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Gene Barlow

Presenting

MoveMe

SecureClean/WipeDrive/ Media Wiper

True Image

on

September 6, 2005

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

KIPCUG

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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

September

Once again, one of our favorite presenters Gene Barlow (formerly from Partition Magic) will return. Gene has been a key figure in the user group community for the past 25 years. Gene will demonstrate three 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.

This Presentation will follow the Back to Basics presentation. In addition, we will also have the User to User session. Please be sure to bring your written question 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.

A BIG Thanks to Klayton Cone, Louisville's Apple Solutions Consultant based out of the CompUSA Jeffersontown store for his excellent presentation on iPod and the amazing Apple Mac mini.

WERE YOU THERE?

ON AUGUST 2

THE WINNER

WAS NOT

IN ATTENDANCE.

NEXT MONTH

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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

Why Can't I Just Copy My Programs to My New Computer?

By Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D., Sarasota PCUG, Florida www.spcug.org and APGUG Editorial Committee

Let's start this with a discussion of imaging software. Something that many of us use to backup our hard drives. Imaging software makes a very complete "bit-mapped" copy of your hard drive. Bit-mapping means that everything contained on the hard drive is being copied, usually to a compressed file. Generally, imaging software also backs up open files, those that are currently in use on your computer. Most, but not all, regular backup software can only make copies of files that are not in use at the time of the backup. Thus it is very easy for a standard backup to miss some files or to produce a backup of your hard drive that is incomplete, especially with regard to files currently in use by your Operating System (OS). Imaging software overcomes this problem.

So when you buy, build or upgrade to a new computer, why can't you simply use your image file to transfer all of your programs and data from one computer to another? The basic answer is related to the difference in hardware between the two computers. If you are just replacing a hard drive in your computer, you can use the image file to move everything to the new drive. Some imaging software allows you to "clone" the old hard drive to a new drive. That is, providing both drives are connected to the same computer. However, when you change to a new computer with a new motherboard, CPU, chipset, USB ports, sound and/or integrated video are different and require new drivers.

The image file contains a complete copy of the Registry that has all the settings needed to connect to your hardware. It also has all the settings for the software installed on your hard drive. These settings are references to the files on your hard drive that are absolutely essential for the proper operation of both hardware and software. On Windows versions prior to WinXP/Win2K, the registry was contained in two files: system.dat and user.dat. In Windows XP this has changed greatly. The registry is now found in files in hidden folders within the System32 folder and the Documents & Settings Folder. Presumably this is to prevent users from deleting vital files. You can examine the Registry by running "regedit". However, it is not advisable to make changes to the Registry unless you are a very experienced user. It is quite easy to corrupt the Registry and find that your computer will not run.

The Registry has five main branches in WinXP/Win2K. In earlier versions there were six. These are identified as keys. The most important are HKEY_ CLASSES_ROOT which has all the file types used by your software; HKEY_ LOCAL_MACHINE which contains all the information on the hardware and software in your computer.

So if you used the image file to transfer everything from your old computer to your new computer you would overwrite the Registry settings for the hardware and pre-installed software on your new computer. This would very likely prevent it from completing a boot-up. It is really not practical to try to selectively transfer items from the Registry on the old computer. This would introduce other problems. I did a search in the registry for items related to one application. The search found 128 entries. This may not have been all of them. Considering the number of programs you might have on your hard drive, the total number of entries to be transferred is mind-boggling.

Another example, the Windows folder contains many Dynamic Link Library (DLL) files that are associated with the particular version of Windows you have been running. There are also many shared DLL's used by Windows and your application software. How do you know which ones should be transferred and which ones will create problems with your new OS or your new software. Finally, the motherboard, chipset and CPU in your new computer require driver files that are specific to them and very likely are quite different from the drivers used on your old computer.

Faced with this problem, what do you do? The most commonly used solution is to dig out all the original disks for your application software. Find the serial numbers and/or other information needed to do a new installation on your new computer. Once you have the programs installed you can transfer the data files for each application. This gives you a clean install for your software and, if the programs are compatible with the new OS, you will have no problem running your applications.

This, however, can be a long and tedious process. Also, what happens when you can't find the original program discs? Maybe it was downloaded and you didn't keep the install file or make a copy of it. Or maybe you can't find the serial numbers you need to install some of your programs. Then you have to

Why ? (cont.)

ask the software manufacturer for help, providing you registered the software when you first installed it. There is another option.

I got into all this because I have just built a new computer and needed to transfer all, or most all, of my software to a new computer. I had used two different transfer programs in past upgrades and found them to be somewhat lacking in both accuracy and speed. Since my new computer is running Window XP Pro I also looked at the "Transfer Files & Setting" Wizard. This transfers the Internet browser and e-mail settings between the two computers, providing you are using Internet Explorer and Outlook or Outlook Express. It will also transfer the contents of your "My Documents" folder. It will not transfer any applications. For me this was useless, since I don't use IE or OE.

In my searching for possible solutions I found a program called "Move-Me" from Spearit Software. It is the first transfer program I've found that uses network connections to move programs, data files, settings, etc between your old and new computers. It can also use the USB ports or the parallel ports. These are much slower than a LAN connection. Move-Me also works with removable media that can be read by both computers. Now before you get too excited, this is not a free program. It will cost you $39.95 for the Internet download version. You can download a trial version that has all the information and help files. It just will not do any transfer until you enter the serial number. That you get only after paying for it. The only thing that makes me nervous about the whole process is that you have to turn off your software firewall and virus checker during the serial number validation process. This validation requires that you be connected to the Internet. In my case I still had a hardware firewall in my router, but that's not always sufficient protection. But I went ahead and ran the software. (You know the saying "Fools rush in……)

Yes, it did work, but with some glitches. First let me say it transferred over 12 gigabytes of programs and data from the old to the new in just over 1.5 hours. Now that is a definite time saving. I had estimated it would take me more than a day to reinstall all my software and move the data files. Only a couple of applications and my external devices needed to be reinstalled after the move. By that I mean printers, scanner and external drive. The big exception was the Bookmarks for Firefox and the e-mail address book and mail settings for Thunderbird. Those I had to transfer manually. Once I found the instructions on the Mozilla websites, the setup went quickly.

