



KINGDOM

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

— *making life better* —

Kingdom e-News

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Solar Stormwatch is an Adventure on Your Computer

“We have this tsunami of data that we're currently drowning in, and it would be really helpful for people to come along with a bucket and help us bail it.” Chris Davis of the Solar Stormwatch team is asking for help. Your help. His team of solar scientists is studying storms that eject millions of tons of matter from the sun's surface as they spread out through the inner solar system.

Even on a quiet day, the sun is a whirling ball of energy, and huge solar explosions called coronal mass ejections (CMEs) whiz across the solar system. They can be harmful to astronauts in orbit and have the potential to knock out communication

satellites, disrupt mobile phone networks and damage power lines. On the plus side, they also spark the beautiful atmospheric reactions known as the northern and southern lights, or aurora.



In 2006, the NASA STEREO mission launched two nearly identical spacecraft to view the sun and its solar winds. STEREO A drifts ahead of the Earth, and STEREO B drifts behind the Earth. Solar Stormwatch is analyzing data sent back by the STEREO mission and will attempt to answer several big questions. We know the sun kicks out vast solar storms, a billion tons of material traveling at a million miles an hour. Nobody quite knows why they happen or what causes them to be triggered. For the first time, with STEREO, we are actually able to track these storms continuously, all the way from the sun right out to the Earth from a position which is not near the Earth. We can literally stand back and look at the storm coming from a distance.

Since the STEREO spacecraft have been in orbit, 100,000 images have been photographed, something around 25 terabytes of data. The team members are hoping at least that many volunteers will join the project. Both humans and their computers are needed for data analysis. Volunteers will download and analyze videos sent back from the spacecraft. Human pattern recognition in this case is superior to that of a computer.

Because humans are involved, however, recognition of solar storms is very subjective; so many volunteers are needed to form a collective measurement that can be regarded with confidence. If a consensus view of what a coronal mass ejection looks like and which way it is going is formed, it is more likely to be correct.

Signing on with Stormwatch is as simple as selecting a user name and password. You'll view a Mission Briefing, which will acquaint you with the Solar Stormwatch program, visit the STEREO spacecraft and meet the scientists involved. Then it's on to the Spot and Track Storms page where you begin to do "the real science". Learn how to identify solar storms and other phenomenon and how to look at real-time data from NASA's twin STEREO spacecraft. A short training session will hone your spotting skills, and you'll also find out how to make detailed storm measurements. Then the real classification process begins.

Solar Stormwatch isn't just about classifying data though. You can talk to other members on the forum, sign up for a space weather forecast from Twitter, and learn about the latest discoveries on the blog. You can also see how solar storms affect Earth at the Flickr group Aurora chasers, featuring beautiful photos of aurora.

If you want to take part in this adventure, log on to <http://www.solarstormwatch.com>.

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Become a Kingdom fan on FaceBook, Twitter with us, and check out our new blog at www.kingdomteclo.wordpress.com. We plan to write about a lot of different subjects, some serious and some not-so-serious. Most of all, we want these new ways of communication to be friendly, relaxed and informative. We'll be talking about our telephone and Internet services, new technology, and legislation pending in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. You'll also find tips and tricks on managing your phone and online services with a large helping of news about our company and from our communities. Join us – you never know just what you'll find!

Ask Tech Support

Question: What are the uses for the middle button on the mouse?

Answer: Most people don't utilize their middle mouse button to the fullest. Even the folks who own mice that have a scroll wheel (which is also the middle mouse button) may not use it for more than scrolling. The middle mouse button is capable of a few other tricks. You will even save a keystroke or two.



1. Close browser tabs quickly. Instantly close a browser tab with just one click of the middle mouse button. It's not necessary to make the tabbed page visible or to click on the "x". One middle click will do it.
2. Open a link in a new tab. Simple as that. One middle click, one new tab.
3. Open every link in a folder, each in its own new tab. Hint: Put all your favorite sites in a folder, the ones you visit on a daily basis. You will be able to open them all at the same time with one middle mouse button click.
4. Scrolling made easy. Click and hold the middle mouse button, then drag the mouse forward or back to scroll up and down the page. If you have a wheel mouse, the same maneuver provides a speedier scroll than the mouse's natural pace.

