



We make IT Work for You

# IT Radix Resource

Some Like it Hot...

Summer 2011

## Hot, Hot, Hot!

- Cool technology
- Keep your computer from losing it's cool!
- Make the most of the lazy days of summer

## Cool Technology for Hot Summer Fun

As we cruise into mid-summer, many of us are hitting the highways and skyways to spend time with family and friends. Over 65% of all travelers will bring along their favorite tech tool or toy of choice. Unsure of what to bring along? Here are some *COOL* technologies for a *HOT* summer day!

### Portable DVD Players

"Are we there yet?" Hmmm... does this sound familiar? If it does, you probably have a child or two. Since the invention of factory-installed DVD systems in automobiles, car trips became a whole lot more enjoyable. Although, these systems can be a bit pricey. The good news is that portable DVD players do the job just as well, have greater versatility and are much more reasonably priced. Many come with multiple screens that conveniently strap onto the back of a seat. Portable DVD players also come in handy on long plane flights. Be forewarned...not all models come with a battery (or a battery with enough power to last an entire flight).

### Drop/Dunk-Proof Cameras

Water, kids and technology didn't mix very well when we were kids. However, times have changed and good, waterproof digital cameras are becoming more affordable. Besides enduring a dunk in the pool, many of these waterproof cameras have become more rugged, withstanding a drop from young hands.

### Waterproof Video Cameras

No longer are you restricted to keeping your videos away from the pool or beach. Video cameras are now available that not only can take a dunk in the pool, but can actually shoot underwater. Many video cameras also come with built-in USB connectors and software, making it easier to share videos with family and friends over the internet (i.e., YouTube and Facebook).

### Solar Powered Speakers

Harnessing the power of the sun never sounded so good! A growing selection of solar-powered speakers are now available that can run indefinitely off of their solar panels. They connect to headphone jacks on media players and laptops. Some more expensive models also stream the music wirelessly via a Bluetooth connection with a smartphone or media player. Pricier models come with built-in rechargeable batteries for use on days when the sun doesn't shine.

### Geocaching with a GPS

Are you ready for a game of high-tech hide and seek? Then geocaching is for you! Geocaching is an outdoor activity in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches," anywhere in the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof

container containing a logbook where the geocacher enters the date they found it and signs it with their established code name. Larger containers can also contain items for trading (usually inexpensive toys or trinkets). Geocaches are currently placed in over 100 countries around the world and on all seven continents. There are currently over 1.3 million active geocaches published on various websites and over 5 million geocachers worldwide.

Luckily, rugged and inexpensive GPS devices are now on the market that can better survive the rough and tumble great outdoors. Some GPS trackers even have built-in software that makes it simple to begin tracking thousands of nearby geocaches already loaded in the device's memory.

### eReaders

Going on an extended trip and don't want to carry a suitcase full of the latest "summer reads?" Check out an eReader such as the Kindle, Nook or iPad. Don't want to pay to download books, borrow it from your local library. Check out [www.listenjnw.com](http://www.listenjnw.com) for information on how to check out audio and eBooks using your local library card.

(Continued on page 2)

## Inside this issue:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Cool Technology for Hot Summer Fun          | 1 |
| Introducing...Chuck Barry                   | 2 |
| Beat the Heat... Summer-Proof Your Computer | 3 |
| Don't Get Interrupted!                      | 4 |
| Stargazing From Your Computer               | 4 |
| Summer Slowdown Maintenance Tips            | 5 |
| PDFs...Cool Creations Across Platforms      | 5 |
| Geeky Summer Reading Picks                  | 6 |

## Cool Technology for Hot Summer Fun (cont.)

**Fair warning:** Be sure your local library offers this service and that your borrowing privileges are current.

### Mobile Devices Including Smartphones and Tablets

While the most frequent use of mobile devices is to make/receive calls and texts, there are a variety of apps that can enhance your summer fun.

Visiting somewhere and want to check out the menus of the local restaurants? Download the *MenuPad* app and pre-review the menu, see photos and even order directly from your mobile device.

Just hopping into NYC for the day? Download *NYCWay* to your iPad, iPhone, Android or Blackberry. Find the nearest public toilets, schedule of events and the public transportation time table plus much more! Going mobile makes getting around NYC even easier. Use the app "Best of..." to expand the scope to other 30 top US cities and experience only the best during your summer vacations.

