



# Meier Consulting Services

*Bookkeeping using Quicken & Quickbooks  
PC tech support, purchase and training  
Website, blog and social media help*

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## Inaugural Issue

Welcome to the inaugural issue of **MCS Tech News and Views**. For many months I have pondered the idea of sending my clients a periodic newsletter with a mix of tips and tricks, product reviews and updates, and most importantly, alerts to current tech scams and threats. I hope you will find this useful and welcome suggestions for anything you would like to see included. If you would prefer not to receive this, please send me an email ([brnese@kmeier.com](mailto:brnese@kmeier.com)) and I'll remove you from future mailings.

## GMail Alert

I have one client that I know of who has suffered a (significant) loss of email in the recent GMail glitch. If you are currently using GMail take this as a wake-up call to be certain that you are backing up your web based email accounts by at least one of several methods. If you are currently using Outlook or similar computer based email client and downloading messages to that client using POP3 protocol then you should be covered, provided of course that you are also backing up the data on your computer. If you are using Outlook or similar computer based email client to access your web based email via IMAP protocol or simply accessing the web interface to read and send your email then you are at risk having an unrecoverable loss of your email messages and stores. I'm happy to review your individual situation and help insure that you have adequate backup. There are additional options as well - they all have their benefits and trade offs.

## Computer Backup

This is a part of my annual holiday message, but I cannot emphasize too strongly that if you have anything you care about on your computer, email, documents, photos etc. you need to have an external backup that is automatically backing up on a daily basis. External backup drives have come down in price so that a 500GB drive is now under \$75 - far less than the cost of trying to retrieve data from a failed hard drive (that can run into the thousands). I've tested about a dozen automatic backup software programs and definitely have my favorites. I will also say that my own preference is NOT to use online backup services (Norton, Carbonite, the Google cloud). If there is a problem with the service your data may be at risk. Gmail for example uses the "cloud".

Hope you've enjoyed the first issue. Please let me know if there is a topic you would like to see covered and, if you've found this helpful, feel free to pass it on to a friend.

## Recycle!

I am often asked where to take retired electronic and tech equipment and generally use two places in Marin.

### Renew Computers Inc.

not a 501c3  
446 DuBois Street  
San Rafael CA 94901  
(415) 457-8801  
[info@renewcomputers.com](mailto:info@renewcomputers.com)  
[www.renewcomputers.com](http://www.renewcomputers.com)

### Marin Computer Resource

MCRC (501c3)  
42 Digital Drive, #3  
Novato CA 94949  
(415) 883-1428  
[info@mcrc.org](mailto:info@mcrc.org)  
[www.mcrc.org](http://www.mcrc.org)

Be sure to check the website for days and hours of operation and more detailed information on what they will and will not take. Both will wipe the hard drive for a small fee although I prefer to delete at least the profile prior to having an outside service do that. Both make computers available to the needy within the community.

## IPAD, IPAD2, IPHONE

Apple announced its IPAD2 today - "thinner, lighter, faster, face time, two cameras, new smart covers accompanied by the new OS4.2 to support new features. One big development is the availability of two IPAD versions, one supporting the ATT 3G network and one supporting the Verizon 3G network. They are not interchangeable and you must select one version or the other.

## Favorite Apps

I am always on the hunt for apps for my IPAD and iPhone and have found a few that are definite favorites.

**Overdrive** - download library books from more than 13,000 libraries worldwide which offer eBooks and audiobooks via OverDrive.

**Pulse** - if you like to follow multiple RSS data feeds from websites and blogs, Pulse is a free easy to configure and use reader - my favorite of all the readers so far.

**KenKen** - if you are a fan of Sudoku check out the new player, KenKen which is the creation of Will Shortz who is the editor of the NY Times Crossword Puzzle.

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