The point of all this is, if you buy a new computer, try to get the dealer to transfer your old software as part of the deal. If you do it yourself, a file copy won't work. You need special transfer software like Move-me or Aloha Bob's PC Relocator. However, if you don't have a LAN connection between your computers, expect to spend 1 hour per gigabyte for a USB 2.0 transfer and much, much more time with a parallel port transfer.

Dr. Lewis is a former university & medical school professor. He has been working with personal computers for more than thirty years. He can be reached via e-mail: bwsail at yahoo.com.

Membership

Please welcome KIPCUG's newest members.

PETE WORCESTER

GERALD C DOSS

ANNETTA J DOSS

STEPHANIE M CLARK

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29 Useful Bookmarks

By Richard Johnson, TUGNET www.tugnet.org and APGUG Editorial Committee

The Web is a marvelous resource, and most of us come nowhere near tapping its full potential. I've attempted here to list 29 websites that without any necessary downloading provide exceedingly useful free non-specialized services and tools, that require no particular knowledge except how to navigate the World Wide Web.

1. **Time Cave**

www.timecave.com

2. **Memo to Me**

www.memotome.com

Using these two email reminder services you'll never forget another upcoming activity or event. Time Cave allows you to schedule incoming messages by interval (so many hours, days, weeks, months, or even years away) as well as by date and time. Memo to Me allows editing of content and date. With Time Cave you can choose your own subject line and send reminders to others, but Memo to Me will charge you for those features. On the other hand, Time Cave charges for the ability to repeat messages (monthly, weekly, etc.), standard with Memo to Me.

3. **Way Back Machine**

www.archive.org/web/web.php

Is a website you're seeking no longer around? If it was active as late as 1996, you'll probably find it easily in this huge archive.

4. **Centerwatch Clinical Trials**

www.centerwatch.com

Gives information on more than 41,000 active clinical trials in which you could participate. (Some compensate you handsomely for helping, along with free medical monitoring.) Includes a notification service, for trials in areas of your interest. Also describes the newest drug therapies.

5. **Objectgraph Dictionary**

www.objectgraph.com/dictionary

A combination standard dictionary, technical dictionary, and thesaurus. (There's also a dictionary of chemical elements, of rather limited interest). A unique feature is the site's ability to "read your mind" if you're not sure of the word you're thinking of -- or its spelling -- or if you just want to save typing.

6. **Myway email**

www.myway.com

An excellent Web-based email provider with an exceptionally clean interface (no banner ads or pop-ups). Unlike the case with competitors like Yahoo mail, Myway will respond to support inquiries. (It also has a terrific weather page -- see link #7 following.) [If you prefer Gmail, equally clean-appearing, I can get you an invitation -- see my article in the March Keywords.]

7. **Myway weather**

weather.myway.com

The best weather page on the Web. Even though its weather information is from weather.com, you'll see when you use it that the interface is much cleaner (and loading therefore faster) than if you were to bring up either weather.com or one of its competitors. You can personalize the weather according to your home town or zip code; the page you'll want to bookmark is that personalized page.

8. **Past Weather**

www.weather.com/activities/other/other/weather/yesterday.html

Use this site to compare today's forecast with yesterday's weather. There's also interesting historical data and a graph showing the weather for the past seven days. The past weather information can easily be compared with the forecast from Myway weather (link #7), which derives its data from the same source.

9. **Furl**

www.furl.net

Bookmarking is useful, but what do you do when you find that a bookmarked page has disappeared (left the Web)? Or maybe it's still there, but -- as with many newspaper sites -- you can't read it without going to a paid archive. This won't be an issue if you've Furled the page. Furl allows you to create a set of special bookmarks that can be easily searched or browsed -- or shared with others -- but whose contents are permanently stored on your hard drive. (If you feel the need to save parts of a page, try Net Snippets Free at www.netsnippets.com/basic. This does require a download.)

10. **Gold Star Events**

http://snipurl.com/bl9o

Gold Star enables admissions to a large variety of live California productions at 50% off or better. After your (free) registration, you'll receive regular email notices of well-described shows in the zip code areas of your preference.

29 Useful Bookmarks (cont.)

There's a small per-ticket service fee, usually between $3 and $7.

11. **Password Generator**

http://mistupid.com/computers/passwordgen.htm

Random characters compose the safest passwords. This tool will create a password with random characters according to your specifications. On your instructions, will even avoid ambiguous characters [o and 0, 1 and I].

12. **Zap2it**

www.zap2it.com

With Zap2it you can check out both TV and movie schedules. Various options let you permanently personalize each set of listings, to give you just the information you need, in the format you prefer.

13. **Acronym Finder**

www.acronymfinder.com

Don't be baffled by acronyms and abbreviations you encounter on the Web and elsewhere. This site offers definitions for over 398,000 such terms. Optional downloading of any of a number of search tools (for various browsers) will allow you to view a definition almost instantly.

14. **Restaurant health ratings (LA County)**

http://lapublichealth.org/rating

Avoid traveling to an appealing restaurant only to find that its health rating is below the level with which you're comfortable.

15. **Translation Wizard**

www.faganfinder.com/translate

The Translation Wizard uses other sites' services to ease the process of finding a translation -- that otherwise might require visiting ten or more sites to find the language of interest! It also has a neat button to identify a mystery language.

16. **Anybirthday**

http://anybirthday.com

A fun site that can divulge your friend's birthday or even tell you where to mail the card.