Road tripping? Use your smartphone to get the best deal on gas—two excellent

apps are AAA's *TripTik* and *GasBuddy*. Both track gas prices at more than 130,000 gas stations around the country. With *GasBuddy*, you can post whenever you spot new gas prices.

Don't forget the educational aspects of your smartphones and tablets. Mobile learning, aka mlearning, is one of education's fastest growing trends. So, don't hesitate to download those educational apps. Imagine...your child may actually enjoy and learn more algebra when it is presented in a game format. The relevancy of real world experiences can reinforce things learned from a mobile app. Check out "*Brain Pop*"—your kids can learn something different everyday with a free movie. The list of educational apps is endless. We recommend checking out [www.learninginhand.com](http://www.learninginhand.com) for a wealth of ideas and apps to consider for continuing your child's education throughout the summer in a hip and modern way.

Don't let the learning stop there. We adults can always learn more too! Visiting an art

museum this summer or perhaps a national landmark? Be sure to take a look for an app that can enrich your visits. As an example, the Museum of Modern Art has developed a wonderful app, "*MoMA*," to not only teach you the meaning of artistic terms, but to make the art collections more accessible. Check out some of the wonderful apps from National Geographic and experience places in a new and exciting way.

Hands down, technology has changed how we experience the world. Unfortunately, technology gets a bad rap for creating techie couch potatoes. What's important is to use technology to enhance your summertime fun and bring home lots of wonderful memories!

Heat things up this summer with some of these hot new technologies. Whether it's for business or pleasure, **IT Radix** is here to make IT work for you!

*"A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows."*  
— St. Francis of Assisi

OUR CLIENTS SPEAK OUT:

*"IT Radix is my source for anything computer-related. They've helped me recover from numerous problems on my PCs and laptops, always with a smile and always fast. Everyone I've dealt with at IT Radix has been friendly, supportive, responsive, and highly skilled. Totally recommended!"*

— Bill Treloar  
Treloar Associates

### Welcome & Congrats!

A warm welcome to our newest **Managed Service Clients**:

*Hary Manufacturing  
Liquor Outlet Wine Cellars  
Market Smith*

Thanks for taking advantage of our 2nd Quarter Special Offer. Remember, **IT Radix** is here to service all of your technology needs!

Enjoy making memories this summer with your new Flip Cameras, compliments of **IT Radix!**

## Introducing...Chuck Barry

Roll over Beethoven, there's a new Chuck in town! That's **Chuck Barry** with an "A"—not to be confused with "the" Chuck Barry, one of the greatest rock and roll legends of our time!!! While our Chuck doesn't like to toot his own horn, he can play a mean trumpet. And, as far as **IT Radix** is concerned, he's a HOT act to follow!!!!

With over 15 years of network experience, Chuck prides himself on being a "jack of all trades." His expertise extends to all versions of Windows (MCSE - *Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer*), Exchange, Sonicwall, Hyper-V Virtualization and Mac.

Born and raised in Middletown, NJ, Chuck's roots are in the Garden State. After a short, two-year stint in Las Vegas, Chuck returned to his roots and currently calls Haskell home. A self-proclaimed computer geek, Chuck enjoys spending his free time reading and keeping up with the latest tech news. (Check out his favorite techie websites on the last page.) While sleeping in and watching TV rank high on Chuck's list of favorite things to do, he also enjoys traveling which typically centers around visiting family and friends. Having a large



network of friends and family close by, Chuck finds that there's always something to do on any given weekend.

### Chuck's personal philosophy:

"Try to have fun at work while continually learning and expanding your knowledge."

*"Never let a computer know that you're in a hurry."*  
—Author Unknown

# Beat The Heat...Summer-Proof Your Computer

Does your computer act strangely after it's been on for a few hours? Does it lock up unpredictably, or seem to get "slow"—and are the problems worse in the afternoon (or the summer)? Does giving your computer a "rest" improve the situation—for a while, anyway, until the problems surface again?

If so, instead of cursing the fates or your software manufacturer, you might want to look at something much more basic.

