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New For 2008:

Microsoft Office 2008 for the Macintosh computer will be available on January 15. This is an upgrade from its 2004 version. It will be available in three versions: Office 2008 for Mac (\$400 retail; \$240 for the upgrade), Office 2008 for Mac Home and Student Edition (\$150), and Office 2008 for Mac Special Media Edition (\$500; \$300 for the upgrade). MS Office for the PC was last released as the 2007 version which was the upgrade from 2003 (released January 2007). Office for the Mac includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Entourage (similar to Outlook). I am showing you the above content to demonstrate how Apple and Microsoft are joining forces more and more. The gap is closing.

Cable, DSL or Dialup:

On average cable download speeds are up to 2 times faster than 1.5Mbps DSL and about 25x the average speed of a 56K Modem. AVERAGE PRICING: dialup with an existing land line (\$15 mo), DSL needs no phone line (\$30 mo), cable needs no phone line as well (\$45 mo). There are variations on these rates especially with bundling packages available. If you are looking to save money, I suggest considering the bundles. You can end up with DSL speeds for the cost of a dialup but with acceptable download speeds (this is how fast a web page will load). Remember, your telephone is "busy" if you use a dialup internet connection. In NW Ohio and SE MI you can contact Buckeye Cable or Time Warner Cable. You will have to check both to see who services your address.

No More Catalogs:

Are you tired of receiving all those unsolicited catalogs in the mail? You know those retail stores that send you regular and sale material. There is a new website that will forward your mailing address onto distributors. Their goal is to help preserve the environment by limiting the amount of unwanted paper in our landfills. You will have to sign up with an email and a password. They promise not to share your personal information. Check out www.catalogchoice.org.

Basic Training:

In today's world you need computer skills to land a job in most cases. The Catherine Eberly Center for Women on the campus of UT offers basic computer training at very reasonable prices. This is a non-credit series of classes that focuses on the novice and limited user. 419-530-8570 - <http://womenscenter.utoledo.edu/resources/basic.html>

Next Issue: Using the auto-correct feature.

Janis Weber, owner of Ohio Computer Training, is a personal computer instructor. E-mail questions or comments to jwpctutor@gmail.com. Contact her for personal or group training at 419-885-4255. Visit www.ohcomputertraining.com for archived articles and more.