17. **TrackEngine**

www.trackengine.com

Notifies you via email of changes in Web pages that you select. You can preview the changes or view the whole page via email, with changes highlighted. Choose the Web address of a neighborhood theater, to see what plays are coming up. Or see every new installment of a favorite newspaper column, without having to buy the paper.

18. **GovBenefits.gov**

http://govbenefits.gov

A source of information on over 400 government-funded programs that extend benefits for which you may qualify, including compensated volunteering. Features a confidential questionnaire designed to point you to the most likely matches.

19. **AddALL**

www.addall.com

Use this site to find the very best price for a book you want to buy. Unlike most other comparison sites, it figures in shipping costs for your location. Links will take you to pages for magazine subs, music CDs, and videos.

20. **jux2**

www.jux2.com

Jux2 lets you receive and compare search results from two or three different search engines, or see what you're missing from your regular search results. (According to the site, competing search engines typically share fewer than 4 out their 10 top results.) Still in development, it's currently limited to Google, Yahoo, and Ask Jeeves.

21. **Medem Medical Library** www.medem.com/medlb/medlib_entry.cfm

Searchable and browsable medical library, organizing contributions from 45 medical societies. Features a complexity indicator for each article, from "introductory" to "professional."

22. **Metacritic**

www.metacritic.com/film

23. **Kids-in-mind**

www.kids-in-mind.com

Metacritic is an excellent source for movie critiques. For each film, it arranges its large variety of reviews from most to least favorable, and then tabulates the opinions, for an overall "metascore." (Additional Metacritic pages cover videos, music, and games.) For evaluating movies for children, or if you have a concern about violence, sex, or profanity, Kids-in-mind will rate and describe each film's content in those three areas.

24. **CardRatings**

http://cardratings.com

This site maintains information on over 700 credit cards, and will suggest the best cards in a variety of categories --low or no credit, no annual fee, low interest, rewards/rebates, etc.

29 Useful Bookmarks (cont.)

25. **The California Patient's Guide**

www.calpatientguide.org

A well-organized extensive guide to Californians" health care rights, and what you can do if they're compromised. Assembled by medical, legal, and consumer experts, and published by the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights.

26 **CheckFree**

www.checkfree.com

There are a host of good reasons for paying your bills online. It saves time, saves the cost of stamps, reduces the chance of late payment, extends the time in which you can use your money, cuts down clutter, eliminates the danger of checks lost in the mail, and facilitates tracking. With CheckFree you'll be able to pay many or most of your bills online, and the service is free to the payers.

27. **Bug Me Not**

www.bugmenot.com

This site and the one following save you time and trouble while helping you cut down on spam. Bug Me Not keeps on hand log-in data (passwords with user names) for a huge number of sites that require registration. If you want access to such a site (like latimes.com), but don't want to bother registering, just visit the Bug Me Not site and log in easily.

28. **Spam Bob**

http://evil-wire.luvfeed.org/cache/1269

Spam Bob offers a choice of three email addresses that you create, to protect your privacy. Anything@spambob.org is a phantom address, messages to which disappear into the ether. Use anything@spambob.com if you'll want to check on a reply message. (This is handy for registrations that require confirmation.) And you may want to use anything@spambob.net for all your correspondents. Mail from each such "net" address can be forwarded to you, and if it starts generating spam, just cancel the forwarding order!

29. **Google Maps**

http://maps.google.com

Head and shoulders above the competition, these maps are much larger and far easier to configure. Zooming in and out is quick as a bunny, and re-centering is instantaneous. You can locate by category businesses in the map area, along with their phone numbers. Note that (at least as of this writing) these maps are not implemented in the regular Google search results, which will still point you only to Yahoo and MapQuest maps.

Richard Johnson is a writer and editor, and founder/administrator of FREE FOR ALL The Skills Pool, a 29-year-old membership organization (http://theskillspool.org). He is a volunteer with TUGNET HelpContact for assistance with Internet Explorer, Outlook Express, and Gmail. You may reach him at rj@theskillspool.org.

New Horizons®
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Maintaining Your Downloads

By David Garcia, President, Little Blue PC Club, Northglenn, Colorado petitbleu@comcast.net and APGUG Editorial Committee

Having trouble keeping track of your downloaded files? Here's a couple of easy procedures to help you maintain, identify, and document your downloads.

1. Create a "Downloads" Folder & Sub-folders

When downloading files, (for example, you buy some software online, and download it instead of having it mailed) it is a good idea to place all your downloads into a specific folder so that you can always find them when you need them. If you don't already have a folder called "Downloads," or "My Downloads," then you should create one on your hard drive (normally the "C:" drive).

To create a folder on the "C:" drive right-click the Start button on the desktop, then click "Explore" in the popup menu. This will open the Windows Explorer. Left-click the "Local Disk (C:)" icon to highlight it. Then click "File" on the Menu Bar and point to "New." When the fly-out menu opens, click "Folder." A "New Folder" is created on the C: drive. Rename it to "Downloads" or "My Downloads" as you prefer. To rename it just right-click it and select Rename from the popup menu.

Prior to downloading a given file it would also be good, for identification and documentation purposes, to create a sub-folder within the "Downloads" folder that identifies the origin of the download. Give the sub-folder a short name that identifies its origin. For example, if you download some anti-virus software from Symantec, you might name the sub-folder "Symantec." Then when you download the file place it into the Symantec sub-folder within the "Downloads" folder. Any subsequent downloads from Symantec should also be placed into this folder.