The simple fact is that more computers suffer heat-related problems than most users recognize. Your computer's stability and speed can both be affected when heat builds up inside its case, causing crashes in odd circumstances and hampering performance. Even if your computer seems to be running fine, it will probably fail prematurely if it's running hot. Here's a list of things you can do to help your computer beat the heat.



## Why Laptops Get Hot

Laptops are prone to getting much hotter than desktop computers, mainly because there is less room inside.

If you primarily use your laptop at a desk or table, one of the cheapest solutions is to simply buy large rubber feet to raise the laptop higher from the surface and increase the air flow underneath it. There are also stands you can buy, with or without built-in fans that can do the same thing while using the laptop on your lap.

For more tips on using a laptop in your unique environment, give **IT Radix** a call!

### Environmental Changes...

#### 1) Pick the right neighborhood.

This can be just as important to your computer as it is to your kids, but of course for your computer it means something quite different. What your computer needs is this: a room on the lowest floor possible (heat rises), located on the northern, shady, or at least morning side of the building. Then, within the room put the computer against an inside wall if possible and definitely keep it out of the sun and away from heater outlets or radiators.

**2) Room to breathe.** If your case is in an enclosed computer desk or cubby hole, move it out of there. Or at least open the space up as much as possible so cool air can move through. And, don't block your case's intake vents (typically in the front) by stacking anything against them.

**3) Ventilate the computer room.** This doesn't just mean running fans somewhere in the room. Fans make you feel cool because the air movement helps evaporate the moisture on your skin—but since your computer doesn't sweat, just pointing a fan at it isn't going to help much. What you want is to open up the windows and use the fans to draw air in from the coolest point (downstairs, north side, etc.) and push the hot air out of the computer room window.

**4) Consider air conditioning.** Maybe you have noisy—or nosy—neighbors, or too much humidity, or maybe the outside air is simply hot enough to bake a ham. But if proper ventilation is not a good option, set the thermostat on the air conditioner lower. If you have central air conditioning cooling the whole house, you might consider a separate air conditioner for the computer room (but not a "swamp cooler," which raises the humidity in the room). And if you choose to turn the A/C up, please remember: in today's energy-conscious times, only run the extra cooling when you're actually using the computer. Turn the thermostat back to normal the rest of the time.

**5) Turn the computer off when not in use.** For some people, that's just not going to work; they need to be on their computer several times a day. But for most people this is a good idea.

### Computer Changes...

**6) Clean your system out.** A coating of dust insulates your electronic parts and aggravates whatever heat problems you have; the more dust you have clogging things up, the worse off you are. And remember: once is not enough. You have to keep everything clean with regular maintenance.

**7) Make sure you have proper airflow.** Typically speaking, you want air flowing in at the front of the case near the bottom, and exhausting out the rear of the case up at the back. Added fans are a good start. It is also important to make sure you have all the side and top panels installed; leaving panels off disrupts airflow and increases the chances that a dead air space where heat can build up will develop. Next, make sure the airflow is not blocked. Try tying the cables and cords out of the way; if you have to, consider getting rounded or 'split' data cables instead of those wide, flat, solid cables. And, remember point #2: if your case's intake vents are blocked, it will be tough to generate proper airflow.

**8) Set your screensaver and power-saving settings properly.** As long as your system is calculating your screensaver display, it is running near full power (and thus full heat). Allowing the screen to go blank after 15 or 20 minutes saves electricity and gives your system a break. And while you're at it, check your other Power settings in your OS or in the BIOS. Letting your system go into Sleep or Suspend mode can add significantly to its life.

This article was reprinted with permission from Antec, a leading computer component and accessories manufacturer.

**SPECIAL OFFER**

## Are You Ready for a Disaster? ...Let's Talk...

During the months of **July, August and September**, call us to schedule a:

### FREE Disaster Recovery Consultation and Toolkit

Learn how to create your own unique backup plan in the event you're ever burned by an unfortunate disaster. Also, receive a *Disaster Recovery Toolkit* (\$397 value) jam packed with useful checklists and templates to get you started on a proactive approach to IT maintenance.

Call **IT Radix** to schedule your consultation today!

- This document was intentionally printed on two sides to save paper.
- This document was printed with eco-friendly solid ink.
- When you are done with this document, would you please recycle it properly?



