

COMPUTER ^{User} _{News}

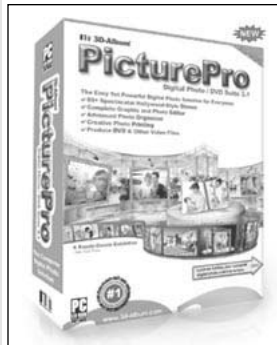
Monthly Publication of the Kentucky-Indiana Personal Computer Users Group

June 2005

Volume 24, No. 6

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Dave Whittle Returns with Whittle's Picks for the Digital Home



on

June 7, 2005

General Public is invited to attend.
Free Program Starts at 6:30 PM
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www.kipcug.org

KIPUCUG

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Half Page (3 col x 5")	140.00
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Member's Std. Bus. Card	100.00 for 4 consecutive insertions (No Discounts).

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Call (502) 499-5222 or send email to: editor@kipcug.org.

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Articles should be submitted as a **Word document** and submitted one month in advance. If graphics are included, they should be submitted in TIF file format whenever possible. All graphics must be converted to TIF or PDF file formats before publication.

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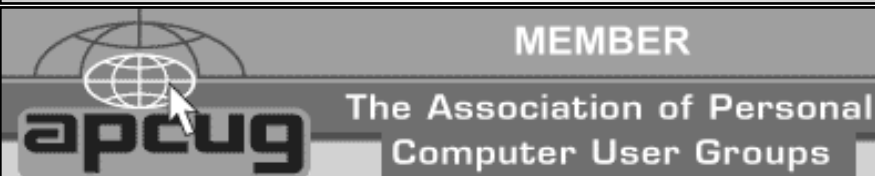
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Contributing Staff Writers

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John Henderson



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The editors reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary to any editorial matter submitted or to refuse publication of any material submitted.

Direct all magazine correspondence to the Editor at KIPCUG, 291 N. Hubbards Lane, Suite B-26-318, Louisville, KY 40207 or to editor@kipcug.org.

Over the Program Director's Shoulder

By Ralph Langdon, KIPCUG

June

Join Us and Enjoy "Whittle's Picks for the Digital Home!"

Are you enjoying the digital revolution that is transforming your home? In the ideal digital home, PCs and consumer electronic devices are not only protected against Internet security threats,



Webworking Services

but work together to deliver digital media such as pictures and video and music to the parts of your home where you want it. Enabled by innovation's rapid pace, you can reinvent your lifestyle, waste less time, and have more fun. The possibilities for managing your own digital content and enjoying digital entertainment are more engaging than ever before. On Intel-based systems, you can now take pictures and videos with digital cameras and camcorders, add your choice of background music, and moments

later share them with family and friends via e-mail or CD or even by DVD, displayed on your television sets in "home theaters."

On June 7 at 6:30 PM at CCUM 4614 Brownsboro Rd, KIPCUG is hosting a presentation by David B. Whittle, author of "Cyberspace: The Human Dimension" and named by Working Woman Magazine as "one of America's most original technological thinkers." Dave has been a leader in the PC revolution since 1979 and an opinion-leader in the PC industry since his days as OS/2 Evangelist at IBM in the early '90s. Most recently, he has been writing for Smart Computing. Now he is bringing to you his favorite discoveries from recent trade shows to show new products that open up new horizons of possibility or solve problems you might be facing.

want to easily but dramatically show all of the digital photos in any given folder while the song of your choice plays in the background? Do you ever wish you could rise above ordinary flat snapshots of those special places you visit and have an immersive, 3-dimensional picture of the place so you can revisit the scene looking in any direction? Most importantly, do you ever feel as if there is more to know about Internet security than you are being told? Are you tired of being your own Internet security expert? Would you be interested in a service that brings, for a very reasonable monthly fee, comprehensive Internet security to your PC and peace of mind to you? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you will not want to miss Dave Whittle's presentation at our next monthly meeting!

Back to Basics Topic Innovative Ways to use the Control Panel by Tom Scanlan

Dave will introduce some of his favorite technologies, products, and services that solve real problems for real people and can help make life a little bit or a lot better for each of us. "Whittle's Picks" are hidden

MEETING DIRECTIONS

Christ Church United Methodist
4614 Brownsboro Road

From I-264 (Watterson X-Way) take the US-42/Brownsboro Road exit number 22 turning left onto Brownsboro Road if you were traveling East on I-264 (turn right instead if you were traveling West on I-264). Continue for about 0.6 miles turning left at the traffic light at Blankenbaker Lane and turn left into the Church parking lot. Look for the signs.

Maps are at www.ccum.net and www.kipcug.org

**WERE YOU THERE?
ON MAY 3
THE NAME DRAWN WAS
KEITH MEYER
(THIRD TIME RICHARD'S
NAME HAS BEEN DRAWN)
AND HE WAS NOT IN
ATTENDANCE.**

**NEXT MONTH
THE PRIZE WILL BE
\$300.**

WILL YOU BE THERE?

Would you like a brief look at the latest hardware and software technologies available for the digital home? Are you looking for a new laptop but do not know what to look for? Are you interested in building your own PC? Would you like to have software that takes your digital photos and video footage and almost magically transforms it into a movie on DVD or CD that is a surprising delight to watch? Do you

Over the Program Director's Shoulder (cont.)

gems from companies large and small, old and new, with outstanding, innovative offerings -- including Intel® (www.intel.com), muvee™ Technologies (www.muvee.com), 3D Album (www.3D-Album.com), iSeeMedia (www.iseemedia.com), and the Invisus PC Security Solution (<http://myinvisusdirect.com/user-groups>). See exciting new possibilities from these companies and learn how the digital revolution can enhance your life. You will come away from this meeting entertained and informed. Dave will provide time for questions and will bring valuable door prizes, informative handouts, and actual product for sale at significantly discounted prices arranged exclusively for user groups. If you would like to take advantage of these special prices at the meeting and take product home with you, remember to bring cash, check or a credit card. See you then!

This presentation will follow the Back to Basics. In addition, we will also have the User to User session. Please be sure to bring your written questions to the meeting. Some of our members may be able to help answer your questions.

After the meeting, when we distribute door prizes, the KIPCUG Membership Drawing will be awarded to a lucky member (with paid-up dues) if they are in attendance. Since the prize is \$300, please do not be a wish-I-had-been-there member.

May

YOU + THE HP EXPERIENCE hit Louisville like a spring thunder-

storm! J.D. Bhattacharia and John Fariholt work in event marketing. They operate in a 30 by 60 foot tent that contains several props and much HP equipment for one-on-one demonstrations at special events. They can only make one event per week because of the time and effort it takes to set-up and take-down all of their equipment, so those events have to be high-attendance affairs. In Louisville, they were here for the 131st Kentucky Oaks and the 131st Kentucky Derby. They will be at the Indianapolis 500 and various NASCAR races, as well as major ball games. They had never made a presentation before a large group such as KIPCUG, but you would never know that secret based on their performance!

J.D. and John made a very professional presentation on many HP products including their projector, an HP media center, digital cameras and a photo printer. Among the pictures passed around was one Nicole had taken of me at the Rolex Three Day Event at the Kentucky Horse Park near Lexington. It was a very professional looking photo of me in a hot air balloon. However, when the picture got back to me at the end of the presentation, it had a note attached to it that read, "Have you seen this man? Call 1-900-CLUE"!

In addition to the fact that User Group presentations are not a part of their job, their enthusiasm for their products was contagious. It was rumored that Tuesday, May 3, was supposed to be their day off between major events. After their presentation, and answering many questions, they stayed around to demonstrate and explain all aspects of their products.

J.D. agreed to risk his life by drawing a member's name for our \$280 present member drawing. He had the chance to make one friend and over 100 enemies. Unfortunately, Mr. Meyer was not present, so he did not even make one friend.

My sympathies extend to all who missed this great event.

Future Meetings

For September we have booked Mr. Gene Barlow (formerly from Partition Magic).

Gene Barlow has been a key figure in the user group community for the past 25 years. Gene will demonstrate 3 exciting products.

MoveMe: This is a clever utility from Spearit Software to help users easily transfer all of their application programs, settings and data files from an old computer to a newer computer.

SecureClean/WipeDrive/Media Wiper: Gene will demonstrate three wiping utilities from WhiteCanyon Software and show you how easy it is to prevent personal and private information from getting in the hands of the wrong people.

True Image: Gene's main topic will be Backing Up Your Hard Drive with True Image, a drive-imaging utility from Acronis Software.

Gene and his wife Linda visit about 100 user groups each year. He is one of the most interesting presenters you will hear. Don't miss this meeting.

Programs at June Meeting

INTEL®

The Intel® Centrino™ mobile technology brand is your assurance that you're using innovative and reliable technology to deliver those benefits most prized by mobile professionals: breakthrough mobile performance and battery life, thinner, lighter, cooler designs, and integrated wireless LAN connections. With Intel Centrino mobile technology, you do not need to study a technical manual or bring along special equipment to connect. That is because Intel is working with hardware and software developers and wireless service providers with the goal of delivering an integrated wireless-mobile-computing experience. Intel has expanded its history of innovation with new notebook capabilities designed specifically for the mobile world. Now you can work, play and connect without wires and choose from a whole new generation of thin, light notebooks designed to enable extended battery life.