Creating the sub-folder is similar to creating the "Downloads" folder. To create the sub-folder you left-click the Downloads folder, click "File" on the Menu Bar, point to "New," click "Folder," and rename it. You should now have a sub-folder within the Downloads folder. The hierarchy should look like this:

Local Disc (C:)

Downloads (or My Downloads)

Sub-folder (Whatever you name it)

2. Documenting the Download

When a file is downloaded it usually has a cryptic name like "Abc4205.exe" To further document my downloads, I create a text file within the sub-folder that identifies the download. Within the text file I give a description of what the download is, when I downloaded it, and when I installed it. I give the text file the same name as the downloaded file except for the extension. For example, if I downloaded a file called "Abc4205.exe" from Symantec using the procedure #1 above, it would be in the "Downloads" folder in the "Symantec" sub-folder. I would then create a text file called "Abc4205.txt," and also place it in the "Symantec" sub-folder. In this example, I would have two files within my "Symantec" sub-folder: Abc4205.exe which is the downloaded file and Abc4205.txt which is my description of the downloaded file.

To create the text file left-click the sub-folder name (e.g. "Symantec") once. Click "File" on the Menu Bar and then point to "New." When the fly-out menu opens, click "Text File." A "New Text Document.txt" file will be placed into the subfolder. Rename the file to the download file name (without the "exe" extension). Now double-click the renamed text file to open it with Notepad. Type in your description of the download and save it.

Using the above two procedures gives you an orderly method of maintaining, identifying, and documenting your downloads.

Article rights are reserved. This article may be reproduced, downloaded, disseminated, or transferred, for single use by nonprofit organizations for educme ppb5 - Tc9ur downloads.

Lessons Learned Too Late (cont.)

viruses and worms. This utility can be downloaded for free at www.microsoft.com/malwareremove. It should be noted that this Microsoft utility will only remove a few dozen of the most common worms and viruses and their variants, such as Bagel, Sober, and Netsky, but is not a substitute for a properly updated antivirus program. The antivirus software publisher McAfee also had a similar free downloadable utility at vil.nai.com/vil/stinger. The free online antivirus scans, referenced in a previous column here, such as those from Trend Micro (housecall.antivirus.com), BitDefender (www.bitdefender.com), Panda (www.pandasoftware.com), and others, can detect and remove much more malware than the limited downloadable utilities.

Sadly, pain is an excellent teacher, and hopefully we have learned our lesson. It is now more imperative than ever that security patches be promptly and properly installed both on our home computers as well as distributed throughout our vast commercial computer networks. It is also imperative that appropriate protective software, such as antivirus, firewall, and anti-spyware software be installed and updated constantly.

With proper and timely protection, we can do much to protect our systems from more devastating computer virus and worm future attacks which are sure to come.

Figuring Out How Spammers Get E-Mail Addresses

By Dave Gerber, Dave's Bits & Bytes, A Periodic Newsletter for the Members of the Sarasota PC User Group and the World!! Director, Sarasota PCUG, Florida www.spcug.org and APGUG Editorial Committee

Spammers employ a variety of methods to acquire e-mail addresses. Some methods take advantage of the e-mail addresses readily available on the Internet, whereas others employ different levels of trickery, from harvesting to outright stealing.

Harvesting from the Internet

Spammers (and their assistants) utilize a technique called harvesting to acquire e-mail addresses. While harvesting requires a lot of bandwidth, it is ingeniously simple: Simply download the right pages from select Web sites and extract the e-mail addresses that are there for the picking. Some of the tools and sources employed in harvesting e-mail addresses from the Web include the following:

Web spiders: Spammers employ Web crawlers and spiders that harvest e-mail addresses from Web sites. It's common for Web sites to include mailto: URLs as well as unlinked user@domain addresses. Put your e-mail address on a Web site, and you're spam bait. These spiders are not unlike the spiders and Web crawlers used by Yahoo, Google, and others that scan the Internet's Web sites in order to keep Web search indexes fresh. Except that e-mail address harvesting spiders are up to no good. And where do these spiders get domain names? With over 90 million .com domains in existence, it's easy enough to just guess domain names in order to come up with quite a few.

Newsgroups: It's a straightforward task to harvest e-mail addresses from Usenet newsgroups: Just pull in a big news feed and extract the e-mail addresses with a simple shell or Perl script. Newsgroup volumes are still increasing exponentially - at a rate of at least several gigabytes per day. This means lots of e-mail addresses are there for the taking. Any spammer with enough bandwidth can slurp up all those bits and just sift out the e-mail addresses.

Groups, blogs, and discussion boards: Yahoo! and Google have their groups and mailing lists, many of which make their members' e-mail addresses available. There are thousands of blogs and discussion boards out there, too, that contain easily acquired e-mail addresses.

Test messages: In this method, spammers send test e-mails to recipients whose addresses they simply guess - so-called test e-mail messages sent to addresses like service@, info@, test@, marketing@, security@. Spammers at one time could reliably conclude that, if they receive no "bounce-o-gram" back from the domain, that the e-mail address must be legit.

Spammers Get E-Mail Addresses (cont.)

This is because e-mail servers used to routinely send nondelivery receipts (NDRs) back to the sender of a message sent to a nonexistent address. But that ain't necessarily so any more: More servers are opting to stop sending NDRs.

Unsubscribe links: Many spam messages include an opt-out or unsubscribe link so that the recipient can request not to receive more spam. However, often the real purpose of unsubscribe links is to confirm a valid, active e-mail address.

Malware: Spammers sometimes use Trojan horses, viruses, and worms to extract e-mail addresses from individual users' computers. If mass-mailing worms can extract the contents of a user's e-mail address book for the purpose of propagating spam, then it's going to be easy to perform the same extraction and simply send the list back to the hacker's lair. This would probably be easier, in fact, because this activity is far less likely to be detected than a mass-mailing worm.

Unsubscribe requests: A good number of spam messages contain "unsubscribe me" links that a user clicks to opt out. However, many spam operators actually continue to send spam to e-mail addresses submitted to "unsubscribe me" links. When a user submits such a request, the spammer knows that the address being sent is a valid e-mail address. Do you think they'll actually stop sending spam to a known valid address? Not on your life!

Buying and stealing addresses

Among spammers and e-mail address brokers, e-mail addresses are a traded and sold commodity. If you know where to look, you can purchase CDs and downloads containing e-mail addresses by the hundreds of thousands or millions.

