Introduction

I wish I could have titled this book something like. . .

How to use your PC to access the Internet, do e-mail, play with pictures, print things, deal with ZIP files, download music from the Internet, e-mail pictures, open e-mail attachments, burn CDs and DVDs, talk long-distance for free, make movies, and more, without going crazy in the process

. . . but that was too many words.

Books aren't cheap, so you want to always make sure that you get a book that's appropriate for your needs. Which brings us right to . . .

Who This Book Is for

In a nutshell, this book is for people who are clueless about computers and want to stop being that way. It's a book for people who have Windows XP on their computers, but aren't sure why, or what they're supposed to do with it. It's a book about using your computer to do the things that most people want to do, including (but not limited to) those activities described in the aforementioned title-with-too-many-words.

This is a book for people who have never touched a computer in their lives or have just enough experience to want to touch their PC extremely hard with a sledge hammer. It's a book for people who either don't yet realize, or have come to realize the hard way, that when it comes to using a PC, the following is dead-bang true:

> Guessing doesn't work

This is not an upgrade" book for people who've been using Windows for the last 10 years. It's not a book for people who have already read one of my earlier Windows books and want to pick up where that book left off. If you can read the following sentence and picture clearly how, when, and why you want to do what it says, this may *not* the right book for you:

Right-drag the selected items to the destination folder, drop, and then choose Copy Here or Move Here, depending on which you want to do, from the shortcut menu.

This is a book for people who can read the above sentence and honestly say, "I have no idea what he's talking about."