Intel® Hyper-Threading Technology™ enables desktop systems with the right processor, motherboard, BIOS and operating system to deliver many of the benefits of having two processors in your computer - including smoother multi-tasking performance for many of today's demanding digital home applications.

And, if you're looking to Build-Your-Own PC, find out how Intel can help!



MUVEE AUTOPRODUCER™

- muvee [www.muvee.com]



muvee™ autoProducer 4 is digital video software that enables even beginners to create home movies that are professional in appearance in record time and with outstanding simplicity. It's various unique and patented technologies (Artistic Intelligence™) include Smart Cuts™ to automatically trim and summarize your video, smartAnalyze™ to look for key moments and remove low quality video, smartSync™ to synchronize the effects and transitions with your music, and smartStyle™ to almost instantly create finished videos in a wide choice of styles. Take your home movies and/or digital photos and easily and quickly transform them into an enjoyable movie on CD or DVD that you can enjoy again and again! Now, with version 4, you can burn direct to DVD or VideoCD, choose specific sections of video to include or exclude with the simple Magic Moments™ feature and enjoy many other improvements!

"You'll be dazzled, I promise." - Steve Bass, PC World

3D-ALBUM PICTURE PRO

- Micro Research Institute [www.3d-album.com]

If you're looking for the most visually appealing slide-show software available to show off your digital pictures, this is the one. At Comdex, even jaded industry pro-

professionals crowded around MRI's booth clamoring to buy 3D Album, with its eye-popping visuals. 3D Album is attracting all kinds of media attention for its ability to easily create fascinating 3D slide shows of digital pictures. Even ordinary pictures can be transformed into an enthralling display that family and friends will be eager to see!

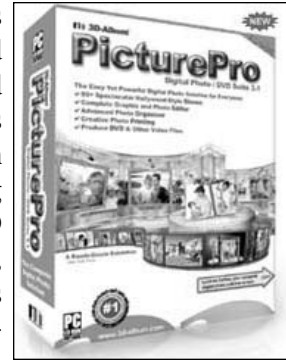
"This is a sensational new way to share and exhibit your cherished photos. This is the best, most exciting and most innovative slideshow program we've reviewed. It's a 'must have' for anyone who seriously likes to show and share their photography and family moments..." - Black Cat Media Associates

PHOTOVISTA PANORAMA 3.0 and PHOTOVISTA VIRTUAL TOUR 3.0

- iSeeMedia, Inc. [www.iseemedia.com]



PhotoVista Panorama 3.0 takes a series of photos taken with the same camera from the same location and automatically stitches them together to provide users with a 360-degree, interactive, immersive view of the scene. It is the closest thing to being there that



Programs at June Meeting (cont.)

a camera can provide. PhotoVista 3D Objects takes a series of photos of the same object from multiple angles and transforms them to create an interactive 3-dimensional image of the object.

The PhotoVista Virtual Tour 3.0 suite of products includes PhotoVista Panorama, Virtual Tour Maker, Vista Organizer and Vista Works. Virtual Tour Maker lets you easily create an online virtual tour of user-definable hotspots and links between panoramas, still pictures, and 3D objects. Vista Organizer is the fastest and easiest-to-use, full-featured media editor available for Windows - designed to help users manage, edit and share their photos, videos, audio files and 360° panoramas. Vista Works is a full-featured yet simple HTML editor that lets you easily preview and edit your virtual tour into an HTML page. It comes with several preset HTML templates to work from and lets you customize text, images, links and layout of your HTML page and virtual tour. Together, the products that comprise PhotoVista Virtual Tour 3.0 let you create locations and scene and enable site visitors to explore your online world - no plug-ins needed!

"Nothing illustrates the unique locations and beauty of our villages better than the immersive 360 degree scenes which we can create [using iSeeMedia products]."

- Andrew Jordan, President, Club Med USA

INVISUS PC SECURITY SOLUTION

- Invisus Direct [<http://myinvisusdirect.com/usergroups>]



The Internet-based attacks on your personal privacy and security continue to worsen year after year. The future of Internet security is gloomy - and it takes an extremely dedicated and savvy computer user to find the right mix of security programs and stay current with the newest threats. Internet security is not a one-time event. You can't simply install a cheap program on your PC and then forget about your safety and security. Internet security is an ongoing,

time-intensive process that requires a fairly high level of expertise.

The Invisus PC Security Solution is a service by subscription that offers maximum protection for your PC against hackers, viruses, spyware, security holes, identity theft, invasion of privacy, and other Internet intruders. You get all necessary corporate-grade (but easy to use) security programs and ongoing automatic updates employing the latest and best protection technologies - never buy security software or upgrades again! Best of all, with unlimited U.S.-based expert technical support included in the subscription, it's like having your own team of security experts ready to help with any security question or problem on your PC. For less than fifty cents a day, you can secure your privacy, maximize your security, and purchase peace of mind.

"I've never seen a more comprehensive and powerful security solution for PCs. The INVISUS PC Security Solution beats the competition in every way."

- Mark Ratto, President, Careware Computer Repair

In Memorium

Donald F. "Skip" Garr Sr. was the SIG LEADER for the FLASH MANAGER DATABASE SIG.

"GARR, DONALD F., SR., "SKIP," 49, of Highview, passed away Thursday, May 5, 2005, at his home. He was a native of Louisville, a service engineer for

Hewlett-Packard and a member of Highview Baptist Church. He is survived by his loving wife, Janet L. Garr; son and his fiancée, Donald F. "Skip" Garr Jr. and Erin Creed; daughter, April Michele Hardesty (Chad); his father, Donald A. Garr; brothers, Russell and Kevin Garr; stepmother,

Betty Garr; and one grandchild, Ally Wiseman. His funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at Arch L. Heady & Son, Okolona, with cremation to follow. Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home."

Source: The Courier-Journal

By John Henderson, KIPCUG

KIPCUG is on-line at www.kipcug.org. We average over 10,000 visitors each month. Our latest upgrades include adding on-line membership application and renewal forms, photos from the past 4 months' meetings, and over 30 new discounts available for our members.

On-line Application

You now can join KIPCUG on-line! Look for the "Application" link on www.kipcug.org. The short form submits your application to our Membership Director who will send you your membership card in the mail. Page 2 of the application will submit your payment information over a 128-bit encrypted link to our Treasurer. We accept VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express charge cards. You may also choose to use your own check on-line. New applicants are asked to type "New" in the Membership Number field. You may also submit questions or comments in the same box.

Membership Renewal

You may also renew your membership on-line by choosing the "Renewal" link. It takes you to the same payment page that we use for new members. Choose your membership type (Individual, Family, Full-time Student or Corporate). Please submit your name and e-mail address to track your file. The payment form will ask for your Membership Number. If you do not remember it, have a comment or if you have changed contact information, please tell us in the box near

the end of the form.

KIPCUG has teamed with PayPal to offer the on-line services above. Over 63,000,000 people trust the security of PayPal.

Photos

Bob Setree has been taking photos at our meetings and those images are now available on our web site. We appreciate Bob's efforts and encourage everyone enjoy the snapshots.

Membership Specials

Would you like your KIPCUG membership Free! Your membership brings special pricing from over 30 vendors! The "Members" link on our website is password protected. Members attending our General Meeting know that vendors offer us special pricing to try their products. They are counting on us to tell our friends and neighbors about their services so they can sell additional copies. We also receive special opportunities from APCUG, our International organization.

Do you use Paint Shop Pro? It is 50% off to KIPCUG members! Do you want Corel's Word Perfect? Peachpit Press offers its Adobe Press and Macromedia Press products at 45-50% off! Local ISP and Computer Sales are among the specials. Gene Barlow, a regular visitor from our vendor's list has his complete product line. Dave Whittle, June's presenter, has his vendor's products for sale.

To qualify for the discounts paid members can go to the "Members"

page and register for a web user ID and Password. Log in and find out what is behind the door!

See you on the web at www.kipcug.org.



Membership Discount Example:

I purchased a \$12.99 book from Peachpit Press on Blogs. Amazon's sale price was \$9.74 plus shipping. I logged in directly to Peachpit from our members section, registered using the KIPCUG information and bought the book for \$7.00 and FREE shipping! It shipped from their warehouse in Indianapolis and arrived in 48 hours. The \$5.99 I saved is equal to paying for 2 months of KIPCUG membership.

Everyone's a Publisher

By Gabe Goldberg, APCUG Advisor and Columnist, AARP Computers and Technology Website and APCUG Editorial Committee

Blogs are Our Printing Presses

Just when we think we understand technology and its buzzwords, it all changes. E-mail, chat rooms, Web boards, instant messaging, and cell phone cameras -- haven't they been around forever? But one of this year's hot words is still a bit mysterious: blog. It's neither the villain in a Star Wars movie nor a weather phenomenon: it's simply an abbreviation for "Web log". A blog is an online diary or journal, usually casual and open for all to read.

Blog topics vary as widely as the people who create them. They can be personal how-was-my-day recordkeeping; focus on topics such as politics, technology, religion, etc.; and include pointers to other online resources -- such as other blogs!

To be interesting and effective, blogs need constant care and feeding. Blogs attract visitors, links, and buzz by being timely, so people are unlikely to visit blogs that don't frequently show new and interesting content.