And of course, everyone has heard the stories of Web sites that collect your e-mail address and promise not to sell it (ha!). But they sell, trade, or give away e-mail addresses anyway, even when their privacy policy says they won't. A few high-profile companies have been prosecuted and/or fined for this practice.

Business and service provider e-mail lists are also stolen and sold to spammers. In mid-2004, a former AOL employee was charged with stealing 90 million screen names and 30 million e-mail addresses from AOL and selling them to a spammer for $100,000. This is not an isolated case, but it is a noteworthy one because of the size of the heist. So much for privacy, eh?

Listen to Dave's Bits & Bytes radio show archives at www.davebytes.com; subscribe to his newsletter by sending an e-mail to dave_bytes@comcast.net.

Beware of File Sharing

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX; Radio Show Host

WEBSITE: http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/speeches/2005/063005operationsitedown.htm

Most of us have heard about the popular "Peer to Peer" or "P2P" file sharing networks. Countless millions of computer users around the world routinely download copyrighted music, software, videos, and games on these computer networks, as well as from "alt.binaries" newsgroups where users upload complete commercial computer programs, and other intellectual property. Ethicists have long bemoaned such behavior, and representatives of intellectual property right owners have long tried to shut down such activities with lawsuits and other forms of pressure. Such pirates are alleged to have deprived the rightful owners of billions of dollars of revenue. Legal challenges to such practices have met with some success, but the recent US Supreme Court ruling of MGM vs. Grockster has now opened up another avenue. In a statement by US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, "… that those who actively induce or encourage the theft of copyrighted works may be held liable for their actions. … Our objective in this operation was to find and dismantle large-scale criminal enterprises that illegally obtain, copy, distribute, and trade in copyrighted software, music, movies, and video games."

Recently, Attorney General Gonzales announced "Operation Site Down", a coordinated international legal and criminal attack on cyber pirates, with law enforcement agencies from the US (the FBI),

Beware of File Sharing (cont.)

Canada, France, Belgium, Israel, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Denmark, the Netherlands, Australia, and Germany participating in raids on computer file sharing networks, and arresting individuals allegedly engaging in such intellectual property theft. It is noteworthy that two countries, reportedly the major centers of piracy, Russia and China, were not participating in the crackdown.

Operation Site Down, in its first series of internationally coordinated raids, shutdown or crippled several of the popular file sharing networks, and websites offering pirated materials referred to in cyber circles as "warez" (pronounced "wares"). Among the networks and sites raided were RiSCISO, Myth, TDA, LND, Goodfellaz, Hoodlum, Vengeance, Centropy, Wasted Time, Paranoid, Corrupt, Gamerz, AdmitONE, Hellbound, KGS, BBX, KHG, NOX, NFR, CDZ, TUN, and BHP. Over 70 search warrants were executed in the US, with several arrests reported, while additional raids and arrests were reported in the other cooperating nations. These services were alleged to have been "first providers" who posted the first copies of pirated works, often cracking any copy protection or registration schemes integral with such products. Once these services made material available, it tended to show up on warez sites around the world, where millions could then download the material using P2P networks, websites, FTP sites, and other online resources. It is hoped that by raiding these primary sources of illicit intellectual property, that much of the supply of pirated content will be reduced. Attorney General Gonzales stated, "By dismantling these networks, the Department is striking at the top of the copyright piracy supply chain - a distribution chain that provides the vast majority of the illegal digital content now available online."

A variety of online resources have stated that the principles of many of the sites raided were directly behind the cracking and distribution of popular and expensive software such as products from Adobe, AutoCAD, Microsoft and other software publishers, as well as the distribution of recent movies, including "Mr. and Mrs. Smith", and "Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith".

"And by penetrating this illegal world of high-technology and intellectual property theft, we have shown that law enforcement can and will find -- and we will prosecute -- those who try to use the Internet to create piracy networks beyond the reach of law enforcement.", so said Attorney General Gonzales.

There is more to file sharing than just the legal, moral, and ethical considerations; P2P file sharing has also been a major source of computer problems, as they also often install spyware, viruses, and Trojans on unsuspecting computers. KaZaA, Morpheus, and Grockster, three of the major P2P file sharing networks (there are actually thousands of such pirate networks), have frequently been cited as the vector utilized to infect computers, both with their requisite software, and by the content downloaded from third party participants. Warez sites are also notorious for installing spyware that includes pop-ups with pornographic content, key loggers that can steal identities, dialers that connect to outrageously expensive international locations, and other forms of threatening malware. Websites offering such content are often loaded with active-x based, Java enabled, or other content capable of installing unwanted software on the victim computer, hijacking browsers, redirecting searches and purchases, and other nasty processes.

Operation Site Down, and the MGM vs. Grockster case should put all of us on notice that behaviors that may have been common place in the past should now be halted, lest "we" become civilly and criminally liable for our online actions. I know that many computer users rationalize such actions with excuses such as "(big name software publisher) is rich and won't miss it", or "(big name software publisher) has been ripping us off for so long that it is time for some payback." Just because a file is available in a newsgroup or a website to download does not mean that it is a legitimate "shareware" or "freeware" copy. Most downloaders of such software, music, games, and videos are all too aware that the content is pirated, yet they participate in great numbers.

To the pirates reading this column, or to the parents of children illicitly downloading copyrighted music and other intellectual property, you have been warned. The feds may be looking over your shoulder, and may not like what they can see. All internet users leave an electronic trail that is easy to track; please, do not become a target of a federal investigation and prosecution.