## Don't Get Interrupted!

With summer come storms that can take out utility services such as power and Internet throughout our area. However, there are some simple things you can do to ensure that your business doesn't get interrupted when the lights go out.

The first is a simple battery backup, or UPS, for all equipment that makes your network. Most companies ensure that their server has a UPS unit but quite often forget that the network also includes other key components like a router, firewall, network switch(es) and the individual PCs. And, while you're at it, we recommend a UPS for your phone system too.

Next would be Internet service. These days there are many affordable Internet service choices—such as DSL, cable and FIOS. **IT Radix** recommends implementing one of these types of service as a backup to your primary Internet service as well as having us configure your firewall for automatic failover in the event of an Internet outage. Now, if it's a storm or if your primary Internet



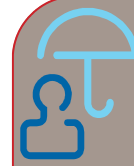
service provider (ISP) is simply having a problem, the probability of your business being offline is even lower.

Also, if you host your own email server, it's important to consider the consequences of either of the previous scenarios occurring (i.e., if the power is out or your ISP is down.) In these situations, **IT Radix** recommends implementing a *Message Continuity* solution which basically routes your email to a temporary offsite mail server that you can access through an Internet connection from anywhere.

Need to get that critical email out? You still can!

These are three basic things that every business can do to help ensure maximum up time through summer thunderstorms or other service disruptions that are out of your control.

Unsure if you're protected? Give **IT Radix** a call, and we'll review these items...and more.



## Save Wet Electronics!

The next time you purchase a new pair of shoes, don't be so quick to toss those Silica Gel packs! Silica gel can absorb up to 40% of its weight and may be the very thing you need to save your cell phone, Bluetooth or other electronics that may have gotten wet.

Place your device in an airtight container along with a few Silica gel packs for a day or so. The Silica Gel will draw out the moisture from your device and dry the device more thoroughly than air drying. Or, if you're in a hurry, try using a blow dryer on a cool setting.

Warning: Do not turn on an electronic device that has gotten wet before drying it out first!

*"You can never appreciate the shade of a tree unless you sweat in the sun."  
— Author Unknown*

**Thanks for the referrals!**

Referrals are the best form of compliment! We would like to thank the following for referring us to their friends and colleagues:

Deb from DNS Computing  
Frank from Frank A. Boffa & Co.  
Ian from LForm Design  
John from John Korinko Design  
Lisa from NJ Builders  
Pat from Liquor Outlet Wine Cellars  
Tim from Holiday Express  
Tina from Voicecom Plus  
Valerie from TAG Online, Inc.

Visit us at [www.it-radix.com](http://www.it-radix.com) to learn more about our Referral Rewards Program!

## Stargazing From Your Computer

How can you beat a day of camping?!?!? How about lying down in your sleeping bag staring up at the beautiful night sky? Crickets chirping...fireflies alight...hundreds of miles away from the big city...billions of twinkling lights.

Stargazing is a great way to unwind, meditate and put life in perspective. Sadly, big cities tend to drown the night sky in light. And, let's face it, many of us have the ongoing battle of balancing work and family life, and sometimes just forget to slow down and appreciate every minute.

Here's a cool, fun freebie that allows you to stargaze without leaving the city (or the comfort of your own living room for that matter).

**Stellarium** is a free program that puts the night sky on your monitor. It shows a realistic sky in 3D, just like what you would see from the great outdoors with the naked eye, binoculars or a telescope. The virtual sky is based on data collected from the European Space Agency's Hipparcos Mission. It allows Stellarium to depict the positions and motion of the stars accurately.

Stellarium's default shows the sky according to the current date and time. However, it can show nearly any time period. You can also change your viewpoint on the globe, and see what the sky looks like in China or Chile.

Stellarium can also teach you about constellations. One click reveals the names of constellations, while another superimposes the

constellations with beautiful illustrations. Or, for a closer look, zoom in on planets, moons, galaxies and star clusters. The detail is impressive. It's not only fun, but an awesome tool for any student studying the stars!

Stellarium works on a variety of platforms (Windows, Mac OS X or Linux) and the price is right—FREE!

Check out [www.stellarium.org](http://www.stellarium.org) to download your free Stellarium software today!