But before you learn to read blogs -- and it's often as simple as visiting Web sites! -- you'll need a reason to do so. Searching Google for "blog" and "senior citizen" yields almost 30,000 hits. That's too many to explore, but shows that blogging offers something for all ages. So I'll explore a few interesting blogs, then describe ways to explore the "blogosphere" (the worldwide and ever-growing collection of blogs).

Hosted on a colleague's Web site, Dr. John Huth's blog [jimbuie.blogs.com/john_huth/] highlights his personal crusade to reduce senior citizens' isolation through computers. Recent posts include "Video-Conferencing: the Killer Application to Reduce Isolation and Depression Among the Elderly" and "Bedside Computers in Hospitals".

TravelPod [www.travelpod.com/], an elaborate and polished Web site, describes itself as the Web's "original travel blog". The assortment of travel journals, travelogues, travelers, and destinations inspires me to hit the road! You can browse highlighted stories or search on interests. For example, having enjoyed a trip to Denmark about 15 years ago, I found dozens of bloggers discussing the country.

The web site Moreover collects news and information from thousands of editorial sites and more than a million blogs. Its "Consumer: Senior News" page [p.moreover.com/cgi-local/page?index_seniors] includes varied material such as travel, insurance, retirement, and crime.

John Woolington hosts a simple but deep technology blog well worth visiting [maturetechnology.blogspot.com/]. Titled "Technology Is Not The Simple Life", it includes observations and opinions about coping with change.

For anything-goes fun, visit Wil Mosher's blog [dailysnooze.blogspot.com/]. He's a curmudgeon and proud of it, noting that he "hides in his hole by day, emerging at night to frolic in the moonlight... When he gets off the couch!"

Ken's Weblog [kengory.blogspot.com/] proudly shows a fellow's family, friends, politics, humor, and favorite Web links. It's clear that having a blog is like having your personal TV station or magazine!

Gossip Cooler [www.seniorcitizens.com/weblog/gossipcooler.html] is a daily blog about growing older. The site it's on has useful info and links interleaved with many advertisements; since there's no hint who writes or runs the site, be careful.

A woman artist/activist/writer's blog [windchimewalker.blogspot.com/] offers her responses to world events, disability, and life. Describing herself as a "raging granny", she leaves no doubt where she stands on issues. Blogs like this show the Internet's power to share ideas and create communities by allowing readers to comment on what Patricia says.

A simple blog [www.lazydazers.com] lets you read about and see pictures of a couple's RV travels and adventures.

Finally, the Ageless Project [jenett.org/ageless/] is a fascinating compilation of Web sites (not all are blogs) illustrating that "the personal, creative side of the web is diverse and ageless".

Blogs and RSS are becoming increasingly popular and are getting good press coverage [techweb.com/article/showArticle.jhtml?articleId=57700173].

You can visit the blogs I've referenced as simple Web pages with normal hyperlinks. Many blogs are

Continued to Page 27

Use Your Computer to Record and Watch TV

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG

Website: <http://www.adstech.com>

My oldest daughter has a large collection of VHS video tapes, of which many of the older tapes are deteriorating. She also expressed concern because her VCR is likewise aging, and she would prefer not to buy another VCR, as the technology is already obsolete. She does have a DVD player, a computer with a DVD burner, and would like to be able to view and duplicate her video tapes with the more stable and longer life DVD format. While some of the newer and more expensive computers come with an analog video input and the ability to convert to the digital format requisite to burn to CD or DVD discs, most of us do not have that luxury.

Enter ADS Tech's Instant VideoMPX, a simple to use USB2 device that can easily connect to almost any video source that has either classic RCA composite and stereo jack outputs (a red, white, and yellow socket), or the more sophisticated S-Video socket. Available locally and online in the \$60 to \$80 range, this Instant VideoMPX may fill the bill. It is an external video capture device, triangular in shape, about three inches on a side and about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick, with an integral USB cable. A six-foot cable, with red, white and yellow RCA jacks is included with the device. Requiring installation to a computer running Windows XP along with an available high-speed USB2 port, and a fast processor (Pentium IV 2.4 GHz or equivalent is recommended); this small device can connect the computer to most video sources. Once connected to a video source, this device can digitize the image, and improve it using

a four-line comb filter. Included in the package is Ulead's VideoStudio 8 software, an excellent utility for video capture and editing. Unwanted parts of videos can be easily edited out, and special effects can be added. The digital image can be recorded to CD or DVD in a variety of formats for playback, including DivX, MPEG1, MPEG4, and Windows Media Player formats. Images recorded in appropriate formats can be played on home DVD players, computers and portable video players, as well as on many PDAs with Pocket PC or Palm operating systems.

I recently gave my daughter an Instant VideoMPX, and now she can easily convert those old VHS tapes to a digital format that will last.

You may have heard the term "convergence" in the context that the differences between our computers and home entertainment are lessening, with their inevitable merging. ADS Tech has another device, Instant TV Deluxe, which can also import a TV or similar source for display on the computer screen, as well as the ability to record TV to CD or DVD. Available locally and online in the \$150 - \$200 range, this device can change the way you view and record TV. The box includes the Instant TV Deluxe 125 channel tuner device (about 6 inches wide by 3 inches tall), a multi function remote control, SnapStream Beyond TV 3 software, connecting cables and a neat little device "IR Blaster".

The IR Blaster is a remote control type device, controlled by the computer, which will automatically control a cable box or satellite receiver, changing channel as needed. The SnapStream Beyond TV 3 software

is an online program guide (free for 90 days), updated daily, which allows the selection of TV shows using a variety of criteria. For example, Beyond TV 3 can be programmed to record all episodes of a particular show, or only new episodes, allowing for the creation of a personal video library. Selected shows can also be recorded, to be saved to the hard drive or burned to CD or DVD. Recording shows at different times on different channels is not a problem, because using Beyond TV 3 along with the IR Blaster, channels can be programmed with the computer and the IR Blaster will control the cable box or satellite receiver.

If live TV is desired, it can be viewed on the computer monitor, rather than the TV, where it can be recorded, or time-shifted. Live TV can be paused, replayed and fast-forwarded. A feature "SmartSkip" can be used to create chapters in live TV shows, and the skipping of unwanted commercials. Like the Instant VideoMPX mentioned above, Instant TV Deluxe can also import VHS video, view it, edit it and burn it directly to CD or DVD. The Instant TV Deluxe includes Arcsoft's QuickDVD and Showbiz software.

The recommended system to utilize Instant TV Deluxe is Windows XP, Pentium III 800 MHz or higher (or equivalent AMD processor), USB2, DVD or CD burner, and lots of hard drive space.

With either of these devices, the integration of TV, DVD, VHS, and satellite or cable is now easily possible, opening a host of new entertainment opportunities.

Attack of the Killer Zombies

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG

WEBSITES:

<http://www.grayhatresearch.com>
<http://www.microsoft.com/security>
<http://housecall.antivirus.com>
<http://www.ihatespyware.com>
<http://www.rense.com/general6/crip.htm>
<http://www.lavasoftusa.com>
<http://www.safer-networking.org>

No, this is not the title of some 50's vintage B-movie, but a real threat on our computing security and enjoyment.

I was recently a guest speaker at a regional symposium on computer security hosted by the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce and Delmar College. The keynote speaker was Paul Williams, the President and Chief Technical Officer of Grayhat Research in Houston. Paul, one of the leading experts as well as one of the finest speakers on cyber security, demonstrated to the group in Corpus Christi that one of the greatest threats facing our critical cyber infrastructure is a coordinated attack by thousands of zombies.

The popular online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, defines computer zombie as: "A zombie computer ... is a computer attached to the Internet that has a hidden software program or backdoor. This backdoor allows the computer to be remotely controlled by others. Some uses for a zombie include conducting distributed denial of service attacks or sending spam, while not revealing an attacker's true identity. Backdoors are often installed with spammed Trojans or e-mail worms."

Zombies are spread through emails, illicit websites, peer-to-peer file sharing networks, or installed directly on the victim computer by another infected computer. Many zombies can slip through antivirus software and firewalls, and especially target computers that are already infected with a virus or worm that has incapacitated any protective software. The most common type of zombie infestation, affecting countless computers, possibly in the millions, typically infects computers that have broadband access, such as those with DSL or cable access. It is highly likely that the user of an infected computer will never know that his computer is infected, thus becoming an unsuspecting pawn in the illicit cyber underground.

Zombies typically work in massive networks controlled by parties unknown. Zombies have become a primary tool of choice for spammers, and have become a valuable source of revenue to the purveyors of such illicit activities. Many zom-

bie networks are openly advertised to spammers and other dishonest users of cyberspace, where mass access is available for a fee. In the most common use of zombies, a spammer will contract with a zombie master for access to the network of unsuspecting machines. The spammer will provide the zombie master with the spam messages, and possibly even a listing of email addresses to be spammed. The zombie master then sends the message to the infected computers, which in turn sends out the spam using an integral email program (not the email program used by the computer owner). The computer owner is unaware that his machine may be sending out thousands of spam emails, providing a layer of forensic protection from the real spammer. If the source of the email is tracked, it points to the infected computers, not the original spammer. Local ISPs (internet service providers) are known to have cut off internet access of subscribers whose computers have been determined to be



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Killer Zombies (cont.)

the apparent source of these spam emails; this is often the shocking first indication that the user's computer is infected with a zombie. According to several of the anti-spam organizations, as much as 70% to 80% of all the spam mail in circulation is forwarded by zombie-infested computers, rather than directly from spammers.