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
Barb McGee	Secretary	893-9691		secretary@kipcug.org
Rosemary Viele	Treasurer	452-6878		treasurer@kipcug.org
Judy Lococo	Program Director	893-8710		judyl@thorobred.win.net
Tom Denning	Membership Director	550-6106		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			
Joe Rothstein	Review Editor (Acting)			
Doc Viele	Director	452-6878		aqviele@win.net
Beverly Setree	Director		452-9851	beverly@advanced-grinding.com
Charles Russman	Director	244-0667		eckrus@bellsouth.net
Ken Hubler	Director	812-738-3485		khubler@win.net
Wayne Perkey	Director			
Alan Birch	SIG Leader	429-0506		ajbirch@bellsouth.net
Martin Campion	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 Tom Denning, 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. The KIPCUG Membership Renewal Link is on the web page at www.kipcug.org in the "For Your Information" section or you can assess it directly at http://www.kipcug.org/payment.htm.

September 2005 KIPCUG Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Monday-Friday Meetings are at 6:30 PM. All Afternoon Meetings are at 2:00 PM.				1 Visual Basic SIG	2	3
4	5 Hardware SIG Cancelled This Month - Labor Day	6 General Meeting	7	8 Genealogy II SIG Investing SIG	9 Windows OS SIG	10 Basic Access SIG 10:00
11 Articles for Magazine Due 9/11	12 New Users SIG	13 Board of Directors	14	15 Webmasters SIG	16 Advanced Users SIG	17
18	19 Genealogy SIG New Users Daytime SIG	20 Real Estate SIG	21	22 Utilities SIG	23 Community Outreach SIG	24 Hands On SIG 2:00
25	26 Intermediate Users SIG	27 Digital Photo SIG Technical Mkt Analysis SIG	28	29	30	

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 - Restarting Soon - 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

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

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

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 - Meetings on Hold - 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 Time - Meets 2:00 PM on the 3rd Monday 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

KIPCUG 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, KIPCUG

Where to find the scoop on your Special Interest Group

HEADLINE NEWS

September is here and maybe you have been anxiously waiting or maybe you were unaware, but either way, Vista is on its way. Yes the new Windows OS is here and with it all of the excitement of what Microsoft did right and what the critics say they could have done better. If you have anything to do with computers, you should keep up to date with the release of a new operating system. Like it or not, at some point you will probably be using a computer running this OS. Now is the time to get in on the first release and start testing to see if you want to change over now or later. I realize that most people will not have access to Vista right away without shelling out the money themselves. That is only one reason that you should visit the WINDOWS OS SIG. Bob Rose will be doing a demo of Vista, formally called Long Horn while in development, this month. I am sure there will be more meetings with subjects based around Vista as well.

More exciting news is the startup of the BASIC EXCEL SIG. I am glad to let everyone know that Jim Boneck will be revising his role as SIG LEADER for the BASIC EXCEL SIG. I hope that everyone interested in Excel will attend this SIG. Anyone interested in getting on the list for this SIG send me an email to the address below and I will make sure you get put on the list for updates. We will be sending out an email with the date and location of the meetings.

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.

KIPCUG SIGs are still looking for NEW meeting places. Please keep your eyes and ears open for new SIG meeting locations and report suggestions to KIPCUG 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.

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 discussion topics for the September 16 meeting of the ADVANCED USERS SIG which meets at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at Christ Church United Methodist will be announced through the email list.

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 of the BASIC ACCESS SIG is September 10 at the New Horizons Computer Learning Center at 10:00 AM. The topic will be sent by email to the members on the contact list.

The August meeting went over members' problems and questions that were brought in.

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

The BASIC EXCEL SIG is being restarted. We are excited to be able to offer this SIG again and will provide details through email as well as next months magazine. Please make sure to send an email to let us know if you would like to be put on the email distribution list. Keep an eye on the magazine to find out the meeting time and location as well.

If you would like to be on the Distribution List for 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 next meeting of the COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG will be September 23 at Advanced Grinding and Machine, Inc, 4644 Illinois Ave. in Louisville at 6:30 PM. This will be the last meeting this year. There will not be another meeting until January 27. Even though the meetings will no longer be on a monthly basis, we still can accept donations by appointment when necessary.

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 be on September 27 at 6:30 PM at the LFPL Bon Air Branch Library. We will continue looking at the camera equipment we already own or hope to possibly purchase. Also 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 Chojnowski using the free program The GIMP.

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 "EXCEL INTERMEDIATE SIG" in the subject line.

GENEALOGY SIG

The next GENEALOGY SIG Meeting will be at 6:30 PM on September 19 at our regular location, the LFPL Eline Branch. The presentation will be How to Use the Picklist to create filters that can be used to list individuals with common features. This Picklist is interactive allowing you to directly edit each of the individuals or you can later use the filter to create reports.

The August GENEALOGY SIG Meeting was a presentation a review of the basics of The Master Genealogist and the creation of Custom Tags. Custom Tags are additional tags (events or notes) that you can use to add additional facts to your data. Custom Tags like the Standard Tags can include date, location, memo, citations and witnesses.

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

GENEALOGY II SIG

The GENEALOGY II SIG will have its next meeting on September 8 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 August 11.

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 September 24 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. The group can also help you build/upgrade your own PC in just one weekend. It may not always be possible to work on every machine that is not expected, but we resolve most issues by the library closing time.

There is no fixed 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. Should you need help getting it up to the meeting room, members will assist you.

At the August 27 meeting, we worked with problems that came in the door. Time was spent by members installing new components in a failing system. We were able to save most of the existing data with recovery software.

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

HARDWARE SIG

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

On October 3 at 6:30 PM, 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. We meet in the second floor meeting room of the Eline Branch of the LFPL in St. Matthews.

At our August 1 meeting, we discussed further wireless networking with emphasis on why you might want to use a wireless Bridge.

Do you have a desire to expand the capabilities of your existing system? 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 LEAD-

ERS 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 our next meeting on September 26, the topic will be How to have tabs in Internet Explorer. We will go over the MSN Search program, which allows for Tabs in Internet Explorer.

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.

For the August 22 meeting, we went over the Microsoft Program Remote Desktop.

