



Reece Computer Systems  
Smarter Networks®



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## WHAT'S NEW AT REECE?

It's been an amazing summer for us. We are honored to have been selected the [Small Business of the Year from Senate District #8 by Senator Leland Yee](#) at the 2008 California Small Business Day in Sacramento. It's been 5 years since I first started Reece Computer Systems with one other part-time employee. We've now grown to a staff of 17. Being recognized as the Small Business of the Year has proved to us that our core values of excellence in service, commitment to the community and care of the environment have paid off.



In June, the SF Chronicle interviewed Terri and Dee Harley of Harley Farms Goat Dairy for an article about using green practices in technology. We were privileged to be offered a chance to educate the public as to how technology can be environmentally friendly. Check out the article, ["A greener glow for computers"](#).

I recently attended Microsoft's Tech Ed North America 2008 event in Florida. Ten thousand IT professionals (the vast majority from companies with large IT departments) converged for four days of learning about the latest Microsoft technologies from industry experts. I found it interesting that very few smaller computing companies had any representatives at this important event. I concluded the week by completing and receiving my MCTS (Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist) certification. Some of the key areas of interest included the importance of improving security, interoperability, troubleshooting and managing your existing IT infrastructure solutions. It was well worth my time to spend a week learning the newest technologies so that we can provide our customers with the best service possible.

Our Quickbooks expert, Lynne Magee, recently received her second Quickbooks certification. In addition to her 2007 Quickbooks Certification, she just received the Quickbooks POS Certification and is offering training in both areas to our customers. I also received a new credential - my C7 contractor's license: [919820](#).

We hope you like the new format for our newsletter. **To ensure that our newsletter doesn't get flagged as spam and that images aren't stripped out of the email, you should add our email address to your contact list:** [customerservice@reececomputers.com](mailto:customerservice@reececomputers.com). We're continually looking to provide the best service possible to our customers and would love to hear your comments and thoughts. In today's economy, we believe it's important to be SMARTER and give our customers just what they need.

Best Regards,  
Randy Reece

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## INTERESTING ONLINE ARTICLES

[Mythbuster Guys Talk Computer Efficiency](#)

[Free Online Personalized Radio: www.Slacker.com](http://www.Slacker.com)

## TWO FREE SMART SITES TO SHARE BIG FILES

Have some big video files from your vacation that you'd like to share? There are two new sites that allow you to share and backup files: [Drop.io](#) and [MyBloop](#).

Drop.io is a handy site that lets friends download your video. It's a snap to use because there's no registration required and no need to create an account. Give the Drop.io file a name, upload it, and send an e-mail link

## READER QUESTION:

**Q:** I'm trying to access my Netflix account to watch movies on my PC on their "Watch Instantly" tab, and I got an error message that "too many computers are listed on my account". I've only accessed the Netflix player on two computers, and supposedly I should be able to use it on 5 computers. Why is it giving me this message?

**A:** According to Netflix, if a user is running Vista and AVG 8.0, every access to the Netflix player is being registered as a new license. They are aware of the problem at Netflix but do not have a fix yet. Netflix recommends uninstalling AVG 8.0 and using an older version until they can come up with a solution. We recommend using 8.0 for the best security, but if you prefer to watch videos on your Vista machine, you can download AVG 7.5 [here](#).

to your friend (or use it as a private RSS feed). Drop.io also gives you a number to call so you can leave a voice message with the file. You can fax docs into a Drop, keep the file private or make the file available to a select group of friends, allow comments, and set an expiration date (or not).

MyBloop leans towards giving you a place to upload and store an unlimited number of files (up to one gigabyte each); it's also easy enough to share the files with others. About the only restriction is that you're unable to let others download music files but it does give friends a way to stream your tunes.

***Congratulations to Kelly Shrader for submitting this question and winning a \$25 Gift Card. Questions can be submitted to: [customerservice@reececomputers.com](mailto:customerservice@reececomputers.com)***

## **MICROSOFT GRANTS XP NEW LIFELINE**

Microsoft said it would end of life Windows XP on June 30. However, Microsoft has now said XP can continue being sold until June 2010 on inexpensive desktops. The decision follows one made in April to extend the life of XP on low cost laptops until June 30, 2008. It comes as Dell, HP and Lenovo exploit loopholes in Microsoft's licensing terms to keep putting XP on machines.

In an announcement at the Computex trade show in Taiwan, Microsoft said the decision was prompted by customers asking for the software to be put on low cost desktops. Industry experts believe the decision is also motivated by the fact that low cost machines cannot run Windows Vista - the newest version of the operating system. They also say that many of the low cost laptops run Linux - an open source rival to Microsoft's operating system.

The extension Microsoft granted to XP for these low cost laptops covered machines that have no more than 1GB of RAM; a hard drive up to 80GB in size; a processor running no faster than 1GHz; a screen no larger than 10.2in (25cm) and no touch screen. So far Microsoft has laid down no specifications for the low cost desktops, called nettops, but it said it was working with 20 PC makers on these machines.

The terms of Microsoft's licensing arrangements with PC makers dictate that they must stop offering XP as an option on new machines after June 30th. Many PC makers have flouted this cut off by shipping machines running certain versions of Vista with a "downgrade license" that lets customers revert to the older operating system. Reece recommends you move to Windows Vista if you do not have old printers or applications to worry about. If you do, we can offer you systems with Windows XP today, and the Vista downgrade.

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## **ECONOMIC HELP: Telecommuting could soon be a mandated option for a large number of U.S. federal employees**

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill on June 3 that would require federal agencies to put policies in place that would allow eligible employees to regularly work from their home. Under the House bill, eligible employees would be permitted to telecommute at least 20 percent of the hours they worked.

Proponents argue that with the rise in gas prices, allowing more government employees to telecommute would ease traffic congestion and cut air pollution. The private sector is currently ahead of the government in offering at-home work options. Only 6 percent of the federal workforce participated in a telework program in 2006, according to a House report on the bill. A study by Citrix Online found that 23 percent of American workers regularly do their jobs from someplace besides the office.

By most accounts, many federal managers are wary of telework because of concerns that communication among employees could be more difficult and that offices might have trouble turning around a sudden surge in work.

But Colleen M. Kelley, president of the National Treasury Employees Union, said yesterday that "it is simply old-fashioned and outdated to think that employees cannot and will not be productive if they are at a work site other than their office."

To hear more about the details of this bill, a brief history of telework and telecommuting policies, and how the move toward telework could create more interest in unified communications, listen to [this interview](#) with Diane Shariff, Avaya's Director of Unified Communications Solutions.