While spam email is frustratingly irritating, it is not the greatest threat that these zombie networks pose. Paul Williams demonstrated to the audience a fact well known in cyber security circles, that zombie networks could be used to launch a terrorist attack against our critical infrastructure. Thousands or millions of infected computers may be unknowingly monitoring a chat room or some other innocuous source of data for a signal to attack. Once this signal is received, these machines will launch a massive and coordinated "dedicated denial of service" (DDOS) attack on critical computer networks, effectively shutting them down. This is not some bit of theoretical science fiction, but an accomplished fact, as can testify such well-known victims as Amazon.com, Yahoo, the White House, CNN and EBay. These victims, as well as several others, have suffered millions of dollars in damages from such attacks in recent years, which have proven the concept and power of such coordinated DDOS attacks.

While no computer protection is totally foolproof and invulnerable, there are several things that the typical computer user can do to minimize the chance that his computer is under the control of zombies. One is to do a free online antivirus and

anti-spyware scan with a product such as the Housecall (housecall.antivirus.com). If a virus, worm or Trojan is found by Housecall, which is listed as neutralizing antivirus and firewall protection, antivirus and firewall software must be reinstalled after the system is cleaned. The system is vulnerable and possibly broadcasting that it is available, until such decontamination and reinstallation is completed and updated. Anti-spyware products such as Microsoft's new anti-spyware product (www.microsoft.com/security), the inexpensive and top-rated CounterSpy (www.ihatespyware.com), or the excellent but free anti-spyware products such as Ad-Aware (www.lavasoftusa.com) and Spybot Search and Destroy (www.safer-networking.org) can detect and remove many of the zombies.

One of Microsoft's "10 Immutable Laws of Computer Security" is that if you get a Trojan like this on your computer, it is no longer your computer. Check your computer for zombies, and verify that it is not likely that your computer is under the control of some unknown zombie master, and is sending out countless spam emails, or poses a threat to our national security.

A local symposium such as the one in Corpus Christi would be an excellent project for any chamber of commerce, computer user group, college or other organization to pursue. With good information, we may strengthen both our personal security as well as our national security. Without such information, we may live in blissful ignorance of the very real threat that we pose to others.



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Reviews

By Joe Rothstein, KIPCUG

Donated software for your review has become very difficult to obtain.

Because of this, we would like to request that when you purchase programs of your own, you give us your evaluation. Our membership would greatly appreciate your views - in 500 to 1000 words - which would be published in our Computer User News.

Please send to: KIPCUG Review Editor, Joe Rothstein at joesr@iname.com. For questions, email or call Joe at 451-3874.

Many thanks for your help.

Protecting Your Internet Passwords

By Gene Barlow, User Group Relations, Copyrighted April 2005

The internet plays an important role in our lives today. Almost everything we do has an internet possibility to it. We can access our bank accounts over the internet. We can pay our bills and loans using the internet. Every business that we have an account with lets us access our account and update our records over the internet. We can purchase airline tickets, reserve hotels, and rent cars over the internet. Each of these offers us personalized accounts to make these tasks easier to do. We can even buy groceries, tickets for movies, and order our prescriptions over the internet. How much easier it is today to do all of these things with our internet access. Of course, having access to these internet accounts requires that we set up a private ID and password for each of them. A typical user may have 20 or 30 of these account IDs and passwords to keep track of. So, while the internet has made our life easier in many ways, keeping track of these security codes has gotten harder to do.

Some users will try to bypass these methods set up to protect their privacy and personal information. To avoid keeping track of many codes, some individuals will use the same ID and password on all of their accounts. This is certainly not very secure. Once these common codes are discovered, they open up the hacker to all of your personal accounts. Others will write their codes down on yellow sticky notes and paste them to their computer display. This is also not very secure. Anyone that walks by your computer will see these codes and be able to

get into your private accounts without any problem. The real solution is to set up difficult and different passwords for each of your accounts and keep these in a very secure place. That is exactly what WhiteCanyon's MyPasswordVault helps you do.

MyPasswordVault is a database program that stores its information on your computer in an encrypted format so that nobody can find this file and see all of your codes. You still need to remember a password to gain access to MyPasswordVault, but all of the rest of your codes are guarded safely inside the vault. So, when you need to access an account on the internet, you simply open up MyPasswordVault, find the ID and Password for that account, and copy and paste it into your account access fields. You will be able to safely and quickly access the many accounts that you have set up on the internet. This is a great software utility that will let you safely and quickly enjoy all of the advantage of using the internet for your financial transactions.

MyPasswordVault is offered by WhiteCanyon software at the list price of \$25. You can purchase this valuable product at the user group discount price of just \$17. Look for it in our User Group Store at www.usergroupstore.com and click on any of the yellow "Buy Now" buttons to get to our secure web order form. Complete the form including the special user group code of UGNL0405 and submit it. You may share this discount offer with your immediate family and close friends. These prices are not available to others not involved with

a user group.

I hope this month's newsletter has made you aware of an exciting new software offering from User Group Relations to make your computer usage more productive. Let me know if you have questions about anything in this newsletter by sending me a note to gene@ugr.com. Thank you for your attention.

Gene Barlow is the president of User Group Relations, a consulting firm specializing in promoting computer products to the user group community. He has over 40 years of experience with computer systems. He worked for IBM for 34 years in various technical and marketing positions. He managed IBM's user group support organization when IBM introduced the IBM PC until he retired 14 years later. In this role, he helped hundreds of user groups get started and is sometimes called the Father of User Groups for his involvement. He was the first sponsor of the Association of PC User Groups and was a guiding influence on this organization for many years and funded many special projects for them. When he left IBM, he set up his own consulting firm and has represented many software clients to the user group community the past 9 years. He currently represents Optimal Access, Acronis, WhiteCanyon, and Spearit software companies and their exciting products. He is an outstanding speaker, writer, and helper of end users and loves working with user groups. He may be contacted at gene@ugr.com.

Link to Digital Movies with Movielink

By Sherry Zorzi, APCUG Advisor and Director of Cajun Clickers, Baton Rouge, LA, www.clickers.org szorzi@apcug.net

While Blockbuster and Netflix (www.netflix.com) battle it out for your entertainment dollar, a new online player just may sneak around them. Movielink (www.movielink.com) allows you to order and download recent movies on a pay-for-view basis.

The movies are downloaded to your PC for viewing there, or on a TV connected to the PC, or on your laptop. The cost is about \$5 for a recent release, but some offerings are as cheap as 99 cents. You have 30 days after download to watch the movie. You are renting the movie, though, for a 24-hour period which means that once you click "Play", you have only the next 24 hours to watch (and re-watch, if you like) the movie. You can buy additional viewing time at a reduced rate.

While visiting the Demonstration Digital Home at the Consumer Electronic Show in Las Vegas in January, I got a coupon for a free download from Movielink. I visited Movielink's website as soon as I got home and decided to give it a try. The selection of movies is pretty good and includes most of Blockbuster's Top Ten Rentals.

Before downloading a movie, you must register with Movielink. They are not overly intrusive, asking only for name, email address, sex, and age during the registration process. You will, of course, probably want to deselect the opportunity to receive a free email newsletter from Movielink.

Movielink installs Movielink

Manager software onto your computer, which controls the download and playback of the movies you order. You should read the End User License Agreement carefully, since it does give Movielink and its partners (RealNetworks and Microsoft) the right to push upgrades and updates to you without asking permission. That might be a deal-breaker for some - indeed, it almost sent me running for the hills. But for the sake of you, the reader, I bit the bullet and signed on the virtual dotted line.

The download took about 25 minutes on my Cox cable internet connection and proceeded smoothly. It was several weeks before I had a chance to view my movie. When I clicked "Play", though, the media player would not load the movie so I went to their website for help. The live chat feature of Movielink's website worked beautifully. I was very quickly connected with a technician who reset my account and had me re-install the Movielink Manager software. Within minutes, everything was working fine.

The video quality of the movie was excellent. Watching a movie on the typical PC, though, is much different from watching one on the typical TV. My computer screen is a 17-inch LCD flat screen. The image was beautiful but much smaller than my TV. I don't have a top of the line sound card nor great speakers on that particular computer either, so the audio was acceptable to me while not outstanding. Next time I'll probably download my movie to a different computer in my home - one that has a top-notch video card, a top-notch sound card, and an awesome Surroundsound speaker set that includes a huge subwoofer.

I'll probably rent from Movielink again. I'm intrigued by the possibilities of instant access to the movie of my choice without leaving home or waiting for it to be mailed to me. The service would be even more attractive to me if it offered a monthly subscription deal and if it allowed me to transfer my rental to the device of my choice, including my Pocket PC and other computers on my home network

Movielink and other services like it may not overtake brick-and-mortar rental stores like Blockbuster or online CD rental services like Netflix overnight. But it's a worthy opponent and will become more and more of a threat as more homes connect their TVs to home entertainment PCs. Give it a try.