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 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 September 8. 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 do you 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 September 12 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. You will find the learning curve easy enough for anyone to join in at any time. We will take our second look at setting up and maintaining a file system that will help you easily find your data, years from now. It will help keep you organized for years to come and will be easy to keep backed up by almost all backup programs.

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). Come find out about our new NUS Group on the Internet, where you can get answers between meetings by email or on the Internet.

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 on the screen 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.

NEW USERS DAYTIME SIG (NEW)

Important! Starting in September, please mark your calendars with the NEW day for our NEW USERS DAYTIME SIG. It will be the third MONDAY of the month in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM from 2:00 to 4:00. Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 19.

This is a hands-on SIG. If you are new to computers, you can get help finding programs, opening and closing programs and using your mouse.

If you would like to see programs by 599CD, this is the place to be. Please bring your earphones.

Are you interested in Word? We will help you learn about changing fonts, size, color and saving your work. If you need help moving folders or creating folders, this is the place to be.

Are you having difficulty with the keyboard? You may try typing this sentence at home, as it uses all the letters of the alphabet. The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. With this one sentence in Word or Works, you can change size, color and font, and save your work to a document.

We meet from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM on the third Monday of each month. CCUM is at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42) at the Blankenbaker Lane traffic light. 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. If you have a handheld device, we want to hear from you.

This SIG plans 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 September 20 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222 at CCUM. The SIG will continue its analysis and development of software for 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.

The REAL ESTATE SIG met August16 to continue the development of this program. The focus will continue on using the PC to save time and resources in growing our property assets.

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 that 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 future meetings 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 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

At the September 27 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 everyone's 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 August 23 meeting continued our ongoing discussion of mathematical analysis of market trends. Members shared the tools that they have found to be successful in analyzing today's market.

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

The September 22 meeting at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM will feature an introduction of Forte's Agent 3.0, the latest release in this leading newsgroup reader. The new features make this one a must have for 'power downloaders'. Co SIG LEADER Tom McArdle will have trial copies of the programs for those attending; just bring a blank CD to get your disk. Learn how to unlock the mystery of the thousands of newsgroups that are just a mouse click away.

August 25 had Co-SIG LEADER Charley May showing us some free Utilities that helped determine what is running on a computer when it starts up. Members found out how to turn some of these offenders off, how to monitor your RAM memory in use and how to easily release/defragment that RAM without having to shutdown your computer.

Members are kept up-to-date with timely messages and answers to their questions at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KIPCUGUtilities SIG/. 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 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 add the words UTILITIES SIG in the subject line of your email.

VISUAL BASIC SIG

The September 1 meeting will be an open forum, we will discuss any subject related to VB.Net, VB 6, ASP.Net, etc. that anyone wants to bring up. We are looking for members with an interest in developing their skills in this powerful, but user friendly program. Now is the time to open yourself to a new set of skills that can unlock the power hidden in your PC.

On August 4, SIG LEADER Martin Campion presented Web pages using ASP.Net and Access, Serialization/Deserialization (saving and loading files consisting of objects with their data), and a Large Windows application (Rails West). It's not as complicated as it sounds. Martin walked the group through he simple steps that made it all come together.

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

WEBMASTERS SIG

On September 15, the WEBMASTERS SIG will meet at 6:30 PM at the Win.Net offices. We will learn how to include Video in a website or in an e-mail.

Web site video is an exciting technology for anyone creating web sites. Carlile Crutcher of Video Kitchen is a leader in converting images to Internet ready files! Come watch a demonstration of how a video file is created from software you may already have. Carlile will present video and audio solutions that are available to any web master. He will cover what software and file types are options and discuss possible file size problems or compatibility. Remember, any web site can host a video file.

On August 18, we explored how to resize and optimize photos. We learned what file formats to use, how to cut a photo into sections, and how to save images to your web site. While this topic could have taken a semester and still not be complete, we tried to offer simple solutions to use pictures on the Internet.

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 presentations.

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 September 9 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM, we hope to have a 'beta' copy of Windows latest O/S, renamed "VISTA". Keep your fingers crossed and join us to get an early look at the Operating System that should be on the store shelves early in 2006. As we go to press, we are waiting for an early release candidate of Microsoft's latest package. Our back up plan is to introduce the "Action Pack' to the members and show them what Microsoft offers to its partners.

At the August 12 meeting we completed an upgrade from Windows ME to the Windows XP operating system. SIG LEADER Bob Rose presented us with a few problems and showed us how to resolve these issues. If you were running with Windows 98 or ME, you saw just how simple the process can be.

The SIG 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 though 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

Targeted to return this fall, your input is requested. We hope to include KIPCUG and CCUM members in this SIG. 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. High school age students can volunteer to assist in this SIG.

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Wi-Fi Wireless Internet and Network Availability

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX: Radio Show Host

WEBSITES:
http://www.jiwire.com
http://intel.jiwire.com
http://www.wi-fihotspotlist.com

Recently, one of my daughters called me from a major city, and asked me where she could find some free "hotspots" or wireless "Wi-Fi" locations where she could get free broadband wireless internet access. She gave me her street address, and within moments I found several nearby locations where she could access the internet for free using the wireless "802.11b" PCMCIA card she had with her notebook computer. She told me which hotspot she selected, and I gave her the "SSID", or "Service Set Identifier", a simple code, usually a name, that identifies a local hotspot.

I recently purchased a new notebook computer for another daughter, and this computer came with an Intel Centrino chipset, which provided integral wireless internet access, where ever available, whether at home or on the road. As she travels around town, at school, or away from home, she can likely access the internet at high speeds.

I travel extensively, and always take my notebook computer with me, as I often find it necessary to check my email, find restaurants, or locate other information on the internet. Through experience, I have found that many hotels, restaurants, airports, and other locations offer wireless broadband internet access either for a fee, or for free. Now before I leave home, I check a website www.jwire.com, or its twin sister site supported by Intel, intel.jwire.com, to determine what wireless access is available enroute, or at my destination.

