of a single browser window, so you can jump between them quickly and easily.) I have had 10 tabs, all with different colors. I don't know how many tabs you must have open to run out of different colors.

My favorite extension is ForecastFox which shows the current weather at the bottom left of your browser window. When you run Firefox, go to [Mozilla.org](#) to find more extensions.

Read the original article about Firefox on page 3 of the [February 2005](#) issue of *Essentials*.

### Spam

You can let our mail server and its associated programs do some of the work of removing spam from your email inbox. If you create a folder/mailbox called Spam (it must be uppercase S and lowercase *pam*), mail that our mail server marks as spam will automatically be put in that folder, not in your Inbox. Mail stays in the Spam folder for 7 days and then is deleted. You should look at mail in the Spam filter and remove mail that you want to keep.

Read the original article about the spam mailbox on page 6 of the [August 2003](#) issue of *Essentials*.

--Diana Harris

## SUSE Linux

### Fall 2006

**L**ast fall CSS installed 10 Linux workstations with Red Hat Linux in the Elder and Hering labs, as well as in an ECE lab. That test Linux load has been well used, and CSS has learned about the support that Linux requires. Recently CSS has been working on creating a SUSE Linux load that will be installed over the summer and ready for use in August 2006.

### Coming This Summer



SUSE has focused on the desktop while Red Hat focused on the server. Thus we feel that SUSE Linux provides an easier-to-use user environment. On the administration end, it will be easier for us to provide a stable user environment with SUSE than with Red Hat.

The Linux load in the fall will include at least all the software that is currently available on the Linux computers: ABAQUS, IMSL, Maple, Mathematica, Matlab, and TecPlot. The different Linux versions – Red Hat, SUSE, etc. – are like the different car body over the same underlying Linux chassis. Thus moving the same software to SUSE will be simple. Perhaps the most difficult thing about the switch is agreeing on how to pronounce SUSE. [From Wikipedia: SUSE (properly pronounced /suse/ but often pronounced /suzi/) is a major retail Linux distribution, produced in Germany...[now] owned by Novell.]

If you have questions about this future move to SUSE Linux, please talk to the desktop services or consulting staff in 1253 SC.

--Doug Eltoft