Elections

Following is the Slate for the Elections to be held at the Annual Business Meeting during the General Meeting on June 7. The nominees are:

President

Charley May

Vice President

Bill Buzan

Secretary

Barb McGee

Treasurer

Rosemary Viele

Director of Programs

Judy Lococo

Director of Membership

Tom Denning

Director of Volunteers

Tom McArdle

Director of Special Interest Groups

Brian Miller

Directors at Large

Doc Viele

Beverly Setree

Charles Russman

Ken Hubler

Directory of KIPCUG Leaders

Name	Position	Home	Work	Email Address
Charley May	President	425-4604		sig@win.net
Bill Buzan	Vice-President	639-7647		bill.buzan@insightbb.com
Vacant	Secretary			
Rosemary Viele	Treasurer	452-6878		treasurer@kipcug.org
Ralph Langdon	Program Director	245-8132		programs@kipcug.org
Beverly Setree	Membership Director		452-9851	membership@kipcug.org
Tom McArdle	Volunteer Director	458-7269		geezer@insightbb.com
Brian Miller	SIG Director	749-5892		sigs@kipcug.org
Susan Moore	Editor	499-5222		mooresk@win.net, editor@kipcug.org
John Henderson	Webmaster		812-945-1102	webmaster@kipcug.org
Vacant	Publicity Director			
Mike Shaikun	Legal Advisor	425-3326	587-3540	mike@aye.net
Joe Rothstein	Review Editor	451-3874		joesr@iname.com
Finis Gentry	Director	228-3964		gentry@win.net
Tom Denning	Director	502-550-6106		t.denning@insightbb.com
Doc Viele	Director	452-6878		aqviele@win.net
Ken Hubler	Director-Elect	812-738-3485		khubler@win.net
Judy Lococo	Director-Elect	893-8710		judyl@thorobred.win.net
Barb McGee	Secretary-Elect			
Charles Russman	Director-Elect	244-0667		eckrus@bellsouth.net
Alan Birch	SIG Leader	429-0506		ajbirch@bellsouth.net
Martin Champion	SIG Leader	810-9125		mccampion@aol.com
John Kilpatrick	SIG Leader	969-6983		jewel@win.net
Grant McCormick	SIG Leader	935-2497		gmccormick@win.net (Preferred)
Flave Reising	SIG Leader			flavereising@insightbb.com
Bob Rose	SIG Leader	241-1604		britude@techemail.com
Tom Scanlan	SIG Leader	502-477-1639	477-1639	tpscan@iglou.com
Myron Smith	SIG Leader	897-7718		mjslks@insightbb.com
Jim Travelstead	SIG Leader	375-4796	852-4761	jim.travelstead@louisville.edu

For Your Information

Changes for mailing address, email address or telephone numbers should be sent to Beverly Setree, Director of Membership. You can send the change to the KIPCUG mailing address printed on the back of this Magazine or by email to membership@kipcug.org.

June 2005 KIPCUG Planner

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KIPCUG Special Interest Group Directory

ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG - Meetings on Hold - Meets at a date and location to be determined. Contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org or 749-5892

ADVANCED USERS SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd Friday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Tom Scanlan at 1-502-477-1639 or tpscan@iglou.com

BASIC ACCESS SIG - Meets 10:00 AM on the 2nd Saturday of the month at NHCLC at 10200 Linn Station Road in the Triad East Bldg. Contact SIG LEADER Alan Birch at ajbirch@bellsouth.net or 429-0506

BASIC EXCEL SIG - Meetings on Hold - Meets 6:30 PM on the 1st Friday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact Co-SIG LEADER Flave Reising at flavereising@insightbb.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG - Meets on the 4th Friday of specified months at Advanced Grinding and Machine Inc, 4644 Illinois Avenue. Contact TEAM MEMBER Beverly Setree at 452-9851 or beverly@advanced-grinding.com

DIGITAL- PHOTOGRAPHY SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the LFPL-Bon Air Regional, 2816 Del Rio Place. Contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org or 749-5892

EXCEL INTERMEDIATE SIG - Meetings on Hold - Meets 6:30 PM on the 2nd Friday of the month at CCUM. Contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org or 749-5892

GENEALOGY SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of the month at the LFPL-Eline Branch at St. Matthews City Hall Building at the corner of Grandview Ave. and Fairfax Ave. about 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Rd. Contact SIG LEADER Susan Moore at 499-5222 or mooresk@win.net (www.win.net/mooresk)

GENEALOGY II SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the LFPL-Jeffersontown Branch, 10635 Watterson Trail. Contact SIG LEADER Susan Moore at 499-5222 or mooresk@win.net

HARDWARE SIG - Meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of the month at the LFPL-Eline Branch at St. Matthews City Hall Building, the corner of Grandview Ave./Fairfax Ave. 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Rd. Contact Co-SIG LEADERS Grant McCormick at gmccormick@win.net or Charley May at sig@win.net or 425-4604

HANDS ON SIG "NEW" - Meets 2:00 PM the 4th Saturday of the month at the LFPL-Eline Branch at St. Matthews City Hall Building at the corner of Grandview Ave. & Fairfax Ave. 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Rd. Contact Co-SIG LEADERS Charley May at sig@win.net or Grant McCormick at gmccormick@win.net or Tom McArdle at usersig@insightbb.com

INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Monday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Jim Travelstead at jim.travelstead@louisville.edu or 852-4761(W), 375-4796(H)

INVESTING SIG - Meets 6:30 PM the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Louisville Aero Club, Bowman Field. Contact SIG LEADER Doc Viele at 452-6878

LINUX SIG - Meets at a location and time to be determined. Co-SIG LEADERS Rob Coffey and Jacob Wilkins. Contact TEAM MEMBER Jack Link at redoscar3@yahoo.com

NEW USERS SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 2nd Monday of the month at the NHCLC at 10200 Linn Station Road in Suite 110 of the Triad East Bldg. Contact SIG LEADER Charley May at sig@win.net

NEW USERS DAYTIME SIG "NEW" - Meets 2:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Winnie Miller at winnie.miller@att.net

PDA SIG - Meetings on Hold - Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at a location to be determined. Contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org or 749-5892

REAL ESTATE SIG "NEW" -New Date/Location- Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Bill Buzan at re_sig@insightbb.com or 639-7647

TECHNICAL MARKET ANALYSIS SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Louisville Free Public Library, Crescent Hill Branch, 2752 Frankfort Avenue in the lower level meeting room. Contact SIG LEADER Myron Smith at 897-7718 or mjslks@insightbb.com

UTILITIES SIG - New Date/Time - Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Thursday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact Co-SIG LEADERS Tom McArdle at usersig@insightbb.com or Charley May at sig@win.net or 425-4604

KIPUCG Special Interest Group Directory (cont.)

VISUAL BASIC SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of the month at the LFPL-Bon Air Regional, 2816 Del Rio Place. Contact SIG LEADER Martin Campion 810-9125 or mccampion@aol.com

WEBMASTERS SIG - Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at Win.Net located at 1048 Chestnut St. Contact SIG LEADER John Henderson at jh@inetmarketing.com or 812-945-1102

WINDOWS OS SIG - New Date/Location - Meets on the 2nd Friday of the month at 6:30 PM at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Bob Rose at britdude@techemail.com or 241-1604

YOUTH SIG - Meetings on Hold - Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Friday of the month at CCUM. Contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org or 749-5892

The SIG Scene

By Brian Miller, KIPUCG

Where to find the scoop on your Special Interest Group **HEADLINE NEWS**

I want to first make special recognition of Don Garr and his contribution to KIPUCG SIGs. Don passed away Thursday May 5, 2005. Don had been the SIG LEADER for the FLASH MANAGER DATABASE SIG. My condolences and prayers go out to Don's family.

I hope you had a chance at the last General Meeting to stop by the SIG table and see what they have to offer. Whether you did last month or not, be sure to stop by at this month's General Meeting. We will have three representatives from SIGs that are ready to answer questions and provide information about their particular SIG.

Do you have a wireless network at home? With the increase in availability of broadband and the prices in hardware for wireless routers, more and more people have one. They are so easy to configure that all you have to do is plug it in and follow a few simple steps through a software install. Before you know it, you are connected on your wireless laptop and surfing the inter-

net. In an effort to make it easy for the basic user to install, the routers are configured by default to have very little if any security. Some configuration changes can easily be made to make your wireless router more secure. If you have a wireless router or considering installing one, you should take some precautions up front that will save you from potential hackers. If you want to learn more about what should be done, send an email to sigs@kipcug.org and put wireless routers in the subject line. I will make sure to put you in touch with the SIG that can help you. We may even present a special session just on this subject.

Whatever your area of interest is currently or what you may want to learn about, there is a SIG out there for you. So, come visit some of the SIGs. The SIGs and the General Meetings are open to all guests.

If you do not see one that peaks your interest, then email me and let me know what would. I am always open to your comments and suggestions for the SIGs. After all, this is your User Group.

KIPUCG SIGs are still looking for NEW meeting places. Please keep your eyes and ears open for new SIG meeting locations and report suggestions to KIPUCG SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org or 749-5892. Locations should hold 12-24 persons and Internet connections and, if possible, computers for the attendees would be a plus.

The SIG Scene (cont.)

ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG

The ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG has been suspended due to conflicts with the meeting location. We hope to resume meetings when a new meeting location is secured. The ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG assumes a good working knowledge of Access and focuses on programming and advanced techniques.

If you would like to be notified of the restart of this SIG, you can contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org. Include ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG in the subject line of your email.