Sites to See



<http://lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/index.html>
Lizardpoint: Test Your Geography Knowledge

The Lizardpoint web site is a good place to visit if you are a world geography or travel buff who is up for a challenge. The site has 37 map quizzes, ranging from easy to demanding to humbling. The quizzes consist of blank maps which ask you to identify various place names by clicking on them. Fun and addictive, the site manages to sneak in learning at the same time. You may ace the United States, but try taking on the country capitals in Africa or the 85 question Russian geography quiz. Who knew there was such a thing as an "autonomous okrug"?

<http://www.cheapcooking.com/index.htm>

Cheap Cooking

Eat well. Spend less. Those are pleasant words if you have found yourself bringing home too many ramen noodles and frozen pot pies lately. This web site offers to show you how to use up leftovers, make your own pizza, calculate cost per serving and cook for one or two. A section on saving money by packing lunches for school and work is sure to come in handy. The recipes sound delicious and include old stand-bys, ethnic dishes and vegetarian meals. Articles about frugal cooking and a blog with more tempting recipes are also incorporated into the site.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/>

BBC World Service

Take a listen and “be inspired by a bigger world”, as the BBC’s slogan goes. The World Service bills itself as “the world’s leading international broadcaster”, providing programs and content for radio, TV, online and mobile phone in English and 31 other languages. News reports, documentaries and analysis from around the globe are mixed with programming from arts, business and culture to drama, science and sport. Interesting special reports are available with topics like “Mali’s Music Festival” and “Ten Years of Chavez”. A “Have Your Say” section lets you get involved with comments and questions and brings together blogs and other social media.

<http://www.sitepal.com/techPlayground>

Tech PlaygroundD

Tech PlaygroundD is the demo page for the SitePal web site, showcasing talking avatars. The page lets you explore some of the amazing applications being worked on by SitePal. There are six demos to play with including a Virtual Interpreter and a Text-to-Speech Widget, capable of conversing in Chinese, English, Hindi, Swedish and a dozen other languages. A Photo-Face lets you upload your photograph and become an avatar yourself. In the Space Lounge, an avatar chat room, you can go to 3D space and visit with other astronauts. The demos can be shared on social media or posted to your web site, and you can leave your feedback and thoughts in a forum.

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/daylightsaving.html>

Saving Time, Saving Energy: Daylight Saving Time, Its History and Why We Use It

This web page from the California Energy Commission explains everything you need to know about Daylight Saving Time. You’ll find out why we “spring forward, fall back”, how it saves energy and when it all began. The page rounds up some entertaining trivia too. For instance, did you know that most of Arizona does not observe Daylight Saving Time? The exception is the Arizona Navajo Indian Reservation. By the way, if you still aren’t accustomed to the new start and stop dates that went into effect in 2007, the big day this spring is March 14.

Mini-Tutorial:

Fine Tune Your Mouse Wheel

1. Click the Start button and select Control Panel.
2. Choose Hardware.
3. Click on Mouse.
4. Click the Wheel tab.
 - a. To set the number of lines the screen will scroll for each notch of mouse wheel movement, click “the following number of lines at a time”. Enter the number of lines you want to scroll in the box.
 - b. To scroll an entire screen of text for each click of the mouse wheel, click “one screen at a time”.
 - c. If your mouse has a wheel that supports horizontal scrolling, in the “Tilt the wheel to scroll the following number of characters at a time” box, enter the number of characters you want to scroll horizontally when you tilt the wheel to the left or right.



Count on the K-Force

Remote Support

K-Force technicians can repair your PC remotely over a broadband connection to make software and operating repairs, or just help get you going again...while you watch! No more disconnecting and hauling your PC to the repair shop. \$29 per incident. If we can't fix it remotely, we'll credit the \$29 toward an In-Store or an On-site repair.

In-Store Support

Bring your PC in for software and/or hardware repairs, upgrades, or any of our other K-Force support services. Check [our pricing](#) or call us to talk to a live K-Force professional.

On-site Support

Trained K-Force technicians will come to your location to install software; upgrade PCs; install and configure new PCs; install, configure and secure wired or wireless networks; or provide other IT support services. Short or long term service contracts for those who need ongoing professional PC or network support are available.

