

An easy way to scan those old photos

Gadgets Company uses a new type of superfast technology.

By Gregg Ellman
Special to the Star-Telegram

After my mom sent boxes of my family's photo albums years ago, we found a nice space on my closet shelf with hope of one day digitizing them.

Ten years or so later, one of the boxes has finally seen the digital era, with no thanks to my scanning ability. I recently tested a company called ScanMyPhotos, and I wish I had found it sooner.

The system is pretty simple: Just choose what service you want from a variety of choices, including scanning for slides and prints, with prices per image. I chose one prepaid photo scanning box for slides and one for prints.

I registered on the site, and the next day received a prepaid and addressed U.S. Postal Service flat rate shipping box in the mail. Now all it took was for me to choose and organize the photos I wanted scanned, since I was limited to how many photos fit in the box.

In my case I was able to pack in 2,297 photos, all 4 by 6 inches or smaller. This option does allow sizes from 3 by 3 up to 8 by 10 inches.

My slide box was filled with 523 35mm slides, although I could have fit in a few more.

The company does a good job communicating during the process, especially considering that you are sending a box whose



Old family photos come to life in a modern form thanks to ScanMyPhotos. Courtesy of Ellman Photography



Your photos are returned with their DVD. Courtesy of ScanMyPhotos

contents are impossible to value since the contents are irreplaceable. I got an email confirming they they received my boxes, and a few days later an email announced my scanning was complete.

Later that week my images arrived on my doorstep along with a DVD of my newly digitized images. Orders are advertised to be completed in about two or

three weeks in most cases.

ScanMyPhotos has commercialized a new type of superfast scanning technology, which results in 300-dpi or 600-dpi scans for prints. Slides are scanned into medium- or high-resolution files.

While this was the best choice for my photos, scans can be done on a per-image basis or a variety of bulk scanning options.



My Passport Ultra hard drive Courtesy of Western Digital



The BlueAnt Q3 Courtesy of BlueAnt

Portable hard drive

WD, a Western Digital company, has announced the pocket-size My Passport Ultra portable hard drive. It's a perfect candidate to hold a backup of these scans for safekeeping.

The drives (3.25x0.5x4.25 inches) are available in 500GB (\$99.99) and 1TB (\$129.99), with a 2TB model expected out later this year.

It's built with fast USB 3 speeds, but is also backwards compatible with USB 2.0 and 1.

With the innovative hard drives, WD SmartWare Pro backup software can automatically back up up to five computers to the drive and will even integrate with cloud services such as Dropbox for backups.

Everything stored on the hard drive can easily be protected with a password along with hardware en-

ryption. www.wd.com, available in black, blue, red and titanium

Smartphone earpiece

The stylish BlueAnt Q3 premium smartphone earpiece is HD voice compatible and does everything you would want from a Bluetooth device. The headset comes with a bunch of earbuds to get the right fit in either ear, and a hook ensures that it stays in place, which is my personal pet peeve for these gadgets.

A glossy black metal body cover is built with a power switch. There's a multifunction command button for pairing the device along with volume controls, a port for USB charging and obviously a microphone.

Setting it up is as easy as any Bluetooth device — just turn it on and a voice walks you through the setup. After your initial setup, just press the multifunction control and say the words "pair me."

Up to three phones can be connected, but one of the coolest features is the commands you can speak to make your hands-free experience easy. For example, once you press the command button, say "Am I connected?" and the Q3 checks for a connection. If there isn't one, an attempt is made.

Google voice actions and iOS Siri actions are integrated in the device along with an iPhone battery meter and a callback command.

www.myblueant.com \$99

Printers

Continued from 1D

though already considered overhyped in some circles — that many manufacturing experts say is even now only in its infancy, at a place similar to where personal and business computing was in the 1970s.

Like computing, they said, 3-D printing is not only likely to change the things we make and how we make and sell them, but also change how we live in good, bad and inconceivable ways.

"It is a bit tricky to predict," said Hod Lipson, a professor of mechanical engineering at Cornell University and co-author with Melba Kurman of *Fabricated: The New World of 3D Printing*, a 2013 book on the promises and perils of an emerging technology.

"It is a little like trying to sit down in the 1970s and predict how computers were going to be used. Everyone could predict it would automate payrolls, but no one ever predicted social media."

Given that caveat, Lipson predicted of 3-D print-

ing: "It is going to change everything."

Exactly when, how and how much, of course, is hard to say.

A May article in *The New England Journal of Medicine* described how two Michigan doctors used a 3-D printer to save an infant's life by printing a custom tracheal splint to support the baby's airway.