ADVANCED USERS SIG

The June 17 meeting is planned to be a review of hot new hardware. New chips, motherboards and firewalls have produced faster and safer PC's. If you are thinking of buying a new computer soon, bring your questions.

On May 20, the ADVANCED USERS SIG continued discussing security tips. We looked at some of the newest DVD drive technology and a machine that hosts it. SIG LEADER Tom Scanlan kept the members up-to-date on news affecting PC users and answered questions the members presented.

The ADVANCED USERS SIG explores software and hardware topics of interest to people that are very comfortable with their computers who want to know even more. We encourage everyone to share their experiences so we can all learn and grow in areas we would not normally explore on our own.

We meet in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at Christ Church United Methodist (CCUM) on the third Friday of the month. Add yourself to our email alert list by self-registering at groups.yahoo.com/group/KIPCUGAdvUsers or contact Tom at tpscan@iglou.com. Please use ADVANCED USERS SIG in the subject line of your email.

BASIC ACCESS SIG

The next meeting is June 11. We will do some work with reports and, of course, try to help with members problems and questions. No hot dogs or fireworks on July 9, but we'll do some review on queries.

In April, we came up with solutions to various problems that group members had. One was an easy way to summarize maintenance spending on a car inventory.

The BASIC ACCESS SIG uses the tools that are available in Access without programming. If you have topics that you would like discussed, please contact SIG LEADER Alan Birch at ajbirch@bellsouth.net or 429-0506. If you have some tips and tricks to

share, we would love to hear them. We meet on the second Saturday of the month from 10:00 AM to Noon at the New Horizons Computer Learning Center.

BASIC EXCEL SIG

This SIG has been suspended due to low attendance. We hope to restart this group if enough KIPCUG members express sufficient interest.

If you would like to be notified of the restart of this group or to express your interest in helping to lead the SIG, you can contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org. Include BASIC EXCEL SIG in the subject line of your email.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG

The COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG has started the new schedule of meetings. This SIG will meet every other month and not have a meeting in November. There will be five meetings per year. The next meeting will be May 27 at Advanced Grinding and Machine, Inc, 4644 Illinois Ave. in Louisville at 6:30 PM. There will not be another meeting until July. Even though the meetings will no longer be on a monthly basis, we still can

The SIG Scene (cont.)

accept donations by appointment when necessary.

There was no meeting of the COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG in April.

The COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG has been designed to take donations of computer equipment and restore it to working condition. These computers can then be distributed to people in need. We are always looking for donations. Even if you think there is no value in your old computer, contact us and let us take it off your hands. We also welcome people willing to help restore computers for redistribution.

This SIG has provided PCs to disadvantaged residents of the area and will continue to provide a valuable service to the community. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

The SIG meets at Advanced Grinding and Machine, Inc, 4644 Illinois Ave. in Louisville at 6:30 PM on the fourth Friday of odd-numbered months except November. To be added to the SIG's advance mailing list, contact TEAM MEMBER Beverly Setree, beverly@advanced-grinding.com. Place the words COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG in the subject line of your email.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG

The next meeting of the DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG will meet

May 24 at 6:30 PM at the LFPL Bon Air Branch Library. Matt Chojnowski will show us how easy it is to get the latest version of the free image-editing program, The Gimp, updated on a Windows computer. The update problem we experienced was an incorrect libexif-1.dll file and when a corrected copy is loaded, the program worked very well. We will continue with the program format similar to the General Meetings where we have a section of the time reserved for basics and questions with the remaining time for improving the quality of your pictures. At the May meeting, Matt will also show us a free program PCLINUX OS that runs from CD on boot up and can read and write many of the formats you once thought were Windows only formats. Remember our goal is to learn and enjoy. We will continue looking at the camera equipment we already own, just received or hope possibly to purchase in the future. We will continue to see how pictures we have taken or wish to take can be optimized first in the camera and then by the computer. Software will be discussed including continuing examples by Matt using The GIMP.

At the April 26 meeting, Matt Chojnowski showed us how easy it is to get the latest version of the free image-editing program The Gimp updated on a Windows computer.

Any questions on cameras, software or printers will also be welcome. Bring those nagging questions, pictures on which you need help (on disk), cameras (with the user manuals), and if you have special software be certain to bring it also.

The specific purpose of this SIG is to examine the software and hardware topics that will make your photographic efforts more fun and rewarding. Members at any level of experience and owners of any type of digital camera are welcome. Again, please be certain to bring your camera, manual and photo CD and we will all increase our ability to understand how digital photography is different from using film.

The DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG meets monthly at 6:30 PM on the fourth Tuesday at the LFPL Bon Air Branch Library. To get advance notice of this SIG, contact Bill at bedwardsna@sbcglobal.net. Be certain to put DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY in the subject line of your email so that it is not destroyed as SPAM.

EXCEL INTERMEDIATE SIG

The EXCEL INTERMEDIATE SIG assumes a working knowledge of Excel and familiarity with most of the Excel icons. There are many, many functions that are available in Excel that few of us realize can make our lives easier. Due to low attendance, the EXCEL INTERMEDIATE SIG has been suspended. We hope that the SIG will resume soon if KIPCUG members express sufficient interest.

To be added to the email list or to state your interest in this SIG, send an email to SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org and type

The SIG Scene (cont.)

"EXCEL INTERMEDIATE SIG" in the subject line.

want a map or directions on how to get to the GENEALOGY SIG, go to www.win.net/mooresk.

GENEALOGY SIG

The next GENEALOGY SIG Meeting will be at 6:30 PM on June 20 at our regular location, the LFPL Eline Branch. The presentation will be Using GenSmarts. This is an add-on program to The Mater Genealogist. GenSmarts analyzes your data, makes recommendations on what data you are missing, where to look for the data and sometimes, even what it might look like.

The May meeting was on Creating a Genealogy Web Site. Both the benefits of a web site and tips to help you prepare the content were discussed. The Master Genealogist makes the process very simple. TMG generates the reports with all of your family information ready to post to your web site already in html.

Since TMG version 6 is now available, we have switched to version 6. Now is the time to jump in so that you get all of the tips and tricks.

The GENEALOGY SIG meets at the LFPL Eline Branch at 6:30 PM on the third Monday each month. SIG LEADER Susan Moore and all of the SIG's attendees are looking for YOU to join us at a future meeting. If you have any particular questions before the next meeting, please email SIG LEADER Susan Moore at mooresk@win.net. If you

GENEALOGY II SIG

The GENEALOGY II SIG will have its next meeting on June 9 and will continue to meet monthly on the second Thursday at 6:30 PM at the Louisville Free Public Library Jeffersontown Branch.

The GENEALOGY II SIG had its last meeting on May 12. The Question and Answer session included differences between the standard screen layout for TMG and the layout used for the SIG, renumbering the sources, finding unused ID#s and various questions on backing up your data.

This SIG is going to be an informal Q&A session without any handouts. Topics are not announced ahead of time because the participants will determine the content of the meeting. Short subjects may be presented from time to time when there are insufficient questions.

If you have any particular questions before the next meeting, please email SIG LEADER Susan Moore at mooresk@win.net. If you want a map or directions on how to get to the SIG, go to www.win.net/mooresk and click on the GENEALOGY II SIG.

HANDS ON SIG (NEW)

Our next meeting will be on May 28 at the Eline Branch of the LFPL in St. Mathews. We start at 2:00 PM and will work with you to get your machine back up and running at top speed. There is no topic to discuss, just a chance to find some assistance and learn more about your PC. You will need to bring your complete system, monitor, keyboard, mouse, cables and processor. If you need help getting it up to the meeting room, members will assist you.

If you are not comfortable going at it alone, email us in advance and the group will be ready to help you help yourself. Gain confidence and improve your knowledge base in just a few hours. Members with repair experience are encouraged to drop in and help other members solve nagging problems. All levels of experience are welcomed and we will share our abilities with one another.

Our location has a high-speed web connection and driver updates and patches can be downloaded quickly. We meet on the fourth Saturday of the month at 2:00 PM in the second floor meeting room at the Eline Branch of the LFPL. We often run well into the afternoon to assure your problems are resolved.

If you have a problem machine, contact the Co-SIG LEADERS listed below in advance of the next meeting so that time can be allocated to address your problems. For an advance notice of this SIG, please

The SIG Scene (cont.)

contact Co-SIG LEADERS Charley May at sig@win.net or Tom McArdle at usersig@insightbb.com. Please type the words HANDS ON SIG in the subject line of your email.

HARDWARE SIG

As you may remember, Grant McCormick was ill and unable to be at the May 2, HARDWARE SIG and show us what it takes to build a "multimedia killer machine", scheduled for the May 2 HARDWARE SIG. However, Grant has rescheduled that presentation to June 6 at 6:30 PM, in the second floor meeting room of the Eline Branch of the LFPL in St. Matthews.

This year the fourth of July falls on the first Monday of the month and there will be no meeting of the HARDWARE SIG in July.

On August 1, we will have further wireless networking with emphasis on why you might want to use a wireless Bridge.

Again this year, we will miss our September meeting as it falls on Labor Day.

On October 3, we will look at the many uses for a new scanner. Find out how to set one up and we will include an overview of the best software for use with your scanner.

Do you have a desire to expand the capabilities of your existing sys-

tem? Do you want to be comfortable with adding your own hard drive, audio or video card, memory module, DVD burner or building your own computer from the ground up? Learn the tips and techniques necessary for a successful hardware upgrade.

