



Super Storm Sandy

I hope you survived Hurricane Sandy with very little inconvenience. I know it could have been much worse here, and we were lucky (though I admit it was hard to feel that way in a 50° house with two young children with colds). I had one large pine tree come down and was without power from Monday, October 29 until late on Monday, November 5.

Save a Tree & Postage

I can send you my newsletters via email instead of by postal mail. Let me know what email address you would like me to send the newsletters to. Thank you!

Since my landlines were down and cellular service was not 100%, it was not always possible to reach me immediately. Please always leave a voicemail message if I don't answer the phone. I am alerted on my cell phone when you leave a message and was checking for email & voicemail messages regularly during the outage. While an email or voicemail message is normally preferred, you can also send a text message to my business telephone number (201-825-6754). Please be sure to include your name if you send a text message.

Windows 8 Is Here

Microsoft officially released Windows 8 on October 26, 2012. If you purchased a new computer after June 2, 2012, you may be eligible for an inexpensive (\$15) upgrade to Windows 8. You can check with the vendor from whom you purchased the computer, or see <https://www.windowsupgradeoffer.com/>. There will be exceptions, but I expect most current new computer purchases to come with Windows 8 installed.

If you would like help with Windows 8, please let me know. I would be happy to assist you in upgrading your computer to Windows 8, or with using the new Metro/Modern interface. Most computers purchased in the last year or so are likely to be good candidates for Windows 8, but it may not be something you want. If you have an older computer or would like to discuss the reasons for or against upgrading, please call or email.

If you have a new computer with Windows 8 PRO installed, for a limited time, Microsoft is offering the Windows 8 Media Center Pack add-on for free. See <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-8/feature-packs> for more details.

Microsoft Surface and Windows 8 vs Windows 8 RT

One of the reasons for Microsoft's dramatic change in the default Windows interface, is for touch screens, and to better unify the software design for their hardware products. The Surface is a new device from Microsoft – it's a new tablet computer, similar to Apple's iPad.

The current Microsoft Surface offering comes with Windows 8 RT. The "RT" is very important – Windows 8 **RT** is a version of Windows specifically for ARM-based processors (primarily tablets and phones). Windows 8 RT will only run applications designed specifically for it. You cannot install standard Windows applications on the RT platform.

There are other tablets that run the "full" / "real" version of Windows 8 now. Microsoft will release a Surface Pro tablet running standard Windows 8 (and therefore capable of running standard Windows applications), in early 2013.

Ask Me About Android

I am very happy with my Samsung Galaxy Nexus (Android smartphone) and Asus Nexus 7 (Android tablet). If you have any interest in these types of devices, please contact me. If you would like to see mine, let me know when you schedule an appointment, and I'll be sure to bring them (the phone is always with me, but I would need to know if you would like to see the tablet). Of course I also help people with other smartphones (Google Android, Apple iPhone, Microsoft Windows 8, Blackberry, etc) and tablets (Google Android, Apple iPad, Microsoft Surface, Blackberry, etc).

Google 2-Factor Authentication

If you are concerned about the security of your email account, Google offers the option of 2-factor authentication for their Gmail accounts. Enabling this feature requires you to have physical access to a trusted device whenever you try to log into your email account from a new computer/device. The way it works is, if you attempt to check your email from an untrusted device, Google requires you to enter a pin number (which can be sent to you via a smartphone app, a text message, or a phone call). This means that if someone gets your Gmail password, they still cannot get into your account. You can enable this feature in your Google account security settings.

Facebook

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BGCS Newsletters

I hope you find these newsletters informative. You can find past BGCS newsletters online at: <http://www.BGComputerSolutions.com/newsletters/>

Thank you for your business!

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or to schedule an appointment.

I need and appreciate referrals.
If you have been happy with my service,
please refer me to others!

Bill
bill@grunfelder.com

Note: This newsletter is provided for general informational purposes. Please call for advice concerning your specific situation.