Jwire.com is one of the leading interactive directories of publicly available wireless internet locations, typically using one of the industry standard 802.11 protocols. Standardization, as well as substantial downward compatibility, has ensured that almost all computers equipped with 802.11 type wireless internet hardware can effectively communicate at broadband speeds. As I type this, Jwire is listing almost 70,000 public access wireless hotspots around the world. The Intel companion site lists almost 30,000 wireless hotspots in the U.S., and about 40,000 international wireless hotspots. According to the Intel site, the top U.S. cities for public wireless are New York City with over 550 public access locations, followed by Chicago (434 public wireless locations), San Francisco (412), and Seattle (320). Texas is well represented in the top 10 most "unwired" cities with 309 public hotspots in Houston, 250 in Austin, and 192 in Dallas. California is listed by Intel as the state with the most public access with over 5000 locations, followed by Texas with almost 2000 hotspots, Florida with about 1800, and New York with over 1600 public hotspots. It should be emphasized that these numbers are only the wireless sites that allow public access, either for free (sometimes with some strings attached) or for a fee, and does not include the millions of sites that are private wireless networks. The listing also does not include many of the hotel chains that offer free wireless access to registered guests.

Many of the free sites listed are local restaurants, some hotels, many airport terminals, RV parks, and other locations. All it takes to access these totally free and public sites is the SSID of the wireless host and appropriate hardware; the Jwire sites list the SSID's of the public sites.

When the wireless access on the notebook computer is activated, the wireless networks within range can be identified, and if accessible, the SSID can be entered, and connections established. It is important that from a personal security standpoint, these public connections are not often encrypted, and can be "sniffed" or picked up by anyone with suitable equipment; sensitive information, passwords, banking, and other critical information should never be sent on an insecure public network.

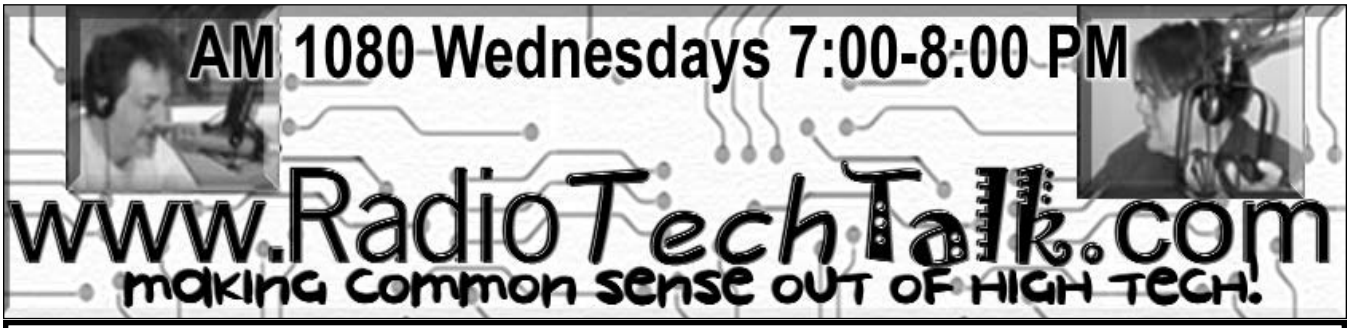
In addition to the free sites, there are many thousands of publicly accessible but commercial (fee based) hotspots, often in coffee shops, restaurants, hotels, bookstores, some airport terminal areas, and other locations. These hotspots either require a subscription to a service, such as a cellular phone company or other third party, or a daily or hourly fee for access. Generally, since these pay services require some type of access code, they are slightly more secure than the free public sites, but are still usually accessible to a hacker with commonly available but illicit software. Again, it is a good practice not to type any sensitive personal information while on a publicly accessible wireless network. Some of the commercial hotspots offer "WEP", or wireless encryption protocol, which makes it more difficult for unwelcome third parties to listen in on

Wi-Fi Wireless Internet (cont.)

internet communications, but the methods for cracking WEP have been widely published, and are now only considered to provide marginal security.

One warning about wireless internet access; it is illegal to access a wireless network without the consent of the owner, despite the fact that studies have indicated that about 80% of all private wireless networks, both workplace and home based, are not adequately protected, and can easily be picked up and accessed by anyone who wants access. A popular hacker method of gaining "free" broadband internet access is driving around town with a notebook computer with 802.11 hardware, and logging the wireless networks found, with those same networks often broadcasting the SSID necessary for access. This practice is called "wardriving". In major cities, marks are drawn on sidewalks and the outside walls of buildings in a similar escapade, "warchalking" where SSID's and other relevant information is written for all to see, and access. Locally, in a security demonstration, a security consultant drove around the business district of town, and logged hundreds of wireless networks, 80% of which were easily accessible, as they were not properly secured. These included such sensitive locations as banks, law offices, retail stores, medical facilities, and other choice locations for hackers to penetrate.

Use the Jwire sites to find wireless access, as I do, but be totally aware of the risk and security implications of broadcasting critical information. There are a variety of hardware and software utilities that can be utilized to harden wireless access, and some of those will be discussed in a future column.



Kentucky-Indiana Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.
KIPCUG
291 N Hubbards Lane, Suite B-26-318
Louisville, KY 40207
www.kipcug.org

Membership Application

[ ] Individual - $35.00 annually

[ ] Family - $50 annually for 2 people in the same household

[ ] Full-Time Student - $15 annually. Specify school & course of study _____
(Does not include mailing of this Magazine)

[ ] Corporate - $160 annually for four people from same corporation

[ ] I prefer not to receive notification of KIPCUG events by e-mail

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

If you wish to pay by Visa or MasterCard: Card # _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

The next General Meeting will be on
Tuesday, September 6, 2005 @ 6:30 PM
4614 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY
Presentation: Products by Gene Barlow

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