Does your machine need help? Contact us so the Co-SIG LEADERS Charley May and Grant McCormick can be ready to assist you with your computer. Do not surprise the group. Let them know in advance that you are bringing your unit. With advance planning, you may not need to bring your complete system to the meeting.

The HARDWARE SIG meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM, in the second floor meeting room of the Eline Branch of the LFPL in St. Matthews. If you would like a reminder of the next meeting and its topic, send an email to Co-SIG LEADER Charley May at sig@win.net. Be sure to put HARDWARE SIG in the subject line of your message.

INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG

For the May 23 meeting, we will do a demo of networking your PC's. Using the example at our Computer Lab and a Linksys Broadband Wireless Router, we will see examples of networking your home PC's. Questions will be taken and topics for future meetings will be asked.

For the June 27 meeting, I will not be in town so a Q & A session will

be held.

For the July meeting we will go over the released Microsoft AntiSpyware program.

At the April 25 meeting, we went over networking/file sharing. We covered why you would do this and what is needed for both hardware and software. Questions were answered and topics for future meetings were noted.

The INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG meets in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM at 6:30 PM monthly on the fourth Monday. CCUM is at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42) at the Blankenbaker Lane traffic light. Directions are on the CCUM web site at www.ccum.net and on the KIPCUG web site at www.kipcug.org.

The SIG focuses on the various versions of MS Windows software, its features, methods of operation, problems and all the hints and tips that Jim knows you will be interested in. Topics suggested at meetings usually become future meeting topics. This SIG is for users who are comfortable with the daily use of their computer and want to learn more. In other words, you have mastered your fear of computers and you are willing to push the envelope a little. We welcome discussion and a chance for everyone to learn.

If you have any questions or suggestions for meeting topics, bring them to the SIG or email Jim at jim.travelstead@louisville.edu and Jim will have your answer at the next SIG meeting. Do you want to get on Jim's email notification list? Send him a short note with "Add me

The SIG Scene (cont.)

to the KIPCUG INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG meeting email list" in the subject line.

INVESTING SIG

SIG LEADER Doc Viele moderates the INVESTING SIG discussions, which have been ongoing since 1986. The next SIG meeting will be on June 9. Meetings consist of round table information exchanges on any economic subject of current interest. Questions and presentations are encouraged.

The next SIG meeting will include general information on investing and the usual information exchange. The INVESTING SIG meets the second Thursday of the month at the Louisville Aero Club at 6:30 PM. This is not an investment club; they DO NOT discuss mutual funds.

LINUX SIG

With the loss of our meeting place, the LINUX SIG is presently in a state of limbo. At such time that new arrangements can be made, notice of future meetings will be posted in the Computer User News and emailed to list members.

Want to be notified about meeting subjects or have a suggestion for future meeting topics? Please send an email to TEAM MEMBER Jack Link at redoscar3@yahoo.com and type "LINUX SIG" in the subject

line.

NEW USERS SIG

Come join us at the June 13 meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. We meet at the New Horizons Computer Learning Center, 10200 Linn Station Road, in Suite 110 of the Triad East Building. We will take a break to cover the new KIPCUG SPRING CD 2005 handed out to members in attendance at the May 3 KIPCUG General Meeting, so be sure to bring it with you. If you did not make the General Meeting on May 3 and you do not have the disk, Charley May might have an extra one for you at the meeting. We will take a close look at the KIPCUG SPRING CD 2005, discussing the protection that you have on your PC and what you need to add and how to add it painlessly and how to keep it up-to-date. Is your virus program out-of-date? Don't sit there unprotected. Come visit with us and learn how to install a freeware virus program that all the Computer magazines rave about.

Our new updated series (fourth meeting) will continue in July, on the three Microsoft word processors. You will find the learning curve easy enough for anyone to join in at any time. Please bring your questions to the meeting for answers that will help you and be of interest to the others in the SIG. The Q&A session follows the presentation each month. Do you have a question? Jot it on a piece of paper and bring it with you for an answer

you can understand. Questions go into a drawing for a prize(s).

At the May 9 meeting, we continued discussing the three word processors that are available from Microsoft and when and how to use them and the benefits of each.

The NEW USERS SIG holds its meetings on the second Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. We meet at the New Horizons Computer Learning Center, 10200 Linn Station Road, in Suite 110 of the Triad East Building.

If you want to review or if you are a new PC user, you are invited to join the NEW USERS SIG. We don't go too fast so everyone can follow. We start with the basics and gradually build up your knowledge base and skill level. Each member will have a computer to follow Charley through every step of every feature. This hands-on experience will give you the opportunity to follow the lessons as projected in the front of the classroom.

TEAM MEMBERS Susan Moore and Tom McArdle, will help members follow the presentation and master the skills at every meeting. Join us in a comfortable environment that makes learning easier. We invite all those attending to join us for a mini PIG SIG after the meeting for a brief time, to address any personal PC questions.

To join our mailing list, send an email to Charley at sig@win.net and be sure to include NEW USERS SIG in the subject line. We will send you a reminder of our meetings and the topics to be covered a few days before our next meeting.

The SIG Scene (cont.)

NEW USERS DAYTIME SIG (NEW)

At the next meeting on June 15 from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM, we will review general topics for beginning learners. We will practice skills that new users will need to know to operate their computers and have fun. Some of the skills we will practice include opening and closing programs, putting programs on the Start Menu for use later, bringing up the contents of a floppy disc and finding a saved document. We will also learn how important it is to save your work and know the name of the saved file. As we are having new learners each time, we try to practice the needs of the individual person so come join in the fun.

If you have time before the next meeting, try adding information to your floppy and bring it back to class. You may want to add things from class to your floppy so you can remember what was covered in class and have questions for the next meeting. You may print from your floppy at home.

In May, we learned about shrink-wrap in Word and practiced several other skills.

At our July 19 meeting, we will have a review of several skills such as opening programs, inserting a disc, opening and reading a disc, putting an icon on your desktop, saving work to a file and finding the file.

We meet from 2:00 to 4:00 on the

third Tuesday of the month in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM. If you are just starting out on the computer, this would be a good time to come join us.

To be added to the email list, please send SIG LEADER Winnie Miller an email at winnie.miller@att.net.

PDA SIG

There are currently no meetings scheduled for this SIG. Members are requested to let our SIG DIRECTOR know their ideas for this group.

This SIG was created to review and explore the hardware and software of Personal Desk Assistants, Smart Phones and like devices. SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller encourages all members that are interested in this group to contact him. We expect to cover all versions of PDA's including the newest combination units with phone, PC and photo capabilities.

Members using these devices or that are considering the purchase of a PDA are asked to contact Brian at sigs@kipcug.org. You will be added to a contact list for advance notice of future meetings, topics, times and location.

REAL ESTATE SIG (NEW)

The REAL ESTATE SIG will meet June 14 at 6:30 PM at CCUM, in the Computer Lab, Room 222. The SIG will continue its analysis and development of record keeping and management of Rental Properties.

SIG LEADER Bill Buzan will monitor the discussion and lead the membership in its quest for the simplest and most comprehensive program to do so.

In May, we started the program with discussions and models of the record keeping required to track the operational and financial history of various properties.

The mission of this SIG is to provide property owners and investors the opportunity to gain a greater insight into their transactions by interaction with others, so they can protect and guide their endeavors more effectively.

Future meetings will continue this theme and expand into other aspects of this important subject. If you have any subjects related to Real Estate that you would like to have on the agenda for discussion, or would like to be added to our mailing list, please send your request to Bill Buzan at re_sig@insightbb.com.

The REAL ESTATE SIG meets monthly on the third Tuesday in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM at 6:30 PM. CCUM is at

The SIG Scene (cont.)

4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42) at the Blankenbaker Lane traffic light. Directions are on the KIPCUG web site at www.kipcug.org.

TECHNICAL MARKET ANALYSIS SIG

The May 24 meeting will continue our ongoing discussion of mathematical analysis of market trends. Members will share the tools that they have found to be successful in analyzing today's market.

At the June 28 meeting, we will use our technical indicators to try to determine the near term direction of the market, and to hone our skills using these indicators with everyone's input. We use a group discussion format to answer attendees' questions and let everyone tell how they use the indicators.

Additional information will be announced by email to all members on our list. With the late date of the SIG meeting and potential market fluctuations, email is the best way to inform all of our discussion topics.

The TECHNICAL MARKET ANALYSIS SIG meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except December, at 6:30 PM at the Louisville Free Public Library, Crescent Hill Branch, 2752 Frankfort Ave. in the lower level meeting room.

For more information on meetings or topic information, contact SIG LEADER Myron Smith at 897-

7718, or email him at mjslks@insightbb.com to be added to the email distribution list.

New attendees are encouraged to come to the meetings to learn about technical analysis and its application to the present market conditions. We generally discuss the present market, and use any web-based indicators available. Many times, we also have someone present topics of interest to anyone using technical analysis.

We are always looking for suggestions for topics of discussion, or suggested presentations by knowledgeable groups or individuals. Please send your ideas to SIG LEADER Myron Smith at mjslks@insightbb.com.