*"The summer night is like a perfection of thought."  
— Wallace Stevens*

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken."  
 - James Dent

## Summer Slowdown Maintenance Tips

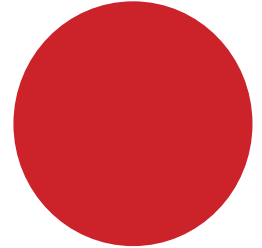
If you're in the ice cream business, the summer may be your "hottest" season. But, many businesses seem to slow down over the summer—schools are out and many clients and employees are enjoying vacations and family time.

Smart business owners take advantage of this slowdown to set goals and review business strategies. It's also a great time to maintain your computer systems and review your technology needs for the year ahead.

Don't let the summer slowdown affect your computer too! Here are 7 tips to keep your Windows or Mac computer running at sizzling speeds in the fast lane.

1. Uninstall unused programs, and if you're a Mac user, uninstall unnecessary language files too! Another tip for Mac users: If you're using an Intel-based machine, remove the unused Power PC binaries, too. While it may seem obvious, we recommend that you double check that you really don't need these programs before removing, in particular, anything that looks like it might be system related. Need help? Just ask.

2. Clean out your temp files, temporary Internet files and other junk files at least once a month. If you're a Windows user, don't forget to clean up that registry. Mac users, clear your cache. You might want to invest in some good third party software to do these steps on your Windows and Mac machines.
3. Empty the trash! This applies to both Windows and Mac users alike.
4. Maintain at least 10-15% free disk space on both Windows and Mac platforms. The operating system needs room to maneuver—be sure to give your system the space it needs.
5. Clean out your email. If you must hang on to it, consider moving items to an archive folder or file.
6. Defragment your system. Newer Mac and Windows operating systems (OS X and Windows 7) do not require this as much; however, if you're still using an older machine, you will see a performance benefit from defragmenting your hard disk.
7. Shutdown your machine regularly, don't just put it to sleep. Not only is it "green," it will perform a complete system reset and give your computer a burst of "energy."



Now that you've cleaned things up, keep it up! We recommend performing these routine maintenance tasks at least monthly—preferably weekly.

Need help getting started? Don't let the lazy days of summer make you lazy too! Carpe diem... seize the day! Give **IT Radix** a call and we'll be happy to help you make the most of this summer's slowdown!

"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability."  
 - Sam Keen

### Mac Hot Shots

- **Command+Shift+3**  
Takes a picture of your whole screen.
- **Command+Shift+4**  
Cursor turns into a crosshair. Click and drag over the area you want to take a picture of.

In above cases, a new file called "Picture 1" will appear on your hard drive saved in a PICT graphic format. You can open and print it by double clicking on this file to launch Simpletext. To copy this picture into another application, click on the picture in the Simpletext document screen and choose <Copy> from the EDIT menu and then Edit/Paste it into the new application.



## PDFs...Cool Creations Across Platforms

PDF (Portable Document Format) is a universal file format developed by Adobe® that preserves all the fonts, formatting, graphics and color of any source document, regardless of the application and platform used to create it.

Creating a PDF is simpler than you may think...

### Creating a PDF (Mac)

Open a document in your favorite application and then choose <Print>. At the bottom of the Print dialogue box, you will see a button that reads <Preview>. Click it and it will process your document and open the Preview application that's included with Mac OS X. You'll notice that when your document is displayed in Preview, it already looks like a

PDF file. Now all you have to do is choose <File>, then <Save As PDF>, and Mac OS X will convert your document into a PDF.

### Creating a PDF (Windows)

Windows offers a CutePDF printer that can be downloaded for free. After installing this printer on your network, simply open a document in your favorite application and then choose <Print>. Select the printer named "CutePDF Writer" and click <OK>. When the "Save As" dialog box appears, enter a file name and click on <Save> and Windows will save your document into a PDF.

With PDFs, Windows, Mac, Linux and even Palm OS friends can easily share information across platforms. That's pretty cool! Need help creating PDFs? Give **IT Radix** a call!

### Windows Hot Shots

- **Alt+Print Screen**  
Takes a picture of your active window.
- **Ctrl+Print Screen**  
Takes a picture of entire monitor screen.

In above cases, pictures are captured in your notepad and can be pasted into a document or email.