In May, Cody Rutledge Wilson, a Texas law student who describes himself as a crypto-anarchist, test-fired a rudimentary handgun he created on a 3-D printer he bought on eBay. He released his gun design online, prompting the U.S. State Department to demand that he remove it.

Understanding 3-D printing and the future requires understanding how most products are made now.

The range is broad, from printing to stamping, casting to injection molding. Many manufacturing processes involve tooling or machining parts — a subtractive process that produces a part by cutting or chipping or shaving away.

"You start with a block of material and subtract

things until you get what you want," said Robert Landers, a professor of mechanical engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

But the first word in 3-D printing's alternative name, additive manufacturing, tells how it is different.

Instead of chipping or cutting away at some material, a 3-D printer's nozzle runs back and forth, over and over again, oozing out layer after layer of whatever material is inside. It could be spools of plastic, metal, ceramic or cookie dough. These printers have already been used to create a heart valve. Some predict the printers will use biological tissue to create entire replacement organs.

Instructions for what to build are guided by software, much of which is free online. The 3-D printer builds a whole object in place, as if it were growing from the bottom up. Or it creates parts of an object that can be assembled.

Printers can be small enough to fit on a desk, using spools of thermoplastic filament that looks like weed trimmer line. Or they

can be huge, with nozzles pouring out stone-like material to create walls or 10-foot-tall sculptures.

A few quick clicks online reveal the range — from military drones to crazy motorcycle frames to specialty cookies.

In New Zealand, engineer Olaf Diegel's experiments with 3-D printing spurred for him a new market in intricate electric guitars with hollow, lace-like bodies.

In Boise, Idaho, engineer Nate Calvin took his daughter to an aviary show where they saw a bald eagle named Beauty with an injured and misshapen beak. He took pictures and a dental impression. Using a printer, he fashioned a new beak, although, he said, "it will never replace what nature can do."

In Italy, inventor Enrico Dini, chairman of Monolite UK Ltd., has created a massive printer he calls D-Shape to create tall, sturdy and intricate stonelike sculptures, organically shaped with many large curves and holes that would be difficult to create using traditional techniques.

Made of a combination of magnesium powder, sand and adhesives, a printed wall is being used as an artificial reef. In principal, the technique could be adapted to create walls to build homes.

3-D printing technology is not new. It first came to public notice in the early 1980s, and industries and scientists began toying and



One of the 3-D-printed guitar bodies made by Olaf Diegel

experimenting with it soon after.

The airplane, automotive and other industries have used industrial 3-D printers for years to design and test specialty parts.

What is new is the growth in the industry, particularly in personal 3-D printers produced by companies with names like

3D Systems Corp., MakerBot, Stratasys, MakerGear, FlashForge and Zen Toolworks.

In May, Staples became the first major U.S. retailer to announce it would soon be selling 3D Systems' Cube 3-D printer at its stores, beginning in Europe, and also online starting at \$1,299.

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Centurion Pipeline L.P.

Centurion Pipeline Seeks Commitments for Proposed Cline Shale Pipeline System from Irion County to Colorado City Station

HOUSTON, May 31, 2013 – Centurion Pipeline L.P., a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum Corporation (NYSE: OXY), announced today the launch of an open season to solicit shipper commitments to transport crude oil from Irion, Sterling, Coke, Tom Green and Mitchell Counties in West Texas to Centurion's existing Colorado City, Texas station. Interested customers must submit binding commitments by July 1, 2013.

The proposed Cline Shale Pipeline System originating near Barnhart, Texas will be capable of transporting approximately 75,000 barrels per day of crude oil to the Colorado City station with an additional new interconnection at Colorado City to the proposed BridgeTex Pipeline which is expected to provide access to the Texas Gulf Coast by July 2014. Centurion's proposed Cline Shale Pipeline System includes approximately 100 miles of new pipeline and several origination stations, each able to receive crude oil via truck or pipeline. The Cline Shale Pipeline System is expected to begin service in the second quarter of 2014, subject to sufficient commitments from shippers and receipt of all required regulatory approvals.

Please contact Mike Carosio of Oxy Midstream Strategic Development at 713-350-4758 or mike_carosio@oxy.com with questions about the open season. More information about the project and the open season is available at www.centurionpipeline.com/operations/current-projects.aspx.

About Centurion Pipeline L.P.

Centurion Pipeline L.P., a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum Corporation (Oxy), is an oil gathering, common carrier pipeline and storage system with approximately 2,700 miles of pipelines from southeast New Mexico across the Permian Basin of West Texas to Cushing, Oklahoma. The system has 85 truck unloading facilities located at various points along the pipeline and approximately 5.8 million barrels of active storage capability. Visit Centurion Pipeline's website for more information at www.centurionpipeline.com.

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