Newsletter August 2008

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Welcome back to school. We hope your summer was enjoyable.

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This month's newsletter will feature lab setups and has included new lab activities for Computer Service and Repair classes or Network Fundamentals. The newest activity is available for you to download and is used for configuring dual boot system using Windows XP and Windows Vista. You can have the students configure your lab workstations as well as issue them a copy, so that they can also create their own home version to practice with and enrich their home studies.

Lab - Dual Boot for Windows XP and Vista

The first download is a PDF form of the dual boot lab activity click on:

http://www.rmroberts.com/FTP_files/Lab_Dual_Boot_Vista_Windows_and_XP.pdf

It's quite long because of all the screen captures included in the lab. I have used a virtual PC to capture screen images which could not be captured by other software applications. The lab is a step-by-step activity which includes screen captures to help the student as they progress through the lab. The lab is very detailed so that the student will need minimal supervision. We hope you like it.

Microsoft Virtual PC

Have you checked out Microsoft Virtual PC application? It is ideal for schools with a limited number of workstations, or for students who want to setup a second operating system on their home computer without the need to first install Windows XP. Using Virtual PC, you can setup multiple operating systems on a single workstation, and run them all at the same time. This design can also be used to setup individual student network systems when studying the Fundamentals of Networking.

The single network adapter is issued a unique IP address for each operating system installed. This means that the student can setup a virtual PC with say two (2) copies of Windows Vista, two(2) copies of Windows XP, and an additional

copy of Linux, or some other operating system. The multiple instances will network to each other, and allow the user to setup shares and user accounts and simulate a local area peer-to-peer network. They will not need to work in teams and share stations. In fact, you can setup a virtual operating system for multiple classes. For example if you teach several different classes, each class could have their own instance of Vista on the single workstation that is shared by students.

The only disadvantage of using Virtual PC is the fact that you need a good computer system. It must have sufficient memory to run both operating systems at the same time. Most computers bought in the last year that can run Vista Home Premium will accommodate XP as a virtual PC.

The link below will take you to the Microsoft website Virtual PC download area.
http://www.microsoft.com/windows/downloads/virtualpc/default.mspx

New A+ Practice Quiz

How about another A+ practice test for your student's review. I know class is only starting, but save them for the end of the semester review or certification preparation. Link here for the download:
http://www.RMRoberts.com/FTP_files/AplusPopQuiz4.pdf

Practice Tests for Electronics?

Send me an email if you would be interested in some practice test for electronics as additional student help. If I receive enough emails requesting practice tests for Electronics, I start posting them to my website, http:/www.rmroberts.com
Also, would you like some articles about Microprocessors, programming and kits? Just send me an email mailto:technical@rmroberts.com.