UTILITIES SIG

On May 25 we will meet at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM, Co-SIG LEADER Tom McArdle will lead a discussion on newsgroups and newsreaders. Using AGENT, as found on the Spring KIPCUG CD, he will show how to configure the software and what information can be gleaned from the thousands of newsgroups online. Members will learn how to unlock the almost infinite resources just waiting for them on this little-used part of the Internet.

When we meet on June 23, Co-SIG LEADER Charley May will explore the utilities included with the last KIPCUG CD. Not sure of what the programs can do? Do you

wonder how to install the software? Join us at this SIG and unlock the power that is on that little CD that was distributed at the May General Meeting.

In April, the UTILITIES SIG investigated add-ons to the Microsoft Office Suite. Co-SIG LEADER Charley May brought a number of utilities that members found helpful. The groups' web site can be found at the following URL: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KIPCUGUtilitiesSIG/> and contains links to these add-ons.

Members are kept up-to-date with timely messages and answers to their questions at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KIPCUGUtilitiesSIG/>. You do not have to be a member of the group to view the messages, but you will need to sign up (free) with Yahoo for full access. Links to sites discussed in our previous meetings are posted there.

Examining a mix of freeware, shareware and retail programs, this SIG hopes to make your computer experience more enjoyable. Members may bring blank CD's to exchange for free and trial versions of featured utilities.

This SIG meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM. To be added to our advance notice list for this SIG, sign up at the Yahoo Groups site or contact Co-SIG LEADERS Tom McArdle at usersig@insightbb.com or Charley May at sig@win.net. Please put the words UTILITIES SIG in the subject line of your email.

The SIG Scene (cont.)

VISUAL BASIC SIG

The June 2 meeting will continue our look at SIG LEADER Martin Campion's game "Rails West!" and we may take the opportunity to review the progress on a multi-page Web site Martin is developing called WesternPeaksCal.Net. The group will continue its work on the SIG project.

On May 5, Martin began showing the members his game "Rails West!" Starting years ago as an Apple II/Commodore 64/Atari 800 program, it has continued to develop towards the VB 6 environment. Due to the time required to develop the Artificial Intelligence (AI) the game demanded, the project was retired until Martin was contacted by someone that asked for the game without the AI component.

The version the group saw was the latest 'release candidate' of the game. Development may continue with Martin moving from VB 6 into VB .Net. The game provided an example of how serialization worked in VB.Net and how it differed from the way of saving program data that he had used in VB 6. Finally, he showed how he got the data from the original data files and created the serialized objects that would be necessary to start a new game.

The VISUAL BASIC SIG meets monthly on the first Thursday at 6:30 PM at the Bon Air Regional Branch of the LFPL, 2816 Del Rio Place. To be added to the email list for a reminder of meetings and top-

ics planned, contact SIG LEADER Martin Campion at mccampion@aol.com. Add the words VB SIG to the subject line of your email.

WEBMASTERS SIG

Our June 16 meeting at 6:30 PM at the Win.Net offices will reacquaint the members with how Search Engines work and what they look at to rank a web site. If you have ever wondered how some sites get to the top of the list and want to find out how to improve your position when compared to similar sites, this is a meeting you must attend.

Can the paid web service companies really help improve your rank? Can you do it yourself? What do the Search Engines use to score your pages? What works and what does not? SIG LEADER John Henderson will have the answers at the June meeting.

On May 19, John and SIG member Robbie Gibson of HOSTAROO.COM presented ways that members could use to Password Protect their own Web Site without the writing of complicated scripts.

Also, John used our own KIPCUG.ORG site to show how a webmaster can use passwords to protect sections of their web site on a UNIX based system. Robbie did the same on a Windows based web server. Members learned how to secure personal or company information from unauthorized outside

access and how to limit viewing to a select few.

Every WEBMASTERS SIG includes design tips and tricks. There is usually time after the main presentation for Q & A. Every meeting contains web design elements or tips for both the beginner and the more advanced web site creator. KIPCUG members are encouraged to ask for a review of their web site.

See www.inetwebmaster.com for information on the current topic, a map and summaries of our recent presentation.

Non-SIG members interested in building a web site or just learning how the Internet works are invited to any of our meetings.

We meet at 6:30 PM on the third Thursday of the month at the Win.Net offices. To be added to the mailing list for notices of this SIG's activities, please email TEAM MEMBER Roger Klingeman at roger@klingeman.win.net and include the words WEBMASTERS SIG in the subject line of your message.

WINDOWS OS SIG

On June 10 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM, we will have a chance to explore some features included in Service Pack 2 for Windows XP. Windows Media Center and optional Movie Maker are powerful tools provided to XP users that may save

The SIG Scene (cont.)

you the expense of purchasing additional software to do basic edits of audio and video material.

SIG LEADER Bob Rose will highlight these and other improvements Microsoft has made in their current PC operating system. Though security was the first concern in Service Pack 2, other improvements were included as well. Learn more at the June SIG meeting.

On May 13, we discussed how Windows ME could be updated to Windows XP Operating System. Members saw how Windows XP can check a PC's existing configuration to determine most potential conflicts before beginning the upgrade. We explored the options that save critical files and folders on one's old O/S for importing to the new O/S. Problems that developed gave everyone a better understanding of what is involved in this procedure.

The group will focus on maintaining and updating the various Windows OS's to keep them performing at peak efficiency. While our direction will be forward, questions and topics for older formats will be part of the topic list we intend to cover.

The SIG includes topics covering Windows Operating Systems from Windows 95 through XP- SP2, with an emphasis on changing technology. Time is always reserved to resolve problems and answer questions members bring to the meeting. To be sure we can get to your particular issue, please contact SIG LEADER Bob Rose, britdude@techemail.com, by email

a few days before the meeting so he can have members prepared to address your problem.

The WINDOWS OS SIG currently meets at 6:30 PM on the second Friday of the month in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM, 4614 Brownsboro Road, US Hwy. 42 at the Blankenbaker Lane traffic light. Check the KIPCUG web site at www.KIPCUG.org for a map to the meeting site. To be added to the email list, please contact SIG LEADER Bob Rose, britdude@techemail.com and put the words WINDOWS OS SIG in the email subject line.

YOUTH SIG

Your input is requested as we explore the restart of this SIG. We

hope to include KIPCUG and CCUM members in this group. Consideration is being given to offering a computer gaming or an 'Instant Messaging' focus to this group to stimulate youth interest. If you have children or grandchildren with a desire for some additional computer activities, we want to hear from you. Please continue checking the KIPCUG web site for the latest information at: www.KIPCUG.org Saturday meetings are the likely dates for this SIG.

To sign up younger members or to volunteer your assistance, contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org. Please include YOUTH SIG in the subject line of the email.

This SIG's mission is to develop the computer skills of middle school or advanced elementary school students. It will cover topics beyond those basic skills taught in the school system.

PIG SIG Open to All

PIG means Food; SIG means Special Interest Group.

Meet us at TGI Fridays following the General Meeting! We always invite the Presenter to socialize and have a late snack or meal. Everyone is welcome. Ask a few more questions. Chat with other KIPCUG members. We grab a few tables,

have fun, network, and relax a little before returning home. Grab a chair and join in! TGI Fridays is located at 2311 Lime Kiln Road. From the meeting, take Brownsboro Road east to Lime Kiln, turn right, Fridays will be on your left. Everyone pays for their own "snack." See you there!

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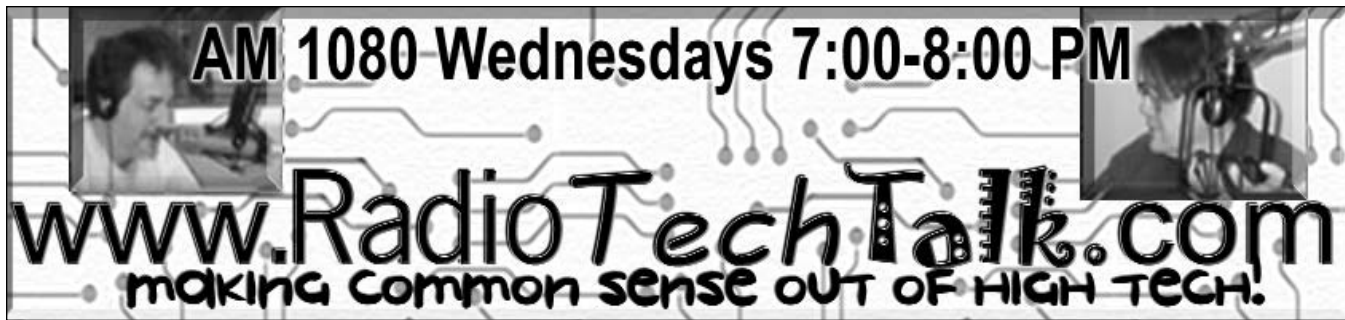
Everyone's (cont.)

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also readable via RSS (Rich Site Summary), an Internet technology which can bring material from multiple publishers/blogs to you as it's published, without your having to visit multiple Web sites. I read RSS "feeds" via my email software, Mozilla Thunderbird, and through a Web site, which collects RSS feeds [www.bloglines.com/myblogs].

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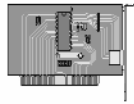
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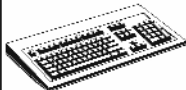


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The next General Meeting will be on
Tuesday, June 7, 2005 @ 6:30 PM
4614 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY
Presentation: Whittle's Picks for the Digital Home

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