To send an image of your active window directly to your printer, use:

- **Ctrl+P**



## IT Radix, LLC

P. O. Box 454  
Mt. Freedom, NJ 07970

Phone: 973.298.6908  
Fax: 973.298.6909  
E-mail: resource@it-radix.com

**We make IT  
work for you**

CHECK US OUT ON THE  
WEB!

WWW.IT-RADIX.COM

### Enter and Win! Trivia Contest

The first person to send an email to [resource@it-radix.com](mailto:resource@it-radix.com) with the correct answer to our trivia question will win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble book store!

**Q:**  
[Microserfs](#) by Douglas Coupland first appeared in short story form as the cover article for which magazine?  
-----

#### Spring Trivia Challenge

A cat with an important collar plays an integral role in the 1997 movie [Men In Black](#). What is this cat's name? (Answer: Orion)

Congratulations to our winner, Misty Layne, from Grey Sky Films, the proud recipient of a \$20 gift certificate to Maggie Moo's!

**From the desk of:** Cathy Coloff  
**Subject:** When We're Hot , We're Hot!

As we enter the dog days of summer, I am reflecting back on all the wonderful changes that **IT Radix** has undergone this past quarter...



We added a number of new members to our team, took up new office digs in Dover, became a Master Sponsor for the NJ Builders Association, participated in the Atlantic Builders Convention, had a Lunch'n'Learn for clients on 4 keys decisions in business and technology management, taught members of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce how to maximize their use of Outlook, added a number of new clients and much more. With all this change, one thing has held true—I love my chosen career and all that it has exposed me to. I have learned something new every day, gotten to know a wealth of wonderful new people, and in my own small way contributed to the economic recovery while at the same time supporting my own terrific family.

As I look ahead, there are more changes in store for **IT Radix**, our industry, and our clients that will continue to fuel my passion for making IT work for everyone's benefit. Throughout it all, I most enjoy the personal interactions both at work and at home that make everything worthwhile. I hope you, your colleagues, your friends and family enjoy the dog days of summer and beyond.

*Cathy*

## Geeky Summer Reading Picks

Summer is a great time to relax and unwind. What better way to do that than reading a good book, whilst reclining under a shady shack, next to a cool pool, and sipping a slushy smoothie. Does this appeal to you?

Our **IT Radix** team members have a few favorites for your summer reading pleasure:

While **Ron Vreeland** tries to keep current on IT trends by reading:

[www.engadget.com](http://www.engadget.com)  
[www.informationweek.com](http://www.informationweek.com)

He also enjoys reading historical novels. Ron is currently working through [Master and Commander](#) by Patrick O'Brian on his Kindle (that is, when he can pry the Kindle out of the hands of his loving wife).

Next on **Mike Oster's** list is [Microsoft Exchange Server 2010 Unleashed](#) by Rand Morimoto. When looking for something lighter, Mike's daughter turned him on to [www.inkpop.com](http://www.inkpop.com), a site that showcases the work of aspiring teen authors.

Our fearless leader, **Cathy Coloff**, touts the audio book version of [Angels and Demons](#) by Dan Brown as a great "listen."

A few years back, **Marybeth Smith** was intrigued with [Soul of a New Machine](#) by Tracy Kidder.

The excitement of high-pressure product development and the potential of mini-computer technology in its early days was fascinating! Today, Marybeth is a Kindle fan....and is currently enjoying [One Day](#) by David Nicholls.

The self-proclaimed "geek" of our group, **Chuck Barry**, enjoys to stick with these techie websites:

[www.dailytech.com](http://www.dailytech.com)  
[www.engadget.com](http://www.engadget.com)  
[www.bgr.com](http://www.bgr.com)

After researching this quarter's trivia question, **Jandy Stamm**, decided to check out [Microserfs](#) by Douglas Coupland from her local library.

**Jim Faist** is currently diving into Book IV of Stephen King's [The Dark Tower](#) series.

**Jo Ann Post** prefers flipping through the pages of a paperback. One of her favorite series is [The House of Winslow](#) by Gilbert Morris. The series is set in a time and place where technology did not exist. It really makes you think about the worldwide information we have at our fingertips today in contrast to the limits in communication of our past.

So, whatever your preferred reading mode—eReader, audio book, website, or good old-fashioned hardcover—enjoy sitting back and relaxing with a good book this summer!



"It's called 'reading'. It's how people install new software into their brains"